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# THE WILD CASCADES

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THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

WINTER 2004-2005



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COVER: **Yellow Aster trail sign near Gold Run Pass** — KEN WILCOX PHOTO

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### The Wild Cascades

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**T**he 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.



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**North Cascades Conservation Council**  
P.O. Box 95980  
University Station  
Seattle, WA 98145-2980  
  
NCCC Website  
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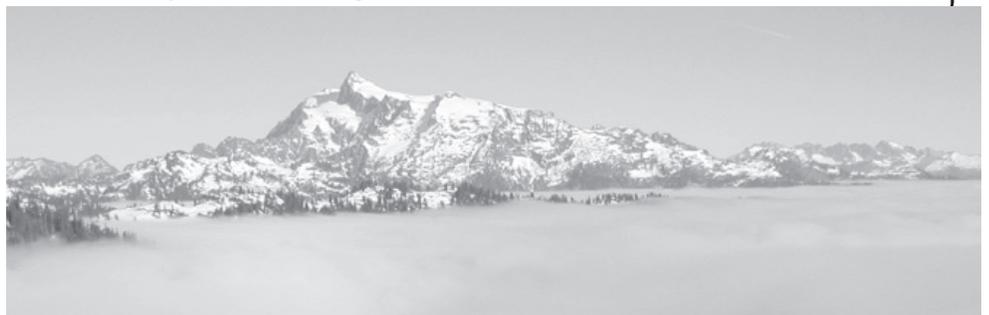
Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## *The President's Report*      *Winter 2004-2005*

Since the November elections, we have been bombarded with rhetoric about changing the Social Security System. Of course there are several other disturbing issues requiring our attention, for instance, there are two wars going on overseas and the war on terrorism here at home. I mention Social Security since it is a very popular program that belongs to the people. It is certainly the most visible public program to be selected for major change (and to be vilified) by the current political powers. While I consider this assault on public programs to be unfortunate, the worst thing to my mind is that it takes our eyes off the ball while our public lands are also being assaulted. The Arctic Wildlife Refuge is once again being offered up to the oil drillers. Snowmobile restrictions in Yellowstone have been overturned. Here at home, despite NCCC appeals and lawsuits, motorcycles may still rule the Mad River area. Snowmobile use and helicopters are likely to expand in the Okanogan Roadless areas. Corporate profits, vicarious recreational pursuits, and personal greed hold center stage, not protection of our environment. Oh yes – don't forget that if you want to do something bad, give it a good sounding name. Remember the Healthy Forest Initiative.

By now you have no doubt determined that I am a believer in the conspiracy theory that all public resources and programs are being set up for privatization. And you would be right. If you are one of us yourself, you might ask, "What can I do to resist this crushing of the public soul"? In my mind, the first thing we must remember is – Do not lose heart. A friend of mine not so long ago said, "The Far Right has won." At first I had to agree but on further reflection, this is entirely the wrong attitude. We need to realize that eventually the pendulum of political thought will swing back to something more reasonable. Until then, we need to keep doing what we do best. Bureaucrats need to be held accountable to existing laws. Their regulations need to be challenged at every possible opportunity. We must be prepared to go to court no matter how expensive or time-consuming. Politicians need to hear from us even if we sometimes seem outnumbered. It would certainly be a mistake to give others the impression that we are intimidated by recent setbacks. I am completely convinced that "right" is on our side, and that the "other right" will be a loser in the long term.

*Mount Shuksan from Boulder Ridge — KEN WILCOX PHOTO*



# NCCC REVIEWS STEHEKIN ROAD PROBLEMS

March 7, 2005

Mr. William Paleck, Superintendent  
North Cascades National Park Service Complex  
810 State Route 20  
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Paleck:

I am responding on behalf of North Cascades Conservation Council [NCCC] to your request for assistance in further defining alternatives for management options for the upper Stehekin Valley Road. At this time, NCCC understands that you are seeking to scope out the alternatives and that we are not expected to support or otherwise argue in favor of a preferred alternative. The key is to properly frame the action and the analysis of alternatives. We would be pleased to expand on any of these points or make clarifications as needed.

**1. Broaden the Scope of Action.** The stated scope of action is too narrowly defined. This is not just about replacing or not replacing the upper Stehekin Valley Road. It is about planning alternative futures for the upper Stehekin Valley and the types of access for recreation, wildlife protection, Wilderness management, etc., that is presented by this turn of natural events. NCCC has long urged the NPS to consider alternative management approaches to the upper Valley because of the significant opportunities that it offers for low-elevation, flat walk-in camping, etc. Regardless of the road alternative that is ultimately selected through the Environmental Impact Assessment process, the NPS should be considering these in light of a vision for how the upper Valley would be managed. In this regard, it is clear that the 1995 GMP and EIS statement for management of the Stehekin Road must also be revised.

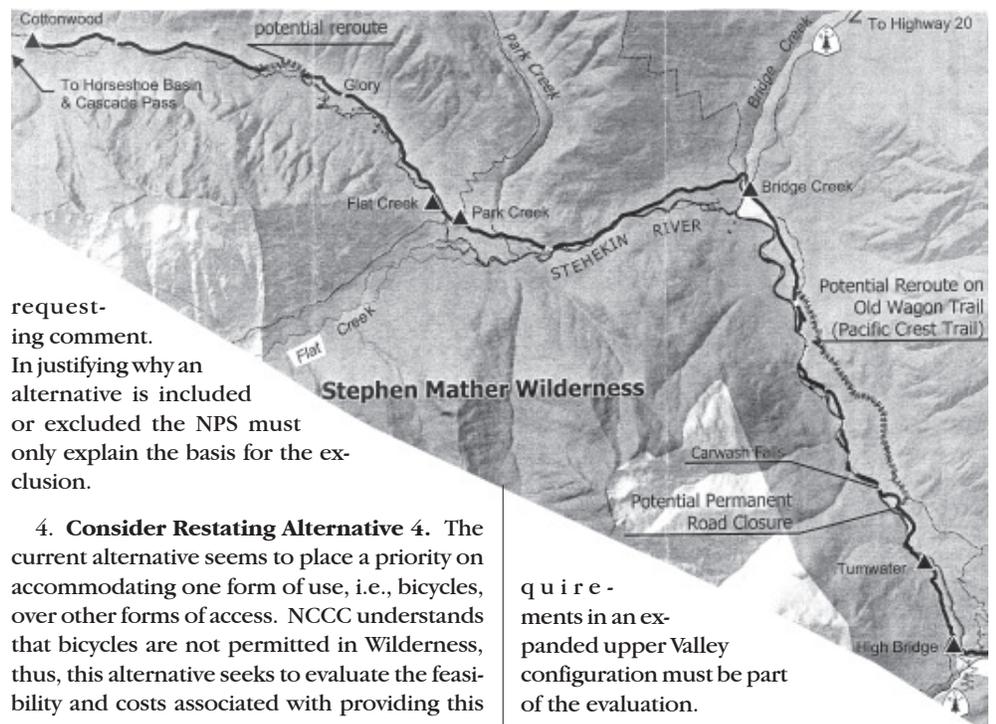
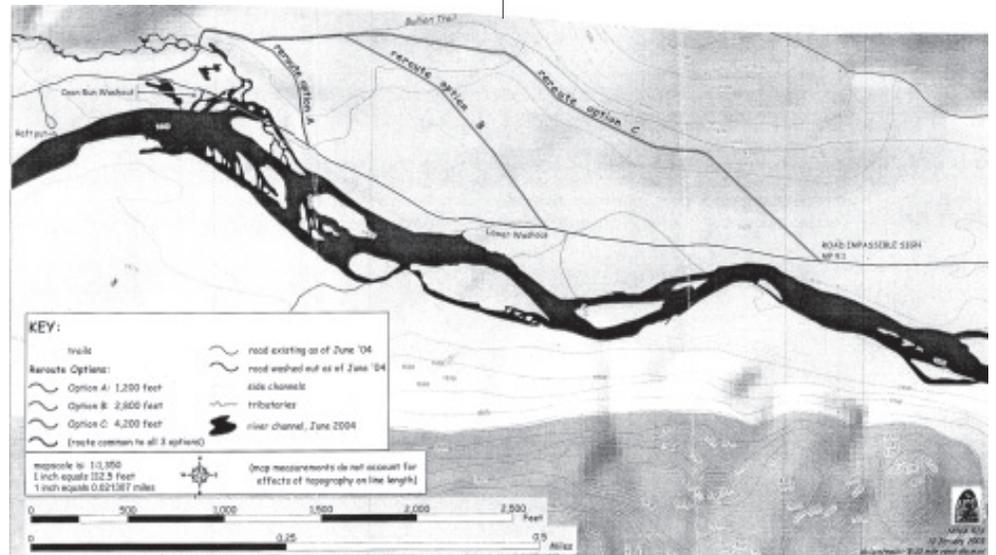
**2. Consider an Additional Road Terminus Option.** The NPS is currently considering a major revamping of the area around the High Bridge Historic Ranger District. One option for consideration should be closing the road at that point. There are a number of excellent reasons for combining the planning for a road terminus at a point where there has traditionally had a management presence. It seems a logical terminus of the road for administrative and interpretive purposes. It minimizes the need to develop further visitor services, e.g., parking and turn-around facilities, toilets, etc., at points farther up the road.

