
THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

WINTER 1997-1998



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Cover Photo:
LAKE CHELAN

Looking uplake toward Stehekin — LARRY HANSEN PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Betty Manning

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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

Winter, 1997-1998

In the last issue of this publication I brought up the trail park permit fee situation. It seems that my paranoia on this issue was not entirely unfounded. A long list of USFS projects have recently surfaced which generally propose major construction in Legislated Wilderness Areas.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is proposing to replace two bridges in the Suiattle area and supply material for trail construction near Scenic Lake in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area with chain saws. The Wenatchee National Forest also has a list of projects to expedite with non-conforming tools.

Replacement of bridges and other structures with use of helicopters and trail maintenance with chain saws now seems to be the preferred choice. A case can certainly be made that use of material from outside the Wilderness boundaries may be less damaging to the environment and that chain saw use may be cheaper and safer in some instances. In fact some proposed bridge structures could probably not be built as designed without mechanical help. And helicopters for humanitarian reasons such as rescues seem reasonable. The point that seems to be overlooked, however, is that an occasional exception to the Wilderness Act principles may be justified but an almost routine acceptance of powered devices for whatever reason may alter the essence of these areas.

The old story about losing the tent after the camel gets his nose in the door is certainly something to consider. Some people may feel that maximizing recreation in the Wilderness Areas is why we fought for them in the first place. I doubt if most of our members would agree with that attitude. I generally support the opinion that we need to keep people familiar with areas to become advocates for their preservation but that is different from building amenities to accommodate ever increasing numbers. As a minimum, I propose that persons interested in Wilderness Area integrity write to the various USFS officials involved and ask for an environmental assessment of their actions which introduce non-conforming uses in legislated wilderness areas. And when you buy your trail-park permit this year, think about how the money gets spent.

Marc Bardsley

North Cascades Threatened by New Private Growth and Petty Politics

CAROLYN MCCONNELL

Stehekin, WA. — As the North Cascades National Park Complex nears its 30th anniversary, the spectacular wildness for whose sake the nation created the park is being threatened by petty park politics, and new private growth. National Park Service trees are being cut, gravel is being mined, a dangerous landing strip remains open, and a river is being diverted to support private development in North Cascades Park Service areas. This desecration must stop. The National Park Service must not be turned aside from its mission to protect the natural heritage of the people of the United States.

What Is Going On in the North Cascades?

The work of the National Park Service is done by good rangers who are dedicated to protecting our nation's national parks, but bureaucrats and special private interests are keeping the rangers from doing their jobs.

Most threatened is the southwestern edge of the park: the Stehekin valley, a cleft between towering mountains and 55-mile-long Lake Chelan, where the sagebrush steppe of Eastern Washington meets the deep forests of Western Washington. The Stehekin valley holds over 40 different habitat types in less than 8 square miles. Almost every species found in the North Cascades uses the valley either seasonally or permanently, and the valley supports as many as 138 species of terrestrial vertebrates. Unreachable by road, this valley is unique and special, one of the most beautiful places in the United States and for that matter the world. It is also uniquely vulnerable.

When, in 1968, Congress created the North Cascades Park Complex, it recognized the existence of a small human community in Stehekin and allowed for it to continue as a place where the pressures

of urbanization would be held at bay and a simple life in harmony with nature was possible. However, since 1968, Stehekin's year-round population has tripled, and the number of private homes has quadrupled, most of them expensive second homes. Meanwhile, residents cut more and more trees from National Park Service land to heat their homes, and private pilots continue to use a dangerous airstrip which has claimed the lives of five people. A private land owner is blackmailing the Park Service into trading valuable land to him under his threat to build condominiums on a steep slope at the spectacular head of Lake Chelan.

Why Is This Happening?

Short term political interests are turning the National Park Service away from its mission to protect the North Cascades. Bureaucrats intent on protecting their careers and pleasing senators are letting special interests rewrite Congress' intent in establishing the North Cascades National Park Complex.

Examples of the Threat to the North Cascades:

• Dangerous Airstrip:

A dangerous emergency airstrip no longer needed by the state Department of Natural Resources for fire fighting is seeing increased recreational use by private pilots. This is a disastrous scar on the North Cascades National Park Complex. Five people have died here so far, and though luckily no one has died in the three crashes the airstrip has seen in the last three years, luck is running out. One of the crashes started a forest fire — a future crash could cause a devastating fire storm.

The airstrip's presence has caused part of a beaver pond to be drained, and noxious non-native weeds are spreading from the airstrip throughout the valley,

threatening the native ecosystem.

The strip remains open because a small but vocal group of private pilots know how to put pressure on park bureaucrats. A previous park superintendent suggested that the strip be closed, only to be overruled by the regional Park Service director. Now, even though they have watched plane crashes, a forest fire, and the expenditure of tax dollars to control weeds from the strip, North Cascades National Park Superintendent William Paleck and Regional Director John Reynolds (himself a former North Cascades superintendent) have failed to lift a finger. Superintendent Paleck and Director Reynolds appear to be more willing to swing with the passing political winds than to make a good decision.

• Stehekin River Manipulated:

National park areas are among the few places where rivers still run free. Yet in the North Cascades petty politics are papering over good science and forcing park rangers to pour tax money into eroding waters to keep roads where they are instead of closing them or moving them to higher ground. On the Stehekin River, whose entire length runs through the North Cascades National Park Complex, there are at least 30 pieces of bank protection. Some of these were placed by the Park Service, while others were installed by private landowners — some legally, others illegally. When major floods destroyed large sections of the Stehekin Road, including the portion with Park-designated wilderness, the Park Service refused to reconsider its policy in light of the new circumstances, and insisted on rebuilding the road at astronomical cost to the taxpayer. While other national parks such as Yosemite and the Grand Canyon are making landmark efforts to eliminate such intrusions into visitors' wilderness experience, North Cascades National Park administrators are choosing the interests of

a few over the interests of wildness, economy, and common sense.

- **Park Service Digs Gravel Pit Big Enough for a Hotel:**

From a small hole to a pit big enough to hold a new hotel, the Stehekin gravel pit keeps getting bigger and the Park Service is poised to accelerate its growth to continue pouring gravel onto its roads and into the river.

- **Park Service Subsidizes Private Development:**

The dimensions of the Stehekin valley are spectacular — the walls rise well over a vertical mile from a floor that is in most places only a half mile across — but the area within it is remarkably small. Only 4 square miles comprise the Stehekin valley floor, strung out along a river and a road which in places take up nearly the entire valley floor. Within these confines, private growth has devastating effects. When the North Cascades National Park Complex was created in 1968, there were only about 40 houses in Stehekin. Now there are approximately 200, with new homes being built every year. As the valley's population has tripled, the Park Service continues to allow residents to cut Park Service trees to heat their homes. And the U.S. taxpayer provides free garbage removal service to the residents of Stehekin. One new home even gets sewer service from the Park Service — without which the construction would not have been possible under county law. Private development should not be subsidized at the nation's expense. Stehekin was placed in the North Cascades National Park Complex to preserve it as the nation's heritage — not to allow its gradual destruction by a few special interests.

What Should be Done?

The National Park Service must be freed to make decisions based on its mandate to protect our national parks for all to enjoy in their natural state.

Logging Threatens North Fork Skykomish

RICK MCGUIRE

Middle Fork Snoqualmie ATM PROCESS

The North Bend District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is conducting an "Access and Travel Management" review of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley just east of North Bend. The valley has been the focus of intense efforts over the past years to rid it of lawlessness and develop its great potential as a recreation area only 45 minutes drive from Seattle. This "ATM" process will determine which roads and trails the Forest Service wants to open or close to various uses. A broad coalition of conservation groups has been working hard to convince the Forest Service to convert the upper 8 miles of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road into a multi-use trail, thus turning the upper valley into much more of a backcountry area. The Forest Service decision on this will show whether our years of hard work are to bear any results.

Letters supporting the gating of the Middle Fork road at Dingford Creek are urgently needed to:

North Bend District Ranger
MFATM
42404 SE North Bend Way
North Bend, WA 98045

The North Fork Skykomish valley upstream from Index has come under threat from the "Sky Forks" timber sale which is being prepared for sale by the Skykomish Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The Sky Forks sale targets an as yet unspecified number of acres in the valley of Salmon Creek, a tributary of the North Fork about 12 miles northeast of the town of Index. Most of the lower-elevation lands in the North Fork were railroad-logged or burned during the 1920s. These lands were never planted, and have naturally regenerated into a mixed forest of alder, cottonwood, maple, Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar. The proposed timber sale targets these natural second-growth woods which are slowly evolving into a mature forest which, if left alone, will at its own speed turn into an old-growth forest.

Nature's time scale, however, isn't good enough for the Forest Service, which claims that it knows better when it comes to creating old-growth forests. It was barely a decade ago that Forest Service timber planners routinely referred to old-growth forests as "biological deserts," and wanted to liquidate all of them as fast as possible. They have since given up on that approach and have grudgingly acknowledged the value of old-growth. Unfortunately, they have taken things several steps further and now claim that they can do better than Nature at creating old-growth forests, and do this by cutting trees. This is what they claim to be doing in the North Fork Skykomish with the Sky Forks timber sale.

Such a ludicrous proposition obviously fails the laugh test with just about anyone outside the Forest Service. But inside the Forest Service, an insular world where people tend to talk mostly with each other, this notion of speeding the development of

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Logging threat

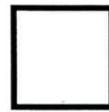
Continued from page 5

old growth by cutting trees is now dogma. In the past we've seen arguments defending logging as benefiting wildlife, recreation, scenery, water, etc., etc. Now they are making the claim that logging benefits the forest itself, that going in with industrial equipment and removing biomass will somehow hasten its development into old-growth.

NCCC believes that the North Fork Skykomish valley is recovering nicely on its own from the large-scale railroad logging of the past. From most high vantage points the valley presents an unbroken sweep of forest, forest which would better develop into old-growth on its own time scale and does not need help from commercial logging to do so. The North Fork Skykomish is also prime Chinook salmon habitat; Salmon Creek, the site of the proposed sale, didn't get its name for nothing. With the impending possibility of endangered species listing of Chinook salmon, one wonders if the Forest Service sees the irony in proposing yet more logging right above one of its best remaining spawning areas.

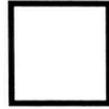
NCCC rejects the notion that old-growth forests can be created by building roads and cutting trees, and believes that close-in valleys like the North Fork Skykomish shouldn't be logged to keep bureaucrats in jobs, no matter what outlandish justifications are put forth. The timber beast on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie has been seriously, perhaps mortally, wounded, but is not dead yet.

For more information or to find out what you can do to help, contact Rick McGuire at 206-363-6954.



FEET

VS



MOTORCYCLES

[Check one]

More than 1,000,000 hikers

That was the 1988 estimate by the Washington State Inter-Agency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). (It certainly cannot be fewer now.)

Only 41,300 ORVs

That's the number of Off-Road-Vehicle registrations issued by the Washington State Department of Licensing.

The ratio of hikers to riders is 25:1.

However, and fasten your seatbelts for this, *for each 1 mile of day-hiking (that is, wilderness-edge) trails reserved for feet, motorcycles have 22 miles wide-open to them. That ratio is 1:22.* Justice reversed, the world turned upside down.

A weird twist of history it is, indeed. Feet have been tramping the trails since the Garden of Eden. The ORV is not yet half a century old. Taking Bishop Ussher's computation of Biblical chronology, the ratio of foot-years to ORV-years since Eden is 6000:50, or 120:1. How on earth can this be? What happened?

While the labor and ardor of "US" were devoted to preserving the wild earth from multiple-abuse, "THEM" were sitting in governmental laps and crooning in official ears. The voice of "US" was far from silent; in 1964 Congress passed the Wilderness Act, and in 1968, 1976, and 1984 it created national wildernesses throughout the state of Washington. But far away from Washington City, wherever the U.S. Forest Service is the land-manager, the loudest voice has been the snarl of the ORV.

Now, however, a major offensive has been launched by the "US" of the state of Washington. This could be the turning

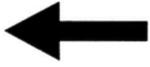
point — it can be if you (who are "US") sit yourself down to write LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS.

Your feet know the land far more intimately than any wheel, than any front-country desk-jockey. Your feet-bones are connected to your head-bones which are connected to your letter-writing finger-bones. What your feet know, and what they feel, must be transmitted to government officials.

We often have heard from friends (*yes! we have many there!*) in the Forest Service of a decision being hotly debated in staff meeting and a letter being read aloud — a really-truly human letter direct from your feet-bones — and swinging the decision. Keep in mind, though, that the same friends have told us of occasions when not a single letter was in hand from the feet and the industry slick in his Armani suit (and his sidekick in Pendleton wool shirt and yeoman grin) won one for the Gipper.

If "US" speak up (that is, if the 1,000,000-plus of *you* write letters) the 41,300 of "THEM" haven't got a chance. The offensive is on three fronts, in three national forests. The most arrogant opposition is the NMA; the most painful to "US" — and to our many friends therein — is the Forest Service. Each of the three scenes of conflict is of the highest importance. Victories in them can set precedent for other scenes throughout the state.

Further, the three-pronged offensive is in sharp focus by the national eye. What "US" accomplish in Washington can set a pattern for "US" across America. The tactics of "THEM" in Washington exactly follow the strategy of "THEM" from sea to sea. What your letters do for the three wildlands here, they can by emulation do for all wildlands of the American earth.



Cast Your Ballot by Mail with **LETTERS! LETTERS! LETTERS!**



Juniper Ridge — Mt. Adams (Gifford Pinchot National Forest) — IRA SPRING PHOTO

Juniper Ridge — Dark Divide

From *Washington Wilderness: The Unfinished Work*, published in 1984:

“Until recent years, Gifford Pinchot National Forest was an enormous wilderness unity of forested ridges and valleys, a sea of green waves. Hikers and horsemen could follow trails from Rainier to the Columbia, St. Helens to Adams, and cross scarcely a road. A mere quarter-century has transformed the area to a sea of clearcuts in which float a scattering of roadless islands. These few remaining isles . . . must be

preserved if the wilderness system is to be fully representative of the primeval Northwest. The largest proposed preserve is the multi-lobed Dark Divide. . . .”