**3. Consider Deleting NPS Proposed Alternatives 1 and 2.** The environmental impact analysis required major federal projects under the National Environmental Policy Act seeks that the agency analyze a wide suite of alternatives but allows for the agency to determine practicability as one criterion in putting bookends on the breadth of alternatives con-

sidered. It is wasteful to use tax dollars to analyze alternatives that are not practical. According to cost estimates displayed in the request for comments, the \$6.6-million-dollar price tag for rebuilding the road [Alternative 1] and the unstated but likely high cost of rebuilding the road as seen in Alternative 2 are not in the practical range. Further, the environmental impacts and costs of mitigating these alternatives are enormous [that is 14,000 one-way trips on the Stehekin road by dump trucks capable of carrying 10 cubic yards of large rock per trip plus more trips for finer material]. Thus, it does not seem that the NPS is required to consider these further. Finally, NEPA requires that Alternatives under consideration are legal. Alternative 2 is illegal under the 1988 Washington Parks Wilderness Act as pointed out in the document

specific form of access. NCCC would request that the statement be broadened to include comparison of the bike route with routing suitable for other means of access.

**5. List of Issues for Analysis.** NCCC concurs with the partial list provided. Others that should be considered relate to the first point made above relative to alternate goals and policies for managing the upper Stehekin Valley area without road access. Similarly, the role of the NPS and private operators for public transportation services/shuttle services should be revisited in light of change in access. Further, the role of public transport in the interpretation of the Stehekin Valley should be evaluated. Compatibility of visitor uses and visitor safety are also important elements. Ability to administer and consistently enforce management re-



requesting comment. In justifying why an alternative is included or excluded the NPS must only explain the basis for the exclusion.

**4. Consider Restating Alternative 4.** The current alternative seems to place a priority on accommodating one form of use, i.e., bicycles, over other forms of access. NCCC understands that bicycles are not permitted in Wilderness, thus, this alternative seeks to evaluate the feasibility and costs associated with providing this

quirements in an expanded upper Valley configuration must be part of the evaluation.

# WHEELS AWAY!: Lake Wenatchee over the high wilds to Lake Chelan! WHEE! [NOT!!!!]

Editor's note:

The upper Mad River is a central link in the vision of Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for "the greatest mountain bike adventure in the nation". If permitted, it would be certain to draw knobby tires in masses from around the world.

The Forest Service has made a decision to proceed throttle-out through the high country, including an area long wanted for a major addition to the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

The North Cascades Conservation Council is the lead appellant in the January 3, 2005 administrative appeal of the decision. The complete appeal (16 single-space typed pages, plus 6 printed pages of supplement, plus 15 printed pages from *100 Hikes in the Glacier Peak Region of the North Cascades*) is on file at the North Cascades Conservation Council.

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## *Stebekin Road, continued from page 4*

In light of all of the alternatives it would be useful to evaluate the continuing erosion of the road bed with respect to contribution to downstream sedimentation and geohazard to determine if measures are necessary to reduce these hazards, i.e., putting the road no longer maintained into a long-term stable "restored" condition, removing culverts, etc.

Other issues that require analysis include social/cultural impacts to residents and visitors of changing the terminus of the upper Stehekin Valley road. Most importantly, the economic costs and benefits of the project should be identified – especially in light of the extremely high costs under several of the options and the yet unstated costs of annual maintenance.

**Conclusion.** NCCC looks forward to working with the NPS in evaluating the future for the upper Stehekin Valley. The natural processes are reasserting their dominance in this area and foreclosing options. At the same time these natural processes are giving the NPS a unique opportunity to plan for a new way of protecting and enjoying the area.

If further information or clarifications can be supplied, please contact NCCC as indicated below.

Sincerely,

David Fluharty on behalf of the  
Board of Directors  
North Cascades Conservation Council

The internal headings of topics given here outline our argument.

January 3, 2005

Appeal Deciding Officer James Boynton  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
Supervisor  
ATTN: 1570 Appeals  
215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
RE: Administrative Appeal of Mad River ORV Decision  
NCCC et al v. USFS, 98 F.Supp.2d 1103 (W.D.Wash. 1999)

Dear Mr. Boynton:

North Cascades Conservation Council ("NCCC"), The Mountaineers, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, Sierra Club Cascade chapter and Washington Wilderness Coalition (collectively "appellants") hereby appeal the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Mad River [Off-Road Vehicle] Trail Environmental Assessment ("Mad River ORV Decision").

... The Mad River ORV Decision was dated November 17, 2004 and was published in the newspaper of record (*Wenatchee World*) on November 19, 2004.

... Following is a statement of the reasons that Appellants believe the Mad River ORV Decision is illegal, fails to address public comments, and should be reversed.

... The Mad River ORV Decision violates the U.S. District Court ruling about ORV construction in this very trail system.

... The Mad River ORV Decision documentation has been impermissibly segmented from the related Goose-Maverick ORV decision — which has not yet been issued.

... The Mad River ORV Decision is not based upon a study of the effects of ORVs upon wildlife in this Entiat-Mad River trail system.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to adequately address the negative environmental impacts of ORV recreation.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to adequately address recreation issues, fails to minimize user conflicts, and fails to consider negative impacts of ORVs on non-motorized recreationists, such as hikers, equestrians, anglers and hunters.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to consider large-scale cumulative impacts.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to address impacts to uninventoried roadless areas.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to address the suitability of roadless areas — both inventoried and uninventoried — for Wilderness designation.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to meet NEPA's requirements to assess a full range of reasonable alternatives.

... The Mad River ORV Decision fails to adequately address impacts on wildlife.

... The Mad River ORV Decision reveals previously undisclosed post-construction purposes for the Alma Creek helicopter landing site ("heliport" or "helispot") that were not addressed in the EA and for which there has been no opportunity for public comment.

## Conclusion

The Mad River ORV Decision is an egregious violation of NEPA. It would harm an ecologically important and sensitive landscape that has been proposed as an addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness. In the 1990 Wenatchee Forest Plan (which is still in effect), the Forest Service itself admitted that this roadless area has "high potential for future Wilderness designation." Appellants are very concerned about the negative effects of these connected ORV construction proposals on native ecosystems, on the natural values of the area, on unroaded areas, on potential Wilderness, and on non-motorized recreationists. For these reasons Appellants vigorously oppose both project components as currently constituted, and Appellants strongly urge you to reverse the MAD River ORV Decision.