The proposal for a Dark Divide Wilderness failed to make the cut for the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act; it is high on the agenda for Washington Wilderness Act II. Though well aware a wilderness proposal is pending, Gifford Pinchot National Forest prefers to pretend 1984 is forever, and has proceeded with planning

“US”

The groups taking the lead in keeping (and winning back) our historic foot trails for FEET:

American Hiking Society • The Cascadians • Columbia Gorge Audubon Society • Emergency Trails Committee • Gifford Pinchot Task Force • The Mountaineers • North Cascades Conservation Council • Northwest Ecosystem Alliance • The Ptarmigans • Sierra Club • Washington Trails Association (WTA) • Washington Wilderness Coalition • The Wilderness Society • Wild Wilderness • Willapa Hills Audubon Society

“THEM”

The groups devoted to converting trails to MOTORWAYS

American Motorcycle Association
The ATV Connection
Blue Ribbon Coalition (self-described as “off-highway motorcyclists, snowmobilers, ATVers, and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts working together on ORV access issues. . . Also work very closely with non-motorized trail users that are willing to seek common ground. Recent attacks on equestrians and mountain bicyclists have made these groups into allies. . . .”)(BRC)
Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA)

Groups whose positions are not clear

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW, 30 chapters statewide) The BRC speaks of “recent attacks on equestrians.” Questions that must be asked: “What attacks? On which equestrians? By whom?” The leadership of “US” includes prominent equestrians. To cite a particularly memorable example, the

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origin and continuing impetus of the campaign for what in 1984 became the William O. Douglas Wilderness came from the late Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn of the Double K Mountain Ranch and their next-door neighbor in Goose Prairie, William O. Douglas, equestrians all.

The BCHW has worked in the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition (VTC) but at the same time is a member (and its executive director sits on the board) of the BRC. Recently the executive director of NMA wrote a letter to BCHW accusing WTA of "corrupt practices" and this letter was copied to all chapters of BCHW. So, does NMA+BRC+BCHW="THEM"? "The mountain bike community." The ATV Connection bemoans that "the mountain bike community has not seen fit to become a team member and player." The question must be asked, "What constitutes the 'community'?" One can guess that when the ATV Connection says "community" it means the International Mountain Bicycle Association (IMBA), and if it in fact is true that IMBA is not playing (despite persistent and aggressive recruiting attempts) on the Blue Ribbon Team, a reasonable explanation is that the principal IMBA source of income appears to be manufacturers and distributors of bicycle equipment, firms that in many or most cases also deal in hiking boots, backpacks, etc. Check out your favorite recreational equipment retailer. Note the large bicycle department. But also see the throngs of customers in the boot department. As for the Washington state affiliate of IMBA, the Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC), it would like to be accepted as the voice of the "community," but is too young and inexperienced, too often ill-informed, too "geographically challenged," and above all too small, to be the voice of any but a very tiny choir indeed. Far more "fat-tire" bikers are also hikers who know and value the difference between a gymnasium and a museum and belong to and vigorously support the wildland protection programs of "US" groups.

for the "Langille Ridge/Juniper Ridge Motorcycle Project" which would tie together 50 miles of trails in a system of ORV roadlets. An alternative was worked out in years of discussion by representatives of hiking, ORVer, and environmentalist groups to establish a 132-mile ORV loop, entirely outside the Dark Divide. Though some felt it was a bend-over-backwards all-too-fair compromise, 12 "US" organizations signed the agreement. But the Forest Service and the NMA backed off! Disdainfully rejected the compromise! Why? Gifford Pinchot National Forest seems to be so enamored of the ORV it has lost its legal mind. (Or perhaps "it's the money"? The state funds it has tapped into through the IAC with such gratifying benefits to the bureaucracy?) As for the NMA, it's a plain case of hubris. Why should "THEM" compromise when they've got it all and feel confident that shoulder-to-shoulder with the Forest Service they can keep it all?

The "US" dozen filed a complaint against the ignoring of federal environmental laws and in June 1996 obtained an order that halted the "Motorcycle Project" and required the preparation of an Environmental Assessment. Further, in 1997 the U.S. District Court awarded attorneys' fees and expenses to "US", to be paid by the Forest Service — which thus wasted \$150,000 of our tax money which should have been spent on trail maintenance!

Under the court order, Gifford Pinchot National Forest now must do what it should have done in the first place — prepare an Environmental Assessment on the Juniper Ridge-Dark Divide trail system.

What you must do NOW:

Letters! Hundreds will be needed to break through the wall of Forest Service obduracy. Address:

**Ted Stubblefield, Supervisor
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
P.O. Box 8944
Vancouver, WA 98668**

State your objections to permitting ORVs in a proposed national wilderness.

Ask that you be added to the mailing list to receive all information about the

Environmental Assessment.

What you must do LATER:

For background, read (*100 Hikes in the South Cascades*) Hikes 45-52: Purcell Mountain, Klickitat Trail, Tongue Mountain, Juniper Ridge, Sunrise Peak-Jumbo's Shoulder, Quartz Creek, Lewis River, Craggy Peak.

Since the best letters are those directed from your feet, put them on the Sunrise Peak trail (Hike 49). See Juniper Ridge for yourself. We recommend late July when miles of beargrass are blooming.

Then, when you receive the Environmental Assessment, MORE LETTERS! Comment! Tell what your feet felt, your eyes saw, and if you run into a roaring pack of "THEM", what sound your ears heard that wasn't birds chirping.

Goose-Maverick ORV Tie-Trail

The Mad River country on the highland between the Chiwawa River and Entiat River has miles and miles of family-style roaming through a gentle wilderness in subalpine forests, through broad meadows, by rushing creeks and small lakes, up little peaks. The "US" long have sought it, and still do, as an addition to the Glacier Peak Wilderness, a friendly, forgiving complement to sterner stuff of glaciers and cliffs.

Wenatchee National Forest, however, considers it ideal for a motorcycle romper room. Much of the Mad River trail already has been converted to a high-speed motorcycle freeway — cinder blocks imbedded for traction, rubber waterbars that can be ridden over without slowing, "guardrail" logs beside the tread to warn wheels against straying into bogs, sweeping switchbacks that can be "cornered" in velodrome-racing style, and bridges wide enough for two ORVs to vroom across side-by-side.

The fly in the motorcyclist's ice cream delight has been the inconvenient access to the favorite trailhead at Maverick Saddle, elevation 4250 feet, the gateway to Mad River meadowlands. Presently, motorcy-



Mad Lake (Wenatchee National Forest)

— IRA SPRING PHOTO

clists must ride or haul their motorcycles (in a trailer or pickup truck) up the narrow dirt road from the Chiwawa Valley. Easier for them to park/camp in the valley and ride up a trail. The Forest Service thus proposes to build, parallel to the road, the 6-mile "Goose-Maverick Tie Trail." This would not only create an ascent free from aggravation by hikers' automobiles, but would serve as a link completing a complex of 221 miles of ORV roadlets from Lake Wenatchee through the high meadows of the Mad River and over the Entiat Mountains to the Entiat River and over Devils Backbone to Lake Chelan.

Having learned from the Gifford Pinchot fiasco, where the Forest Service refused to take advice by "US" to obey the law, and had to be instructed by the court that it must do so, Wenatchee Forest went

through the motions of preparing an Environmental Assessment. However, it



USFS-Wenatchee National Forest vehicle loaded with trail bike, ready to be driven to trailhead for ranger use (vroom! vroom!)

— LARRY HANSEN PHOTO

won't hold water in court. It's not a legitimate EA, it's a sieve. The EA was confined to the 6 miles of the proposed "Tie Trail," ignored the enormous impact of the new use resulting from the "tie" on wildlife, vegetation, soil, and non-motorized users.

Why did Wenatchee Forest not take the trouble to legitimize its EA? Because a legitimate EA would have to admit the environmental damage done by ORVs, and would have to show compliance with a federal law that federal land managers must minimize motorized/non-motorized conflicts. In all likelihood a legitimate EA would show the "Tie" could not be legally built.

What you must do NOW:

Letters! Address:

Bob Williams, Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region 6
U.S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, Oregon 97208

Sonny O'Neil, Supervisor
Wenatchee National Forest
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801-5933

The EA having been appealed, and the appeal denied by the same people who prepared the EA in the first place, it's once more on to the courts. Before the lawsuit is filed (late spring, 1998) write Mr. Williams (copy to Mr. O'Neil) requesting that Wenatchee Forest re-do the EA for

Goose-Maverick ORV Tie Trail, *demanding* that it not waste another \$150,000 badly needed for trail maintenance, not throw the money away on lawyers to defend an EA so badly flawed it doesn't stand a chance in court.

What you must do later:

So many hikers so detest ORVs that few hike the Mad River trails; the district ranger (loyal company man) claims hikers don't like the area!

To whet your appetite, read (*100 Hikes in Glacier Peak Region*) Hikes 76-83: Mad River, Cougar Mountain, Whistling Pig Loop, Klone Peak Loop, Entiat Mountains View, North Tommy Ridge, Old Klone Peak Trail, Three Creek Trail.

Then, plug your ears and hold your breath and walk the broad meadows of the Mad River trails.

But first, write Mr. O'Neil at Wenatchee National Forest and ask when is the best time to avoid motorcycles. (A telephone call will get you the information, but *the letter will leave a paper trail.*)

South Sawtooth Tie-Trail

The high ridge between Lake Chelan and the Methow-Twisp Rivers, called the "Chelan Crest," or "Chelan Summit," or "Sawtooth Ridge," was known to few except shepherders and local fishermen and hunters until a third of a century ago. Then the miles and miles of meadows in the rainshadow of the Cascade Crest, reminiscent of the "gentle wilderness" of the High Sierra, rose to its great fame as an American classic. The beginnings of this fame happened to coincide with the invention of the ORV, the invasion of historic foot-horse trails by the motorcycle. The Forest Service, smitten with the newest addition to its arsenal of multiple-uses, permitted — nay, promoted, advertised, boasted and boosted — conversion of the Chelan Summit Trail into a razzing-fuming high-speed wheelway from near the Columbia River to Stehekin.

The damage to fragile highland gardens was intolerable to the sensible and

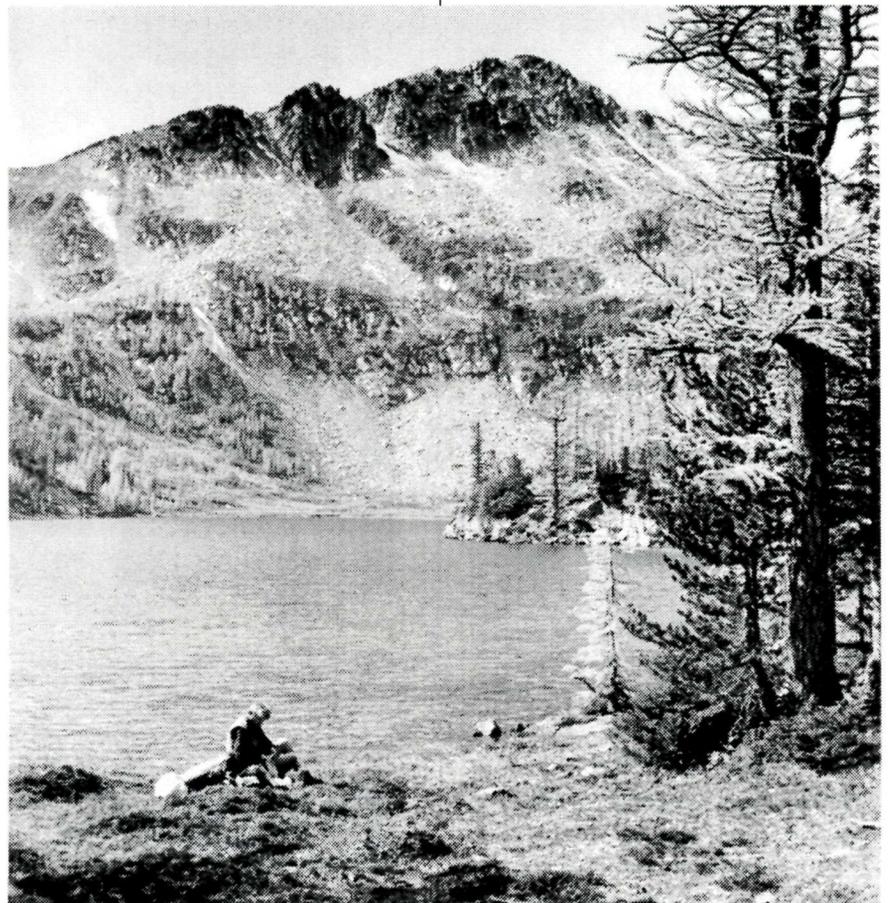
sensitive. The North Cascades National Park Complex of 1968, creating the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and the Washington Wilderness Act of 1984, creating the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, closed most of the Chelan Crest to machines. Sorry to say, the exclusion did not extend through the most variously beautiful, the most family-accessible portion of the Chelan Crest — the Golden Lakes. That it must be added to the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness is obvious and mandatory; it's high on the list for Washington Wilderness ACT II.

Ironically, though the Forest Service fought hard to save this area for motorcycles, the motorcyclists themselves have disappointed the rangers by not taking full advantage of this multiple-abuse bounty. Though foot trails dating from the "glory" era of sheep earlier in the century go this way, that way, almost everywhere, many stretches are impossible for use as motorcycle roadlets. Trails from Gold Creek — the quickest access — are open to wheels

but soon come to impasses which are dead-ends for wheels, the trails giving ORVs only a couple-three hours of exercise each, not enough to justify the drives to trailheads.

Ah! But there is the Golden Lakes Loop, 23 miles of meadows, passing five lakes and looking down on three others, going up peaks and down them, giving a hiker 3 days (better, a week) of frolicking in the flowers. Okanogan National Forest looks at this heaven for hikers and wishes, years that motorcycles could do the loop, a satisfying day's ride, multiple-abuse at its best-worst, noise and fumes and speed soon driving out the nuisance pedestrians.

The loop could be opened to motorcycles if the ancient trail could be made wheelable from Foggy Dew Creek-Cooney Lake up and over the Chelan Crest and down to the Chelan Summit Trail in East Fork Prince Creek. Thus the proposal for a South Sawtooth Tie-Trail. The Environmental Assessment is in process of publication. Okanogan National Forest has



Cooney Lake (Okanogan National Forest)

— IRA SPRING PHOTO

learned that much from the Gifford Pinchot fiasco. But along with Gifford Pinchot and Wenatchee, it has much more to learn about the land and the law, and "US" plan to teach them.

What you must do NOW:

Letters! Address:

**Samuel Gehr, Supervisor
Okanogan National Forest
1240 South Second Avenue
Okanogan, WA 98043**

Ask to be placed on the mailing list for the Environmental Assessment for the South Sawtooth Tie-Trail.

Express your feelings about permitting ORVs in a proposed wilderness.

What you must do later:

It is scarcely to be expected that the EA will address the full implications of the tie-trail, of the impact on the Chelan Summit Trail and its ecosystems, on the Golden Lakes, nor on the conflicts between hikers and ORVs.

To refresh your feet's memory, read (*100 Hikes in the North Cascades National Park Region*) Hikes 52-59: Chelan Summit Trail, Summer Blossom Trail, Foggy Dew Creek, Cooney Lake, Eagle Lakes-Boiling Lake, Crater Lakes, Martin Lakes, Golden Lakes Loop.