For all the reasons cited above, the Forest Service must withdraw the Mad River and Goose-Maverick ORV construction proposals. Any future ORV construction proposals must include (1) the NEPA-required analysis of the cumulative impacts of past, present and future ORV-facilitating actions in the Entiat-Mad River trail system; (2) the Court-ordered study of the impacts of ORVs upon wildlife in the Entiat-Mad River ecosystem; and (3) evaluation of all reasonable alternatives including permanent or seasonal restrictions on ORVs in certain areas.

Karl F. Forsgaard  
North Cascades Conservation Council  
(lead appellant)

*[POSTSCRIPT: In late February, Wenatchee National Forest denied this administrative appeal, which means that any further action by conservationists to stop the Mad River ORV project will take place in court. The Forest has not yet issued a decision on the revised Goose-Maverick EA, which was impermissibly segmented from the Mad River EA to which it connects.]*

# THE SAUK

The October 2003 floods were a grand natural spectacle in much of northern Washington, but they were grander and more spectacular in the Sauk river basin than anywhere else. They left behind an altered landscape. The Whitechuck River, a major Sauk tributary, migrated in many places. In the process, large stretches of the Whitechuck trail, and two significant stretches of the main Whitechuck river road, turned into active river channel, and a major bridge near the mouth of the Whitechuck was destroyed. Vast quantities of logs, big and small, were washed into the river. The Suiattle, another major Sauk tributary, also went on a rampage, moving its bed in many locations and migrating its active channel completely out from under a major concrete bridge, as well as damaging bridges on two major tributaries. Other impressive major channel movements and bridge and main road failures occurred along the South fork Sauk, which closely parallels the “mountain loop” road, and along the North Bank Sauk river road.

However inconvenient these events might have been from a utilitarian point of view, they represent the sort of disturbances which help to preserve aquatic health. Extensive log jams and coarse wood delivered to the rivers during flood, and slough and back-channel features derived from channel migration play important roles in the life cycles of salmonids. To put the matter simply, wild salmon need wild rivers, and wild rivers need to move around in their floodplains.

There are a great many things to dislike about the current national forest road system, which have doubtless occurred to many NCCC'ers. It's worth thinking, though, about the specific road features which are particularly damaging to river and stream systems. One of these is the tendency of poorly maintained steep sidehill roads systems to act as points of origin for landslides and debris flows down stream courses as culverts plug or road sidecasts break loose. But another, perhaps less obvious, is the tendency of floodplain and valley-bottom roads to lead to creeping bank armoring and channel constraints. As rivers try to migrate into roads, the most convenient course of action is often to just armor the road, rather than move it out of harm's way. As rivers try to migrate laterally out from under bridge spans, the easiest course is just to armor bridge abutments, pinning rivers in place, and affecting the river's evolution for as much as a full meander up and downstream from the bridge site. Cumulatively and over time, such changes keep rivers from migrating and degrade “edge habitat” where river and land meet and mingle.

NCCC saw in the aftermath of the floods an occasion for public reflection on the environmental and monetary costs of the road system, and a chance to move the road system in a more environmentally friendly direction: smaller, better-maintained, with fewer alignments and engineering features which threaten and dam-

age aquatic resources. Such a flood response might include decommissioning rather than rebuilding of damaged roads and bridges, moving roads out of objectionable alignments, rebuilding with lower-risk structures such as longer-span bridges, and mitigation in the event of hard-to-avoid damage. To this end, we, and our allies, wrote letters and lobbied forest officials. Our efforts have had little apparent effect to date. The agency has not yet spoken officially on most road repairs in the Sauk watershed, but informal leakage of information makes clear that preferred alternatives will be to reopen all roads, and that in at least three important cases, main river channel migrations will be undone by means of road armoring, that is, rebuilding the road more or less on its original alignment, right through what is now active river channel.

The agency has also resisted any effort to take a basin-wide view of the flood event and subsequent responses, narrowly focusing decision processes around individual road washouts, and steadfastly refusing to entertain any mitigations for particularly egregious and damaging road repairs. Without any doubt, in the aggregate these decisions, if carried forward, will move the federal road system in the Sauk basin in the wrong direction, toward more channel constraints of wild rivers, and they show no taste whatsoever for the necessary task of decommissioning low-use, undermaintained, and aquatically risky roads.

The Sauk basin is not just any old river system. It's one of the last places in Puget Sound where it's possible to see a real wild mass salmon run, to watch salmon fighting their way upstream and into tributaries, large and small, each fish heading to the one tributary or reach that smells right, the natal stream where it emerged from spawning gravels a handful of years before; where it's still possible to watch the fish building and lurking over their redds, and to see, and smell, the massed carcasses of spawned-out salmon. It's a spectacle that's worth fighting for, and it looks like a fight will, in fact, be needed, to keep the roads out of one of our last wild river systems. Stay tuned. This issue will be with us for at least another year, probably more, and NCCC will be in the thick of it.

— KEVIN GERAGHTY



— Former road alignment, Whitechuck River Road



— Former trail alignment, Whitechuck Bench Trail

*Kevin Geraghty photos*

# THE COURT OPINES

- The Court decided the U.S. Forest Service did not violate NEPA by failing to analyze cumulative impacts of permits for helicopter skiing and snowmobiling in the Okanogan National Forest.
- The Court decided the Forest Service did not act arbitrarily in failing to prepare an EIS, as each of the Environmental Assessments evaluated cumulative impacts of each proposed action, alone and together.
- The Court decided in its ruling that the Forest Service took the required “hard look” at impacts to grizzly, northern spotted owl, lynx and mule deer, as well as air and water quality and wilderness and roadless areas.

Methow Forest Watch v. U.S. Forest Service, No. 04-114-KL (U.S. Dist. Ct., D. Ore., Jan. 20, 2005).

## MY TURN

[OP-ED to *Methow Valley News*]

Susan Crampton  
Methow Forest Watch  
March 1, 2005

That there are heliskiing and snowmobile problems in the backcountry and being able to get a legal handle on those problems are two different issues.

January 20, 2005 Judge Garr King issued an Opinion that the U.S. Forest Service cumulative effects analysis for expansion of snowmobile and heliskiing outfitter-guide permits was adequate to meet Forest Service responsibilities under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). This round of legal challenge to the lack of Forest Service recreation management is over.

For those of us who know about off-trail snowmobile routes on major lynx ridgeline corridors, and backcountry snowmobiles by the dozens dumping fuel pollution in mountain wetlands, and snowmobiles being seen in higher and higher remote places along the Pacific Cascade Crest, Judge King's Opinion is difficult to swallow.

The problem is that each separate intrusion adds together resulting in cumulative effects of biological and ecological concern. Chipping away the vital Methow Valley landscape. Whittling down the high-quality ecological diversity and integrity. The lynx track that used to travel the ridgeline, the wolverine trail that used to climb the slope, the moose that used to browse in the wetland, the great grey owl that used to hunt in the snow-covered meadow.

It is said that the Devil is in the details. And it is also said that God is in the details. From an environmental view, it appears that sorting out the two is in the details. In the details are the small but incremental changes that chip and whittle away.

Few recreationists can see - or are willing to see - that the details of their personal sport are part of the problem for wildlife and resource impacts, part of ecosystem degradation. Not

the climber in mountain goat habitat, not the snowmobiler in mountain wetlands, not the heliskier transported to the edge of wolverine denning habitat, or the heli-skiing outfitter-guide who chops down near-alpine trees for better access. Not the Pasayten horse-camper, in “Wilderness” camps with wooden decks, pounds of gourmet food and alcohol, packed in by 2 strings of horses to accommodate the luxury. Not the summer hiker who digs out sensitive plants to take home for a backyard garden. These are all part and parcel of the slow eroding away of the few remaining wildlands.

In this Bicentennial year, visualizing the Pacific Northwest of the Lewis and Clark Expedition can be a starting point for ecosystem perspective. The Expedition recorded extensive journal descriptions of Plenty and Abundance. Rivers flowing, Salmon leaping, Beaver swimming, Ecosystems functioning. All these lands were “Wilderness” to the discovering white men.