To increase your feet's knowledge, hike the Summer Blossom Trail (Hike 53) to North Navarre Peak, overlooking the meadow miles of the Chelan Crest, and the Golden Lakes Loop (Hike 59), sampling one or all of the lakes. *Happy Note:* Because of the dead-ends, ORV use presently is minimal, a minute fraction of what it would be with the Tie-Trail completing the loop.

Having done your homework and fieldwork, when the EA comes to your house, read it and WRITE MORE LETTERS!

MVCC vs. ARROWLEAF

The Methow Valley Citizens' Council (MVCC), in Twisp, supported by the Seattle-based Friends of the Methow (FOM), continues to watch over the Seattle-based R.D. Merrill Company's development of the controversial Arrowleaf Resort, proposed on 1,200 acres of the upper Methow Valley, to include a 630-unit housing development, an 18-hole golf course, hotel, convention/conference center, shops, restaurants, and equestrian center.

In Superior Court MVCC on December 15, 1997 won an appeal of the Okanogan County Commissioners' approval of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Arrowleaf, Judge Carol Wardell ruling the County's approval of the developers' Development Plan was premature and that the EIS was inadequate in the crucial areas of water quantity and quality.

Meanwhile the R. D. Merrill Company and Harbor Properties (Seattle partners in the resort) are paying the Water Department and Ecology nearly \$25,000 for the right to use the Coordinated Permit Process (CPP), which streamlines DOE's review of applications regarding water rights, shorelines development and conditional use, water discharge, storm water construction, reclaimed water, hydraulic project, forest practices and road building. Arrowleaf is the fourth project in the state to employ the CPP. The other three are the Battle Mountain gold mine in Okanogan County, the State Department of Corrections' new prison near Aberdeen, and the state's General Administration Department facility at Heritage Park.

Another victory for the MVCC was a DOE ruling in January that the developers' claimed rights to two-thirds of the resort's water had been "presumptively" abandoned many years ago. Arrowleaf claims the water rights of two old ranches (Cassal and Shafter) which make up most of the resort's 1,200 acres, however no irrigation has taken place on these parcels since a

diversion was washed out in a 1972 flood.

This DOE action resulted from a case (OWL v. Town of Twisp) brought by another Methow Valley-based citizens group, the Okanogan Wilderness League (OWL), in which the Washington State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that DOE had illegally granted a water permit to Twisp after a water right had been abandoned by the town.

OWL, represented by lawyers from the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (formerly Sierra Club L.D.F.), are pursuing a second water rights case, a direct attack on the first phase of the Arrowleaf Resort, already mostly completed on the site of the old Wilson Ranch. The State Supreme Court is expected to issue an opinion this year.

The Wilson Ranch case involves the conversion of historic surface water rights, those used for irrigation, to ground water right, those used for drinking water. All the interested parties (Merrill, DOE, the county and MVCC) involved in the appeal of the EIS and DOE's CPP expect the Supreme Court's ruling could have a big impact on the second phase of Arrowleaf.

MVCC's victories in legal battles with well-heeled developers for the past 25 years have relied on the donations of hundreds of generous supporters. MVCC is now working with Friends of the Methow to raise sufficient funds for legal fees and court costs to continue the litigation as long as necessary.

**Methow Valley Citizens' Council
P.O. Box 774
Twisp, WA 98856
509-997-2556
e-mail: mvcc@methow.com**

League of Conservation Voters SCORECARD

The League of Conservation Voters has compiled Congress' environmental voting records for 1997 (review 1997 environmental voting records by state or by legislator at <http://scorecard.lcv.org>).

Washington state's congressional delegation failed to make a passing grade, drawing a 43% average for its senators and representatives.

LCV calculates its scores by using key votes cast by lawmakers on defining environmental issues.

To learn more about LCV, visit their web site at <http://www.lcv.org>.



Senator Slade Gorton (R): 0%
Senator Patty Murray (D): 86%
Rep. Rick White (R): 38%
Rep. Jack Metcalf (R): 25%
Rep. Linda Smith (R): 31%
Rep. Richard Hastings (R): 13%
Rep. George Nethercutt (R): 13%
Rep. Norman Dicks (D): 63%
Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R): 31%
Rep. Adam Smith (D): 81%

RR & CC

Railroads & Clearcuts Campaign Needs Support

The Railroads & Clearcuts Campaign, RR&CC, is working to take back millions of acres of land grabbed by corporations from the American people.

Congress in the 1800s granted about 10 percent of the nation's public land to build and maintain railroads. The largest grant of all was the Northern Pacific: a 40-million-acre subsidy for a railroad linking Lake Superior with the Pacific Ocean. Fraud and corruption enables North Pacific's corporate descendants to illegally retain title to millions of acres from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean.

The wealth and power of Weyerhaeuser, Potlatch, Boise Cascade, Plum Creek and other large corporations derives from these lands intended by Congress to enable homesteading by settlers - not to form the foundation for corporate empires based on fraud.

Many community and environmental problems stem from corporate abuse of the Northern Pacific grant: worker dislocation, toxic spills, inadequate rail service, and threats to the very survival of rural communities. American's forest crisis also is a direct result of the Northern Pacific grant.

Huge timber corporations have evolved from land grants. They massively clearcut land-grant forests, export logs (and jobs), then pressure the Forest Service to overcut our national forests. These corporations harm rural communities by destroying their resource base.

Land-grant frauds have prompted Congress to take back (or "revest") almost a third of the railroad land grants. The Northern Pacific grant states clearly that Congress may, at any time, "add to, alter, amend, or repeal this act." Even now, the

injustices and harm stemming from the 130-year-old land grant can be corrected through public pressure to hold corporations accountable and to amend the law.

Take Action:

- Get involved in one of the campaign issues
- Request the RR&CC "starter kit"
- Read Railroads & Clearcuts: Legacy of Congress's 1864 Northern Pacific Railroad Land Grant, available at your local library or bookstore.

To request a RR&CC Starter Kit and/or a free three-month subscription to RR&CC Campaign Updates send your name, address, phone number and email address to:

**John Osborn, M.D., Coordinator
RR&CC Campaign
c/o Inland Empire Public Lands
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517 S. Division
Spokane, WA 99202-13653
509.8383.4912
fax: 509.838.5155
IEPLC@desktop.org
www.ieplc.org**

Roads in the Forest

A Damage Primer

ABE RINGEL

Shortly before I received my civil engineering degree in 1952, the US Forest Service (USFS) sent a team to my graduating class on a mission to recruit young highway engineers. I couldn't imagine why the USFS would possibly want highway engineers, but I learned many years later.

Our National Forests are a haven for hungry highway engineers. The forests contain 440,000 miles of officially-designated roads, and this figure does not include state and local roads; nor does it include "ghost roads," which are roads built by trail bikers, 4WD users, or local governments with a council member whose brother has a spare bulldozer and needs some extra cash.

The actual mileage of roads crisscrossing our National Forests is reckoned to be about 750,000 miles.

To put this astonishing number into perspective, the official forest road system of 440,000 miles is enough to get you to the moon and almost back. It contains over ten times as many miles as the US Interstate System (42,795 miles). It'll get you around the world 18 times.

And the USFS still wants to build more.

What's wrong with roads in the forests? Plenty.

About two years ago a USFS team determined that the major cause of environmental damage in the Olympic National Forest was roads. When a road is punched through a forest, the damage increases each year the road exists. It becomes the chief cause of soil erosion, stream siltation, landslides, and mud slides. This was indeed the case on the Peninsula.

Forest roads cause an "edge effect," which dramatically alters the biology and ecology of the 100 feet or so on each side of the road by introducing sunlight and wind into previously sheltered and shady areas. The soil dries out, alien plants,

pathogens and animals are introduced, native vegetation diminishes, the risk of artificially-caused fires increases.

Forest roads create barriers for wildlife. Many species of animals, large and small, refuse to cross a road. Although roads disrupt feeding and migration patterns and fragments the ecosystem, the silver lining may be that the animals that fear roads are relatively safe from the "hunters," poachers and trail bikers who invariably use the roads to invade the forests. And the only way they get to do their damage is in motorized vehicles that are a prime source of noise, pollutants such as zinc, lead, other heavy metals, crank case oil and other hydrocarbons, trashed cars, and aluminum beer cans.

So why does the USFS want still more roads in the forests?

Each year Congress allocates a few hundred million dollars to building forest roads. This is added to the USFS budget as a subsidy to the timber industry. Without new roads, logging the National Forests would be prohibitively expensive. The timber lobby would complain to Senator Gorton and Congressional Representatives Norm Dicks and Linda Smith, who would be most unhappy.

If the astonishing waste being laid to our National Forests by roads makes you sufficiently unhappy to want to do something about it, may I suggest you contact an organization whose sole reason for existence is to do something about it.

This organization is Wildlands CPR (Center for Preventing Roads). The Director is Bethanie Walder. Contact Bethanie at:

Bethanie Walder
PO Box 7516
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 543-9551
e-mail:
wildlandsCPR@wildrockies.org

Political addresses and phone numbers

Courtesy
The Mountaineers
Conservation News

Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 10510

Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Washington, D.C. Switchboard:
(212) 224-3121
*Ask to be connected to your
congressperson's office. . . .*

. . . OR USE THE NEW TOLL-
FREE NUMBER TO CONNECT
TO D.C.
1-800-522-6721
(Call early, call often!)

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
202-456-1111, fax: 202-456-1414
president@whitehouse.gov

Grazing in the Pasayten

Its Impact on the Land and People

Mark Glyde, Field Researcher,
with assistance from Kevin Herrick

[Part One of a three-part NCCC field study funded by The Mountaineers Foundation in 1995]

EDITOR'S NOTE: The wilderness character of the Pasayten is compromised by grazing. This article, Part One of three parts, is a result of the North Cascades Conservation Council's effort to analyze and draw attention to the problem. This investigation was funded by a generous grant from The Mountaineers Foundation. The NCCC thanks The Mountaineers Foundation for its support.

PART I will cover USFS management history of the Pasayten and hiker letters documenting Pasayten hiking and grazing encounters.

PART II will cover impact on wildlife and vegetation; letters covering Pasayten experiences. (Spring Issue, *The Wild Cascades*)

PART III will cover water impacts - costs; AFSEEE research; more Pasayten letters. (Summer-Fall Issue, *The Wild Cascades*)

The Pasayten Wilderness is not well known, even to people in Washington. To those who do know it well, it is the Northwest's hidden jewel hiding in the open, on the eastern border of the North Cascades National Park. Unfortunately, the Pasayten's unheralded character has left it with few people who speak for it. This is a very unusual situation for a state that holds an exceptionally high concentration of recreation and environmental organizations. For information as to the location of the Pasayten Wilderness (Okanogan National Forest jurisdiction), see *100 Hikes in the North Cascades*, by Ira Spring and



Sheep on sheep allotment land in Pasayten Wilderness north of Horseshoe Basin

— KEVIN HERRICK PHOTO

Harvey Manning, The Mountaineers, 1994. Specifically: Horseshoe Basin (Hike # 97), Rimmel Peak (Hikes # 90, 91), Chewuch River Trail #510, Hike #90.

The wilderness character of allotment areas are compromised by grazing. The presence of livestock affects the wilderness experience simply by being such an obvious human-derived intrusion. Many of the livestock driveways interfere with hiking and other recreation activities. Of particular concern is the bi-annual cattle run up the 510 trail to the Bob Creek unit which runs along the entire wilderness stretch of the Chewuck River. Of personal concern is the particularly unpleasant aspect of at times being forced to hike and

camp in or near areas contaminated by large quantities of livestock feces. Camping on ground covered with cow and sheep droppings and listening to mooing cows and bleating sheep does not fit within a reasonable definition of a wilderness experience.

What work that has been done to examine the impact of livestock grazing in the Pasayten has mostly been driven by ecological concerns. However, the results of ecological studies typically appeal to only a subsection of the Pasayten's recreation constituency.

This report and the work surrounding it focuses on grazing from the perspective of hikers and backpackers. Much of the

information presented does spring from ecological issues. But the conclusions and recommendations for future action come from the mountain traveler-bird-watcher perspective. We know it took people, large groups of them who cared about and hiked in the North Cascades, to protect that area. It will take people, hikers and backpackers of the Pasayten, to protect the Pasayten Wilderness from grazing.

History of Grazing in the Pasayten:

Cows and sheep were on the cutting edge of the battle to wrest the west from Native Americans. The Pasayten was no different. The Pasayten offered appealing summer pasture, particularly in comparison to the steep and narrow core Cascade valleys. By the early 1900s sheep and cattle operations were already well established in the North Cascades.

In 1968, Congress designated the Pasayten Wilderness. This magnificent victory over mining and road building pressures was tempered by the fact that the 1968 legislation and the underlying Wilderness Act of 1964 allowed grazing to continue in the Pasayten.

From the Forest Service's perspective, there is little reason to change or reassess this policy. In a pointed 1992 letter to NCCC Director Richard J. Brooks, Forest Supervisor Sam Gehr provided the reasoning for continuing the management practices in place prior to 1968.

The Wilderness Act was the result of negotiation. The designation of the Wilderness was only possible because traditional uses of the area (grazing, minerals, etc.) were protected in the legislation. The grazing industry's support of the Wilderness Bill was necessary to pass the legislation. (8/28/92)

Mr. Gehr is likely correct that the legislation was the result of legislative compromise. However, that livestock interests played a role in the final outcome of the Wilderness Bill does not mean that livestock interests should predominate over the interests of those who drove the legislation to and through Congress, the recreation lobby.

United States Forest Service Policy Implementing Pasayten Grazing — Allotment Management Plans

The Okanogan National Forest allows grazing in the Pasayten under Allotment Management Plans (AMFs) to determine how long and where herds should be allowed to graze. They typically describe the desired condition of the rangeland and address specific grazing practices for particular areas. The Forest Service does have a "no degradation" policy for grazing in the wilderness. What this really means is often hard to pin down, especially when we find the Forest Service doing rehabilitation work in the Pasayten.

Allotment management plans also inventory cultural resources, threatened and endangered plants and animals, recreation activities, vegetation and other resources which may be affected.

The standard of review for AMPs is left to the Forest Service to decide. Most AMPs receive the less rigorous Environmental Assessment rather than the more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EA does allow for some cursory review of hiker and recreation concerns. However, the wealth of information and the type of detailed examination that could lead to changes in grazing policy to benefit hikers would much more likely be found in an EIS.

Though AMPs sound like a good starting point, the Forest Service rarely takes advantage of them. Of the five allotments in the Pasayten and Chelan-Sawtooth Wildernesses, none have been reviewed in the past twelve years. The Horseshoe allotment has not been reviewed since 1973.

Permits

The Forest Service does turn to the AMP when issuing its yearly permit for the allotment, and has the power to make minor changes in allotment use through the permit process. Typically national forest range managers meet with the permittee prior to each grazing season to discuss allotment management for the summer. If

the rangeland has received less than normal rainfall or the snowmelt is late, the entry and exit dates may be altered. Concerns from the public might be considered at this point. Often range "improvement" agreements are hammered out in the permit. Improvements can include installation of fences, water holes, salt licks, and better access trails.