A word picture of the United States from the time of Lewis and Clark to the present shows a map of continually diminishing forests and wildlands. Shrinking down to end of the road places and pockets of residual Nature. All in just the last 200 years. Now only 2% of remaining lands are designated Wilderness. Now just 2% more are Roadless Areas of the quality that could be designated as Wilderness.

Not that we should, or could, “go back” to this previous time and landscape, but this is a landscape and history from which to learn, to make choices, about what kind of society we want to live in, about what kind of culture we want to work toward. What kind of world are we building, or breaking down, by choice, by inadvertent outcome? What are the features and qualities worth selecting, promoting, protecting?

The environmental lawsuit against expansion of snowmobile and heliskiing activities was an attempt by five environmental groups to pro-

mote ecosystem protection for land and wildlife. This round of legal challenge wasn't successful.

Judge King's perspective in his snowmobile and heliskiing legal Opinion is that of the Forest Service: that a thing is so if printed in the agency Environmental Assessment, that simply listing is adequate for NEPA requirements of cumulative effects. Judge King repeatedly deferred to the agency conclusions, even when no monitoring data or specific analysis of effects was provided. Other and recent court Opinions have ruled that “simply stated” professional opinions and conclusions must be documented with evidence, are not legally adequate without evidence.

Judge King's Opinion states, (The Forest Service) “*examined the levels and effects of existing winter recreation uses*”, but in fact there was no examining, but rather only listing. And effects cannot be determined by simply stating conclusions, as was done by the Forest Service. Effects cannot be determined without monitoring, without collecting data - which in practically all cases was not done, has not been done. No data, simply conclusions. Data-free analysis. Hmmm. Well, it is easier.

Within the Forest Service, there is both local and national recognition of recreation impacts to wildlife, fish, and other forest resources. Building on that basic recognition is worthwhile.

- The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests completed an initial literature review on recreation impacts to wildlife. Now the Forest needs to actually collect wildlife and ecosystem monitoring data, here, now. Useful, scientifically designed data-collection, not just selective and defensive data to support selective conclusions.

- Collection of recreation data by the Forest Service has been initiated, too. Good. Acknowledge data gaps. Design further studies, collect needed information.

# Top Ten Reasons to Say NO to Deep Underground and Science Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) in Icicle Valley

*If you're undecided about DUSEL in Icicle Valley, read on...*

**10. ECONOMICS** — Loss of tourism / recreation dollars from huge industrial operation in Icicle Canyon (and subsequent effect on Leavenworth area from heavy industrial truck traffic, noise, dust) as well as added costs to taxpayers from infrastructure development (road improvement, power lines, sewage, etc). Tax-exempt status of University / Government entities will not add to County budget.

## 9. LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL

— This would be a

*My Turn, continued from page 8*

- With monitoring data for recreation uses and monitoring data for wildlife and other ecosystem resources, what about completing the coordinated recreation management strategy and action plan that has been recommended to the Forest Service by the US Fish and Wildlife Service? Now that the Forest Service won't be forced to do so by Judge King's Opinion, they could complete the planning that's needed, maintain their decision-making autonomy, and be ecosystem-protection heroes as well!

From an environmental view, there is awareness that recreation problems and impacts still exist on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Options for further response from the environmental community include:

- Look for ways to work further with the Forest Service, to make genuine environmental concerns known, to do so without unnecessary antagonism.
- Live and Learn from the recent legal defeat.
- Look for ways, that would lead recreationists themselves to recognize impacts, feel moved to protect the land that we love.
- Work toward a wider social recognition of the inherent value of all Nature and Creation, including but not limited to humans.
- Look for ways to accomplish a more effective legal handle for protection of lands and wildlife from snowmobile, heli-skiing, and other recreation impacts on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

national lab with several government agencies involved (including Department of Defense and National Nuclear Security Agency) and due to security reasons, local citizens would not know what activities and/or hazardous materials and chemicals may be transported through our valley and used in the lab.

**8. WATER** — Icicle Canyon is Leavenworth's watershed (source of drinking water) and the source of irrigation for orchards and farms in the Icicle and Wenatchee Valleys. The supply is already over-allocated but expertly maintained to supply our needs. The construction phase and lab will need undetermined amounts of water from Icicle Creek. This will seriously affect water supply for residents of the valley.

**7. TRUST** — What one or two scientists tell us at this point about doing this project cleanly and safely with little impact will be meaningless and out of their hands when the big budget federal program starts up and the large construction corporations move in. The manner in which the persuasive efforts have been conducted is also intensely disturbing; the cavalier attitude, the promising good to all, harm to none. The persuasive process has been "non-transparent" and non-forthcoming. The *real* information has been omitted.

**6. JOBS** — There is an assumption that the area will benefit from more high-paying employment. Maybe if you are a dump truck driver, you'll benefit. And perhaps a few more service industry jobs like motel housekeepers. And of course realtors would benefit from the added pressure to our limited and already expensive housing market. The majority of new jobs would likely be filled by out-of-town grad students, scientists and government employees.

**5. LOCAL PRESTIGE AND "CULTURE"** — It has been suggested that this project would "enhance" the local area with more educated, sophisticated and cultured people. These are also the same newcomers who would think nothing of destroying one of

the most beautiful valleys in the northwest and negatively impacting one of the most thriving tourist / recreation towns in the state. A great addition to the community...?

**4. POLLUTION** — The construction phase and lab would be using a variety of known (and unknown) hazardous materials and chemicals. Accidents happen, safety cannot be guaranteed and Icicle Creek or the groundwater of the valley could be affected. Any added risk of contamination to our water is not worth it.

**3. THE TUNNELS** — Don't be misled that this is just a small tunnel in Mt. Cashmere. It is actually two tunnels side by side and each tunnel is 6 meters (20-feet) in diameter. The "drill bit" is 20-feet in diameter and the drilling / excavating machinery is hundreds of yards long. With a huge infrastructure to support and maintain it, this would be a **MASSIVE** industrial project in Icicle Canyon.

**2. WILDERNESS AND NATIONAL FOREST** — This proposed industrial project would undermine the Wilderness Act and set a dangerous precedent that would allow mining under Wilderness areas. The lakes and creeks above the tunnels on Mt. Cashmere could be affected if the water table is disrupted and changed by the tunnels. The National Forest land at the portal site lies within a "Scenic" river corridor designation by law in the Forest Plan. Access to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness would be severely impacted.

And the Number One Reason to say NO to NUSEL in the Icicle Valley...

## 1. THE RISKS FAR OUTWEIGH ANY BENEFITS

*Icicle Valley Protection Alliance*  
PO Box 264  
Leavenworth, WA 98826  
<http://www.iciclevalley.org/index.html>

# Forest Service Adventure Pass Revised

*Pasadena Star News*  
November 24, 2004

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST — The Adventure Pass program, which has drawn the ire of national forest users for the past seven years, will be extended for 10 more years but without its least popular provision — a \$5 daily or \$30 annual parking fee.

A rider on a massive budget bill Congress passed Saturday contains new rules on when money can be collected for public use of national lands. In the Angeles National Forest, fees can still be collected at picnic areas and campgrounds but not in undeveloped areas.

The law, which does not take effect until it is signed by President Bush, is getting a mixed review from activists.

"It is a definite improvement," said Robert Bartsch, a Pasadena resident who has advocated against the Adventure Pass since it was instituted in 1997. Bartsch won a victory in 1998 when a U.S. District Court decided he did not have to pay a fee when he went to the forest to protest the fees.

"In undeveloped areas you will be able to pull off the road and take a walk without paying. ... It's not a victory, but they certainly have

watered the original legislation down."

The new law authorizes all national forests in the country to charge fees. The Forest Service can require payment for use of campgrounds, boat launches, electricity hookups and recreation areas with a parking lot, toilet, sign, trash can, picnic table and security services.

The revision in the Adventure Pass program was passed as part of the omnibus appropriations bill, a must-pass piece of legislation that Congress enacted Saturday before breaking for the holidays.

Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who drew up the original law that created the Adventure Pass, also wrote the current bill. Since both laws were attached as riders, they have never been discussed on the floor of the House or Senate.

A more moderate competing bill passed unanimously by the Senate would have allowed the Adventure Pass program to completely expire. That bill is overridden by the new law.

Forest Service officials said Adventure Pass money has helped keep forests clean and well-maintained.

"Before 1997 we had a lot of litter, a lot of dirty bathrooms in campgrounds, trails falling down because of erosion," said Matt Mathes, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service in California. "The Recreation Fee Demonstration program, of which the Adventure Pass is a part, has changed all that."

In fiscal year 2003, the Forest Service collected \$2.8 million in Adventure Pass fees from the Angeles, Los Padres, Cleveland and San Bernardino national forests in Southern California.

"We weren't happy with the way the forests were looking, and the public wasn't happy, either. There's been a dramatic change since this program began," Mathes said.

Some worry that giving the Forest Service the authority to charge fees only in more-developed areas will encourage the cash-strapped agency to build in places that are now wild.

"They trash the resource to get the money," said Carl Forsgaard, chairman of the recreation issues committee for the Sierra Club. "They have to develop things in order to generate revenue. It's bad incentives."

However, environmentalists say, they do not begrudge the agency the money.

But they say charging the public would not be necessary if Congress had not cut the Forest Service's budget in the mid-1990s.

"Obviously we don't object to clean toilets and clean forests," said Alisdair Coyne, conservation director of a watershed protection group in Los Padres National Forest. "But we want to see that come from tax dollars."



*"This just might be the greatest period of privatization since feudalism."*

*New Yorker*, March 7, 2005

# COOPERATING WITH THE ENEMY COALITION FOR RECREATION TRAILS

March 3, 2005

It appears that some organizations will do just anything for money.... including coming together and collaborating in some damn unsavory alliances. The American Recreation Coalition's 'Coalition for Recreation Trails' is, I would suggest, amongst the worst of the alliances and ARC's Recreational Trails Program is one of the most unsavory and potentially revolutionary public-lands funding mechanisms that exists today. (<http://www.funoutdoors.com/coalitions/crt>)

Yet as bad as the RTP is, I hope folks appreciate that RTP shall serve as THE MODEL for future public lands funding programs. What's more, ARC's new Federal Recreation Policy Act, if passed into law, would dramatically build upon the RTP and the RAT and result in rapid commercialization, privatization and motorization of our public lands.

Appended is a letter you may find of interest. It was sent a few days ago by the CRT to Congressman Don Young. The list of organizations signed on to this letter is of significance.

Please understand that I do not question the need to adequately fund recreation trails. I seriously challenge the appropriateness of non-motorized groups allowing themselves to be used by the motorized recreation industry in this way and I suggest that RTP is a particularly inappropriate funding mechanism.

What is at stake is NOT simply trail funding. What is at stake is the future of outdoor recreation on America's public lands. Non-motorized recreation groups have no business collaborating with the enemy — and let us be perfectly clear, ARC IS THE ENEMY.

SCOTT SILVER  
WildWilderness.org

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young:

We are writing to express our strong and united support for TEA LU's significantly increased funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP enjoys the enthusiastic

support of the nation's trail community, including representatives of both motorized and non-motorized activities.

Under both ISTEA and TEA-21, Congress authorized a portion of the fuel tax revenue generated by off-road recreational use for the RTP under the "user-pays/user-benefits" doctrine. Each state receives federal funding which is then matched with state or local funds, providing important economic and social benefits to thousands of communities.

RTP has been highly successful. More than 7,000 projects have been completed to date, benefiting millions of hikers, bikers, trail cyclists, snowmobilers, off-road motorcyclists, equestrians and many other types of trail enthusiasts. State trail administrators report that there are many eligible project proposals that now go unfunded.

Both the House and the Senate passed legislation in 2004 which would have extended and expanded the RTP. Neither version of the legislation achieves our request for funding of at least 50% of the \$286 million in federal excise taxes collected annually on fuel used for off-highway recreational activities.

H.R. 3 will do much to promote quality trails for more Americans, providing \$503 million over six years for the RTP program. We thus urge that the House embrace this funding provision for RTP and insure its inclusion in final surface transportation legislation. There is another compelling reason for Congress to act decisively in support of recreational trails. Our nation is faced with a serious - yet preventable - public health threat associated with physical inactivity related obesity. Trails are an essential element in addressing this major threat to our nation's health and well-being. Accessible recreational trails can help prevent the estimated 400,000 premature deaths each year and annual medical costs now in excess of \$100 billion attributed to obesity.

We thank you on behalf of all Americans for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

America Bikes  
American Council of  
Snowmobile Associations  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Motorcyclist  
Association

American Recreation Coalition  
American Trails  
Blue Ribbon Coalition  
International Association of  
Snowmobile Administrators  
International Mountain  
Bicycling Association  
International Snowmobile  
Manufacturers Association  
League of American Bicyclists  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Association of Service  
and Conservation Corps  
National Association of  
Recreation Resource Planners  
National Association of State Park  
Directors  
National Recreation and Park  
Association  
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile  
Association  
Professional Paddlesports  
Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of  
America  
Student Conservation Association  
Thunderhead Alliance  
United Four Wheel Drive  
Associations

# Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

AMY GULICK  
WILDERNESS SOCIETY



The 19.8 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an incomparable wilderness home to more than 250 animal species, including wolves, grizzlies, caribou and millions of migrating birds. It is a naturally functioning ecosystem about the size of South Carolina. There are no roads, man-made trails or industrial development of any kind. One of the wonders of the Arctic Refuge is the great caribou migration. For thousands of years, the 129,000-member Porcupine River caribou herd has been migrating from its winter grounds in Canada to its birthing grounds on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. And for thousands of years, the Gwich'in Indians have relied on the caribou for subsistence and culture, and continue to do so today. The Gwich'in call the coastal plain "the sacred place where life begins." In addition to caribou relying on the coastal plain to have their calves, many other species depend on it to raise their young — polar bears, musk oxen, and more than 180 species of migratory birds from 49 states and five continents.

But the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is also threatened by oil development, and today there is intense pressure in the U.S. Congress to open it to drilling. Oil proponents argue that America needs the oil to increase our national security by making us less dependent on foreign oil, and to lower gas prices. The truth is that there is not enough oil in the coastal plain to

accomplish either of these goals. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the amount of economically recoverable oil that lies beneath the coastal plain would only be enough to supply our oil needs for six months. And it will take 10 years to build the infrastructure and begin pumping oil. And there is no guarantee that the oil will remain in the United States as North Slope crude oil from nearby Prudhoe Bay is commonly sold overseas to the highest bidder. The only way to increase our national security is to lessen our dependence on all oil, and we can do this through conservation and alternative energy sources.

It is a moral value to preserve ecosystems for their own sake as well as for the far-reaching benefits to the health of the Earth and all of its inhabitants. It is a moral value to honor the rights of indigenous people, such as the Gwich'in Indians, to continue their traditional ways of life. And it is a moral value to invest now in alternative and renewable energy sources so that future generations are less vulnerable to a finite oil supply.

The Arctic Refuge is a symbol for how we view all of our public lands. If we allow oil development in the Arctic Refuge, then what does the future hold for our national parks, forests, rivers, marine sanctuaries and our already designated wilderness areas? The U.S. Congress has the authority to open

the refuge to drilling or to permanently protect it, and it could happen tomorrow. But today, we still have a chance to preserve this undisturbed Arctic ecosystem.

Please write, fax, call or email your senators and representative. Ask them to not allow any oil development in the Arctic Refuge, and request that they designate the coastal plain of the refuge as wilderness.