■ Rimmel Mountain and Horse Allotment (*Pasayten Wilderness*)

The last AMP was prepared in 1981 with an Environmental Assessment. If past practice is any indication, the Forest Service may not prepare another AMP for a few decades. During the early 1990s, the allotment received some rehabilitation work including transplant of plants.

■ Horseshoe Basin and Sheep-Goat Allotment (*Pasayten Wilderness*)

The last AMP for this area was issued in 1973 (prior to NEPA). Since no plan has been completed since 1973, there has never been an environmental review for the grazing. Okanogan National Forest suggests that when a new AMP is completed, it will only merit an Environmental Assessment. Okanogan National Forest has been doing some range monitoring in the allotment.

Grazing days range from 60 to 70 per year, starting in early July and coming out early September, the longest stay being in Horseshoe Basin itself for 7-10 days, depending on the year's plan.

■ Harts Pass and Goat Allotment (*Pasayten Wilderness*)

The last AMP was completed in 1984. Next review date is unknown.

■ Wolf Creek and Horse Allotment (*Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness*)

The last AMP was completed in 1963. It appears the Forest Service is in the process of completing a new AMP.

■ Buttermilk and Sheep-Goat Allotment (*Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness*)

The last AMP was completed in 1985. Next review date is unknown.



Sheep grazing north of Horseshoe Basin

— KEVIN HERRICK PHOTO

Other Factors Affecting Grazing Management

Two other factors presently play into the management plan mix. The ongoing Eastside Ecosystem Management plan process is moving toward a fitful close with few interested parties happy. The plan could affect general grazing policy in the Pasayten. Forest Supervisor Sam Gehr has said that it would be best to wait for the adoption of the EEMP prior to making any changes to Pasayten grazing practices.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has also added a new dynamic by experimenting with grazing community advisory boards made up of various local interest groups. Forest Service personnel are watching this process to see if it will spread to other areas.

Hiker Input and Recreation Impacts

Hikers should make every effort to push the Forest Service to update AMPs. The review process is an excellent opportunity to inject recreation concerns into the long-term management practices of wilderness grazing. Regular letters to Sam Gehr, Forest Supervisor, and staff will at least establish a legal record of interest. Letters can also provide needed stimulus

and even political cover for public employees trying to do the right thing. Yearly comment on the issuing of permits would also raise the Forest Service's awareness that hikers and backpackers are watching how grazing affects the Pasayten Wilderness.

Goals of this Project

The purpose of this research had been to collect data that will indicate there is a greater Pasayten hiking constituency than the Okanogan National Forest cares to acknowledge. This proved much more difficult than anticipated on two counts.

1) The Forest Service hiker-use data is so poorly kept, if at all, as to be of minimal use, even in an anecdotal fashion. This may change, depending on the diligence and desire of local officials to keep, collect, and tabulate even the most basic data, such as trail registers. However, as one Forest Service employee pointed out, many hikers and other backcountry users fail to register in the trail register.

2) The time required to complete even cursory surveys and counts of hikers in the remote reaches of the Pasayten is almost

prohibitive without a dedicated group of people.

Another goal of this project was to bring together people who care about the Pasayten. In this realm we found some dedicated people, but we were not as successful as we had hoped we would be. We now see that from the outset, we may have pursued a path that while good, may not be the best way to bring together energy to protect the Pasayten. There are other ways to cause the Forest Service to take care of the Pasayten Wilderness as well as it takes care of cows.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Recommendations for Action and Investigation for Hikers and Organizations Aiming to Protect Pasayten Wilderness:

- Generate a consistent and constant stream of letters to the Forest Service documenting hiker's desires and needs for better care of hiker values in the Pasayten. This will establish a record for the future and will let present land managers know that people do care about how they manage the Pasayten.
- Get on Okanogan National Forest mailing lists and comment on proposed actions that affect the Pasayten.
- Bring people together who care about the Pasayten. This does not have to be a hike. It does not need to be a regular event. It does need to be something that allows people to see that there are others who care too.
- Carefully evaluate legal, public relations, and common public input options in developing a strategy to encourage the Forest Service to take care of the Pasayten's recreation values.

Write:

Samuel Gehr, Supervisor
Okanogan National Forest
1240 South Second Avenue
Okanogan, WA 98043

LETTERS FROM THE PASAYTEN

August 27, 1995

To Whom It May Concern,

One three person party spent four days camping in the Horseshoe Basin area of the Pasayten Wilderness. One primary camp was approximately 1/2 mile from a sheepherder's camp. The herder was tending a flock of 1000 sheep and 1200 lambs.

Although we were not in the area long enough to knowledgeably assess the ecological effects of the flock, a conversation with the shepherd, a Mexican national in his early 30s, revealed a shocking piece of information that we found incredibly indicting against his employer: he said he had been offered \$100 for each cougar he killed, \$80 for each bear. His ingenuousness was shocking to us, particularly when we realized what a perfect setup this was for the employer. Not only was he hiring someone who probably would work for low wages (because they were high relative to Mexico wages), but also someone whose cultural background posed no ethical dilemma vis-a-vis slaughtering the natural predators.

Lastly, the employer benefits because

of the sheer improbability of someone ever catching the shepherd killing these animals in their native area. We believe regardless of the damage to the native grasslands of the Pasayten, the grazing permits should be revoked for the lawless manner in which the grazing is obviously and zealously being pursued.

Sincerely,

Steve Molnes (author) Seattle, WA 98117

Steve Fulton (witness) Lynnwood, WA 98036

Wayne Schmitt (witness) Bellevue, WA 98004

Jana Alma (witness) Issaquah, WA 98027

August 27, 1995

The Pasayten Wilderness is indeed a marvelous place, with its expansive vistas and alpine forests. When we first hiked in (to Horseshoe Basin via Iron Gate), we encountered a lovely meadow with a wide variety of wildflowers still in bloom. The plant life was rich in diversity, thick and vibrant. Soon the scene was ruined by the sight & stench of sheep shit. Wherever we walked, poop was found, on the trail, in

our camp, in and around the streams. The meadows where the sheep had been were trashed. There were very few wildflowers, the vegetation was short, with much of the ground exposed. I felt robbed of the beauty I would have seen.

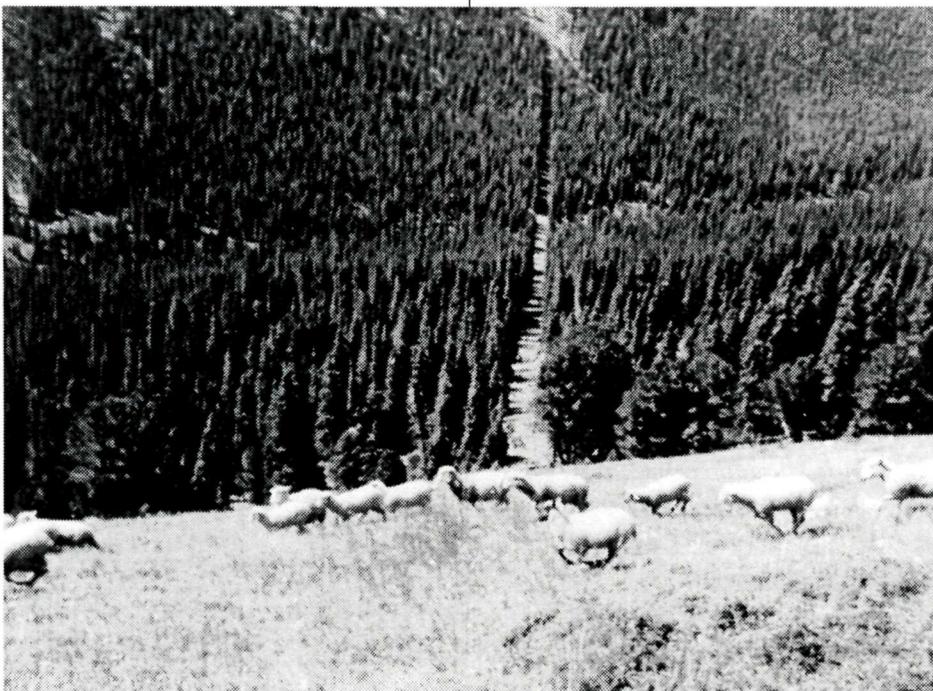
Suzanne Pardee

*Going to the
Pasayten
Wilderness
this summer?*

While you travel the trails:

- Notice the condition of the land.
- Document sheep and cattle damage with your camera.
- Document befouled streams, campsites (again with your camera).
- Keep a journal of record.

Only by consciously documenting land management problems will we have evidence to produce change.



*Sheep in Pasayten Wilderness crossing
Canadian Boundary*

— KEVIN HERRICK PHOTO

WASHINGTON WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System, which presently includes in the state of Washington a number of units in the national forests and national parks; some 2,000,000-plus acres require and await inclusion.

In the 1960s, the North Cascades Conservation Council was one of a consortium that sought a Washington State Wilderness System. Opposition was implacable and smothered the initiative before it could take a second breath.

Mysteriously, such a system on lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources was established by the legislature in 1986 — “mysteriously” because the act was accomplished by blessed hands unknown (to us) with scarcely a ripple. This, we think, was because the language of the legislation deliberately refrained from the eloquence of Zahniser which would have set legislature knees jerking and donkeys braying. There currently are 24 Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs) totaling more than 50,000 acres, “established for their outstanding scenic and ecological values and to provide opportunities for education and low-impact public use where appropriate.” Of course, the language could be construed by a hostile administration to interpretations as vile as “multiple use.” However, the administrators — State Land Commissioners Brian Boyle and, after him and currently, Jennifer Belcher — have been anything but hostile.

The future lies ahead. In 1972 the legislature enacted the Natural Areas Preserve Act “to secure for the people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of natural areas by establishing a system of natural area preserves. . .” These NAPs provide the highest level of protection for the highest quality native ecosystems and rare plants and animal species. DNR currently manages 45 NAPs, 25,000 acres, throughout the state. Many more sites have been identified by careful studies as meriting and

needing NAP status. Will they get it? Apparently not so long as the Born-Again Legislature endures; forces in the Tower of Babbage seek to put a moratorium on further NAPs. To give the bulldozers a fair crack at them. . .

The Washington Natural Heritage Program, established in 1977 and in 1981 placed under the DNR, has been conducting field inventories and library research and now manages information on more than 6000 locations of high-quality plant communities, wetlands, and rare species.

Constrained as it is by legal requirements to manage “trust” lands for cash income to the trusts (schools, universities, other institutions, counties), and what with these trusts constantly snapping at its heels and howling for blood, the DNR’s freedom of action is limited. It cannot do all that might be wanted to expand the NRCA and NAP and Natural Heritage systems. Moreover, from a past regime very different from those of Boyle and Belcher it has inherited a rabid wheel constituency which wields such continuing power in the legislature that among DNR holdings are large areas which are from pragmatic necessity administered as “state sacrifice areas.” We don’t like it, we don’t accept it as eternal, but we understand it and in assessing the DNR try to lean as far as possible toward accentuating the positive.

One would assume, *a priori*, that State Parks would be the leader in establishing a state wilderness system. It is not clear to this writer what the attitude toward such an concept is in State Parks. We have been cheered by reading in a current document on trail planning that the agency priority is “Walking, walking, walking — then everything else.” We have been dismayed by reading in that same document the statement (call it a confession?) that two-thirds of State Parks trails are open to wheels. (Schizophrenia? Careerism? Mugwump? Mugwimp?)

No initiative toward wilderness by other state agencies, such as Fish and Wildlife, which administers nobly huge

expanses of State Wildlife Areas, has come to the writer’s attention.

An effort was made to extend the national concept down though the state (DNR) to the local level. After the King County Council adopted a master plan for the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park which specified “NO MECHANICAL RECREATION,” the King County Parks Department squealed in fear and trembling, “But bicycles are WELCOME ON ALL OTHER TRAILS in King County Parks!”

A proposal was put forth to inventory the natural areas of King County Parks with a view to establishing a King County Wilderness-Like System. Call it a voice in the wilderness, soon stilled. Not even the Wilderness Society gave so much as a pit-pat of polite applause.

Seattle Parks Department shelters a number of good minds and pure hearts, but were it not for Friends of Discovery Park and its president, Robert Kildall (to join, write 3801 West Government Way, Seattle 98199-1014), this isle of peace and quiet where the relicts of the Spanish-American War at long last are moldering into the (native) plants would be inundated by Wagner and tom-toms and trail-wheels.

In a world that in the next quarter-century is predicted to have a population 10 times greater than a half-century ago, preservation of “the wildness without” is essential lest not highways alone be desolated but the social fabric itself be torn asunder by “road rage.” However, also indispensable to preservation of the world is “the wildness within.”



NEWS UPDATE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Charles Cushman, founder of National Parks Inholder and Multiple-Use Association, and Great Friend of Oppressed Stehekinites. . . —From January 23, 1998 Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

“Chuck Cushman, organizer for a group that represents workers in the forestry and mining industries, called the moratorium part of a “systematic, cultural genocide” by the Clinton administration and environmental groups against rural working people. . . .”

New catamaran ferry set for Lake Chelan service in June

A new, 50-mph catamaran-style passenger ferry is scheduled to begin service on Lake Chelan in June. The vessel will make one early morning and one afternoon trip per day June-September between the town of Chelan, the community of Stehekin and North Cascades National Park. The trips will complement the schedule already offered by the *Lady of the Lake* and the *Lady Express* ferries.

Lake Chelan Boat Company says the ferry will seat 49, compared with 150 on the *Lady Express* and 350 on the *Lady of*

the Lake. Fares haven't been announced, but tickets are likely to be sold through a reservation system.

Those interested in seeing an image of the new vessel can visit the Lake Chelan Boat Co.'s website: www.ladyofthelake.com/newboat

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

Mt. Baker Volcano

View to the north of MOUNT BAKER VOLCANO, August 21, 1997.

Steam plume rises from Sherman Crater (lower crater) source of increased fumarolic activity that began in 1976. There are no signs to suggest that magma movement has had any effect on this change in heat flow. Rockfalls caused the dark snow and ice adjacent to Sherman Crater. . . . Mount Baker has had at least four eruptions in the past 14,000 years. Volcanic mudflows have traveled as far as the Puget-Fraser Lowland. Many smaller debris flows have moved down all drainages that head on the volcano.

A revised hazard assessment, Potential volcanic hazards from future activity of Mount Baker, Washington (Gardner and others, USGS Open-File Report 95-498) is also available in



digital form at URL: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/Baker/Hazards>. Ongoing investigations over the next several years should provide more information about the history of this volcano.

— PHOTO BY LEE GERHARD
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THE WILD CASCADES

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