Senator Patty Murray  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-2621 Phone  
(202) 224-0238 Fax  
senator\_murray@murray.senate.gov  
www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3441 Phone  
(202) 228-0514  
maria@cantwell.senate.gov  
www.senate.gov/~cantwell

To write to your Representative, visit: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

For more information about the Arctic Refuge, visit: <http://www.wilderness.org/OurIssues/Arctic/>

## Federal Government Abandons Wildlife Protections on Alaska's North Slope

*New Oil Leasing Plan Ignores Public Opinion, Threatens Key Habitat for Big Game and Waterfowl*

ANCHORAGE — January 26 — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) yesterday announced its final proposal to repeal the last remaining protections for critical wildlife habitat and hunting areas around Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in Northwestern Alaska.

BLM's draft plan, released in June 2004, elicited more than 220,000 comments from across the nation with the vast majority opposed to oil drilling in the area. Other federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also raised concerns. The final plan

provides even less protection than what was proposed by the Bush Administration last summer.

The Teshekpuk Lake area is one of unparalleled wildlife habitat. One in four of the world's population of Pacific black brant utilize the area. Approximately 37,000 black

brant, 30 percent of the entire population, utilized the Teshekpuk Lake area for molting in 2001. Other waterfowl that rely on the area include lesser snow geese, white-fronted geese and long-tailed duck that find critical nesting and molting habitat in the

# Conservation group buys 120 acres along Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER  
Thursday, January 13, 2005

A long-sought piece of property along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River has been bought by the Cascade Land Conservancy in a deal conservationists say will expand recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and slow the push toward private development of the area.

About 30 miles northeast of North Bend, the 120-acre Moore oxbow property lies along a bend in the river beneath 5,500-foot Mount Garfield. The last piece of unprotected riverfront land in the upper Middle Fork valley, it had been eyed since 1996 by conservationists hoping to preserve a public-domain corridor that includes the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Nobody knows its value better than Mike Moore. He and his wife,

Betty, chose not to contact a real estate agent, instead selling the land to the conservancy for \$235,000.

"If I was younger, there's no way I'd think about selling that place," said Moore, 71, who grew up hunting, fishing, eating crab apples off the trees and watching mountain goats on nearby peaks.

The Moores were among the first white people to settle in the Snoqualmie Valley — his great-grandmother Nancy Moore arrived by covered wagon — and Mike Moore fondly recalled staying with cousins in cabins and riding in hand-built cable cars across the river before a flood destroyed the structures.

But Moore doesn't hunt anymore, and decades of uninvited campers brought trash and hassles for the family, said Moore, who lives in Gold Bar.

It took two years to negotiate the

sale to the conservancy, a non-profit organization that pools private resources to preserve natural lands in King, Kittitas, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

The U.S. Forest Service, which owns other land in the valley, did not have authorized funding to buy the land when the Moores were ready to sell, but will buy the property from the conservancy, said Chip Nevins, King County senior conservation director for the conservancy.

Funding came in the form of donations from the late Patsy Collins, the Mountaineers Foundation, the Osberg Family Trust and two anonymous donors. The Mountaineers Foundation also provided funding for stewardship, including cleanup and replanting.

"We wanted the land to stay as it is," Moore said. "We thought if it stayed in public domain, it would remain in its wilderness state."

The sale gives the Forest Service and the state Department of Natural Resources, another Middle Fork valley landowner, the authority to create trails and access points as well as crack down on dumping, four-wheel-drive vandalism, meth labs and other illegal activities in the area.

"It's still kind of sad it's not going to be in the family anymore after four generations," Moore said. "But I can still go there. There have been a lot of efforts to clear up the Middle Fork, and it will help make it a nice playground for Seattle."

## *Federal Government Abandons Wildlife Protections on Alaska's North Slope, continued from page 12*

lake's environs. Spectacled and Steller's eiders, both listed as "threatened species" under the federal Endangered Species Act, use the area for nesting. Big game species found in the area include the 45,000-member Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd that provides a subsistence hunting base for the remote communities of Nuiqsut, Barrow, Atkasuk and Wainwright as well as sport hunting opportunities.

"If initiatives like the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are going to succeed, public lands like those around Teshekpuk Lake need to be conserved as vigorously as partnerships are pursued private lands," said Bart Semcer, the Sierra Club's Fish and Wildlife Policy Specialist in Washington, DC. "This is a shortsighted decision that places efforts to con-

serve waterfowl for future generations at risk."

"With this announcement, the Bush administration is making clear that satisfying the oil industry is more important to them than conserving waterfowl for future generations," said Betsy Goll, Sierra Club's Alaska Associate Representative. "We're not saying there should be no drilling anywhere, but we're not willing to hand over every single acre of critical big game and waterfowl habitat to the oil industry."

Congress and three Secretaries of the Interior have recognized the ecological importance of the area around Teshekpuk Lake. Under the Reagan Administration, former Secretary of Interior James Watt closed an area of more than 200,000 acres north of Teshekpuk

Lake to oil and gas leasing. In 1998, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt established an oil and gas leasing plan for the northeast Reserve, which protected much of the sensitive habitat around Teshekpuk Lake from leasing or oil and gas facilities.

In early 2004, the Bush administration announced its intent to alter the 1998 plan, and in June 2004 the BLM released a draft plan that proposed opening 96 percent of the entire Northeast Planning Area to oil leasing. In statements delivered to the Resource Development Council in Anchorage last week, BLM Alaska Director Henri Bisson acknowledged BLM's plan to dismantle long-standing rules that had set core wildlife habitats in the area north of Teshekpuk Lake off limits to drilling since the Reagan administration.

"Under the new plan, 100 percent of the Teshekpuk Lake area will ultimately be open to oil leasing, not a single acre will be permanently dedicated to conservation and one of North America's best remaining waterfowl habitats will be fragmented by roads, pipelines, air strips, gravel mines and industrial sprawl," said Goll.

The Bush Administration's plan does stipulate that certain leases will have "no surface occupancy". Unfortunately, there has been too little follow through on such provisions in the past. For example, BLM issued exemptions last fall to both the "no surface occupancy" stipulations and the quarter-mile buffer at the first request of ConocoPhillips for its Alpine Satellite Development Plan.

# Tales from the Walla Walla Toll Road

HARVEY MANNING

## THE SEATTLE-WALLA WALLA TOLL ROAD

In 1883 A.A. Denny and H.L. Yesler opened the Seattle-Walla Walla Toll Road, the first dependable cross-Cascades wheelway. In 1892 the

6.2 miles of 14-foot right-of-way up Grouse Ridge were signed over to King County. Trees fell, creeks gullied, weeds grew. But in 1905 the first cars crossed Snoqualmie Pass, helped here and there by ferry, teams of horses, and shoulders to the wheel.

## #6 MIDDLE FORK

The center ring, the big business, the heart of the matter, the real Snoqualmie, is the Middle Fork. One need only scan a map and note from what great peaks it flows, what a vast basin it drains, how long is its valley and — in the lower reaches of the U-shaped glacial trough — how wide, to realize this is the main show . . .

In obedience to the maxim that Closer is Better, the recreational potential of the Cascade front should be exploited more enthusiastically. Where the White, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish Rivers emerge from the mountains there should be Cascade Gateway Recreation Areas abounding in picnic grounds and campgrounds and trails served by buses from the major clumps of population. Lots of hikers lots of times would prefer closer-to-home exercise than that available in high mountains of the Cascade Crest. And they would appreciate trails that are snowfree all or most of the year, rather than just late summer and early fall. And they would not invariably insist on thrashing fragile alpine-wilderness eco-systems, often they'd be content in tougher, more boot-resistant terrain. This is not mere theory — observe the mobs milling around the North Bend vicinity looking for something to do. It's rather pitiful to see the manswarms and womanswarms and childrenswarms marching in lockstep up the Mount Si trail.

— *Footsore 2, 1978*

The spring of 1977 I climbed the logging road to the ridge-top clear-cut whose slash-brown nakedness had newly added Georgia-Pacific to the passenger list for the next express toboggan to Hell. Stumpfields-snowfields east of Mount Si gave way to forest still virgin because there's no market in Japan for fence posts. Looking back to the Haystack, I saw humanoids so sardine-packed on the summit that a sneeze would have flung dozens into the void. The snows of Teneriffe were unmarked by any boots but mine. The mossy-bald summit rocks were a garden of phlox and lupine and paintbrush, untrampled. It would not be so after

1978, mea culpa, but this near-city, lowland-edge reach of the Cascades had to have a share of those Mount Si boots if stakes were to be driven into the hearts of the Georgia-Pacifics.

Next east on the ridge was Green. The summit appeared to mine eye too mean for a man of peace. I settled for the Absolute Last Promontory of the abandoned logging road, trusting the ribboners, their battle cry that of the Nazi in *The White Tower*, "To rest is not to conquer!" to do the rest. Chainsaws and wheels never would threaten that pristine meanness.

My guidebooks of 1978 (and 2001) lavished love on the CCC Truck Road, legacy of the Depression-New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps. Ignored as the road was by every agency of government, the going was rough for the Manning family beetle, but chuckholes soothed Penny's colic and Becky quit screaming when we dumped her in Brawling Creek or Big Blowout Creek or other favorite picnic spots. The beetle carried home to Cougar Mountain cargoes of granite blocks to be heaped up awaiting a year when a bank might loan us enough to add a bedroom for the kids to the 200-meter hut. Modern plumbing for all of us. A fireplace for fun. The road obviously was not long for this world, was fated to become a classic footroad.

There was little else for a hikers' guidebook. The North Bend Ranger District was an asylum for terminally inane Smokeys. Their mindset was that of the Texas cowhands who say, "A man ain't a man if'n he don't have a horse under him." (Substitute "wheels" for "horse" after the Japanese revenge for Hiroshima.)

My concept of "footroad" held promise. The cirque of Granite Lakes had been deforested and the west end of the mainline trail to Mount Defiance and Denny Creek, but with the trees gone overseas the road would soon self-destruct. King County engineers still had on their drawing boards a "Lake Dorothy Highway," shortcut to Skykomish, but that was just plain silly. The Taylor River road, no more use to loggers, could be left to the tender mercies of winter rains and spring snowmelts.

Not counting agents of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, I may have "firsted" South Bessemer Mountain. The panorama from the summit road-end was a gasper. Equally

awesome to a person who remembered children splashing in forest waterfalls was the new canyon gouged by "Big Blowout Creek" roaring down denuded slopes, textbook example of why the nation cannot tolerate "privately owned" wildland forests. In the wake of my guidebook, the "owner" posted signs, "Private Property. No Trespassing." The eyes that accompany boots are dreaded by perpetrators of such vicious crimes. Somebody might call a cop.

Cops were called to the Middle Fork after the pistol-packing mudrunners were rousted out of the Issaquah Alps. Came a time when picnickers were warned to enter the valley only in convoy of a platoon of Marines. The tipping point may have been the lone saint who devoted weekends to hauling away the trash the Forest Service had always accepted as democratic multiple-abuse. Front-page newspaper stories shamed the Smokeys into action. Casuists schooled in the Pinchot Theological Seminary were brought in to prepare impact statements based on the corollary of the Greatest Number dogma: "All impacts are created equal. Don't knock the other guy's sport."

Stirred to life, the pseudo-environmental community emulated the general in Leacock's Nonsense Novels who "leapt on his horse and galloped off in all directions." Amid the gabble were voices of wheelers insisting they loved nature as much as pedestrians, only faster, of peakbaggers who lusted for Bears Breast but wanted to get home for supper, of fishbaggers whose granddaddies planted the hatchery trout in those lakes so they were family property. There were, too, mugwimps who would vote for Satan if he were on the Republican ticket, and a culture hero who was grooming himself for the throne on the starboard side of Abraham. Lost in the cacophony was the notion of "highest and best use," such as establishing a colony of grizzly bears and encouraging them to eat professional photographers.

As a disciple of Steig's Law ("People are no damn good"), I felt the situation required the likes of the young Napoleon, defender of the Revolution, who on October 5, 1795, dispersed a rabble of royalists with a "whiff of grapeshot." By openly airing my prejudices, I was turfed out of the Middle Fork debate.

Well, I got my memories. Our honeymoon

summer of 1947, Betty and I packed in to La Bohn Gap by the shortest (in time) route — the 20-odd miles from Salmon la Sac. The Middle Fork trail had not been maintained since Pearl Harbor, was rarely walked during gas rationing and little enough now, the sidetrail to the Gap virtually never since Dutch Miller quit digging his gopher holes. In years following, while wiping out the Pin Peaks of the South Fork's wilderness edge, I gazed to deepes of the

Middle Fork. The 20-odd miles of our two-day flight, no tarp between us and the storm, by day soaked to our skins through our clothes, by night through our sleeping bags, our food in depths of the Trapper Nelson dissolved to mush, and as for the toilet roll — no call for *that*. A deep trip.

The Pin Peakery of the South Fork and footroads of the lower Middle Fork are a circus

of day-hike greenbonding. But when that whiff of grapeshot disperses the rabble, permanently closes the Middle Fork road at the Taylor River and expels the giggle of wheels from the Taylor and the Pratt, then the shallows of the wilderness edge will become entryway to the largest deep wilderness so near a clot of American civitas.

“Once and future. . .”

— H.M.

## #7 THINGS TO CLIMB WHEN MOUNTAINS AREN'T WORTH IT

During early years of the Climbing Course the monthly bulletin of the Mountaineers reported first ascents in the North Cascades. The Great Firsters of the time awed Lessers with the names bestowed on their adventures — Formidable, Forbidden, Fury, Terror, Torment, Triumph, Despair. Into the horns and kettle drums of Wagnerian operatics there stole one month, “Hericide Spire.” The report was not from established Greats but obscure Lessers. “Who are you?” demanded the Greats. “Where is this spire of yours?”

The Lessers smiled in silence. To friends they confided that the loggers who had clearcut and slash-burned the bump on the ridge called it “Old Baldy.” Semi-literates of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey had put a brass benchmark on the summit: “1937 CEDER BUTT.” The Lessers of the first (mountaineering) ascent found the blackened snags esthetically offensive and gave the name (and prescribed the use) of a medicine advertised on barns to remove unsightly hair.

In the 1950s a cabal of Climbing Committee members and associates, offended by loud-speaker yodeling and stretch-pants fanny-wagging, adopted as their winter sport non-skiing. A piece I wrote for *The Mountaineer* described ascents in the tradition of Young's classic, *Cambridge Roofs and Walls*, his undergraduate warmup for *Mountaincraft*. The history of Glacier Boulder was included, from its time as the nursery of the Climbing Course to its landscaping by a subdivision as Wedgewood Rock, and the middle-of-the-night revenge of being painted yellow with red polka dots. Legal exploits in daylight were grouped by us as “blob knobs.” In 1976, for political purposes, I elevated the Issaquah Blobs to Alps, and the rest of *that* is common knowledge.

The North Bend Blobs remained as they were. Tom Miller bought U.S. Army blanket pins, a penny each at the Co-op, inscribed them “Blob Peak Pin,” and ceremonially decorated the certified conquerors of Fuller Mountain, Little Si, and Herpicide Spire. Unlike the Six Peak Pin, the Snoqualmie Ten plus Ten and the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Blob Peak pin had collateral value in holding up pants and field-repairing Trapper Nelsons. Satisfying

requirements was not easy, the location of the Spire being a closely held secret.

It was, that is, until my *Footsore* series undertook for political purposes to popularize blobbing throughout the wildness within. As a concession to the deserving ignorant, I demoted the “Spire” to “Butte.” (It properly should be “Butt” but hikers willing to pay to park on public lands generally don't know a “butt” even when sitting on one.)

*Footsore 2* reached east past Tiger Mountain to Rattlesnake Mountain. After first climbing the Ledge on a Blobber outing I became a regular visitant until a pistol-packing City of Seattle Sanitary Patrolman arrested me for climbing the fence into the Cedar River Watershed, off limits to humans except loggers. My lawyer got me off with no jail time, just a \$25 fine, no pitance in 1961. While surveying the area for *Footsore* I bitched to a Weyco friend. He laughed. “Seattle took down their fence. Students at North Bend High have built a trail.”

I shared the revelation with my readers, and also described footways to Rattlesnake's east and west peaks. In preparation for the Mountains-to-Sound March of 1990, a subgroup of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the “Rattlesnake Rangers,” exhaustively rambled and flagged the mountain. In my 1993 *Greenway* book I was helped by them to “unveil for general inspection the World of Rattlesnake.” Subsequently the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area was jointly established by King County and the Department of Natural Resources, managed by the DNR as a Wash-

ington State Natural Resources Conservation Area.

Then there was Little Si. Until 1985 the only trail was the bootway scrubbed clean by tricounis before the Climbing Course moved its Basic Rock class to Mount Erie, less mossy and drippy. Old-boy loyalties remaining, I was concerned by encroachments of civitas. The DNR gave the Trails Club permission to build a summit trail that would recruit feet to help thwart privatization. I asked Will Thompson, a hard-core Ptarmigan famed not only for 1930s explorations in the North Cascades but for building and restoring trails, to scout a route for a Trails Club work party.

He called me — to report on his scouting, I supposed. No. Announced Will, “Your trail is built.” No machinery, no dynamite, no hired shepherds with flocks of volunteer sheep, no propagandists of the American Recreation Coalition, no dupes of the White House's USA Freedom Corps (by their proud display of the Northwest Forest Pass ye shall know them). Just Ptarmigan Will, by himself worth a whole Third Crusade, and a lot less noisy.

— H.M.



# TAKE A HIKE, AMERICA!

## “Opening the Doors Wider at America’s Public Lands — Our Natural Health and Fitness Centers.”

That was the theme of the closed-doors non-public-allowed session of the Recreation Roundtable held in 2004 at the Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort in the Wasatch Mountains.

The sponsor, The American Recreation Coalition (Disney Enterprises and confederates) got together with U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, National Park Service Chief Fran Mainella, a half-dozen other federal agencies, state governments, a host of camp followers and bartenders, and the executive director of Take Pride in American, Marti Albright.

These “Partners Outdoors 2004” made recommendations:

1. Teach city kids to go camping.
2. Create an Outdoor Recreation Task Force to figure how to get new technologies into the

profit mix.

3. Expand federal and state assistance in expediting traffic onto public lands.

4. (Emphasis added) . . . EXPAND THE CAPABILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY USE VOLUNTEERS ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERISM THROUGH THE TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA INITIATIVE.

Connect the dots.

Walt Disneyism.

Fee Demo. Starve the Forest Service to the point it no longer can pay trail crews. Bring on the citizen volunteers.

There are two species: (1) The unpaid. These have been doing noble work for decades. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is an example. It has devoted itself to creating trail systems in wildlands that had none and had no official protection — until the Trails Club stirred up the public and the government. (2) Free parking for this species, courtesy of Fee Demo. Most of these volunteers are not on the payroll. How-

ever, they are trained and led by a (steadily growing) “professional” paid staff that attaches itself firmly to the grateful public servants who are in charge of managing lands.

This latter sort of “volunteer” is the one the American Recreation Coalition has in mind. It serves very nicely as the nose of the camel. The camel proper will follow. Then the camel’s aunts and uncles and cousins by the dozens. This, of course, is “privatizing.”

To my shame there are guidebooks that carry my name and endorse Fee Demo. I did not write those endorsements. The camel is running the tent show now. Also in what formerly were “my” guidebooks can be found a sermon on “Health” delivered from the steps of the White House. “Take Pride in America.”

Connect the dots, but take care not to go dotty.

— H.M.

## From: *Cascade Checkerboard News*, October 2004

### Grants Protect Checkerboard Wildlife Habitat

In September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded \$71 million in grants for protecting habitat for threatened and endangered species in 28 states. Of that amount, 12 percent went to the checkerboard country, divided as follows:

— **Yakima River Wildlife Corridor – \$1.76 million.** This funding will allow The Cascades Conservation Partnership to complete the third and final phase of acquisition of the Yakima River Wildlife Corridor. The corridor connects essential wildlife habitat across Interstate 90 in the Cabin Creek area.

— **Cascades-Cugini – \$5.73 million.** These funds will allow Washington DNR to acquire 400 acres on Hancock Creek north of Mount Si, and another 160 acres around Lake Titicaed in the North Fork Tolt valley. Next year, a second phase will be requested for 200 acres at Blethen Lake.

— **Tieton River Valley – \$631,000.** The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, will acquire a square mile of land in the Oak Creek valley, a tributary of the Tieton River.

— **Cedar River Watershed HCP - \$1.0 million.** The City of Seattle will secure the best of

the remaining habitats in the lower reaches of the Cedar River. The upper two-thirds of the watershed are already protected under the City of Seattle’s Habitat Conservation Plan.

— **Teanaway HCP – \$312,800.** These funds will assist American Forest Resources (AFR) to develop a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for their 55,000 acres in the Teanaway River valley near Cle Elum.

### Scientists Support Wildlife Bridges

On August 24, the I-90 Wildlife Bridge Coalition hosted a forum in Seattle to discuss wildlife connectivity and the I-90 project between Hyak and Easton, just east of Snoqualmie Pass. . . . Bridges for wildlife are essential to insure that they can cross this barrier, and provide the genetic connection between the north and south Cascades. I-90 remains the single biggest barrier to this ecological connection.



# Refuge Manager Charged for Saving Threatened Frogs; First Case of Refuge Manager Facing Criminal Charges for Wildlife Offense

## Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Feb. 21—The U.S. Department of Justice has filed criminal charges against a National Wildlife Refuge Manager for rescuing a threatened species, according to documents released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The charges involve actions the now-former manager took to save 400 tadpoles of the rare Chiricahua leopard frog from certain destruction.

Last week, DOJ cited Wayne Shifflett, the long-time manager of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona, with moving the tadpoles in 2003 without proper authorization. Not only was Shifflett the manager of the refuge where the frogs were re-introduced, after the species had been eradicated, but he also had an Endangered Species permit issued by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (the Chiricahua leopard frog is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act). DOJ contends that Shifflett did not, however, have permission of the state agency, Arizona Game & Fish,

to take the tadpoles from private lands onto the refuge. The citation DOJ issued on February 14th imposes a \$3,500 fine.

This is the only prosecution on record of a wildlife refuge manager for a conservation-related offense.

“Refuge managers who act boldly to protect wildlife should not be prosecuted; they should be commended,” stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, who noted that the U.S. Attorney’s office in Arizona twice declined to prosecute Shifflett and that charges were ultimately filed out of Justice Department Headquarters in Washington, D.C. “While it is a mystery why Justice would use scarce prosecutorial resources to pursue this case, it is a certainty that this action reeks of slimy politics.”

Shifflett’s decision to move the tadpoles has saved the species from complete elimination on the refuge. The frogs are now thriving in ponds, tanks and a breeding facility for which taxpayers had al-

ready spent \$100,000 to facilitate the threatened leopard frogs’ re-introduction. Shifflett acted after Arizona Game & Fish had refused to issue a permit to a university researcher to move the frogs onto the refuge.

“I have been asked many times by peers and friends if I had to make that decision again, would I have made the same decision and my answer is always the same: Without a doubt, it was the right decision for me and the resource,” said Shifflett, who retired this May after a 38-year career in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. “A former Director of the Service would always remind us ‘Refuge Managers are all about saving dirt and protecting critters.’ Politics change but saving dirt and critters has always remained the only constant which has directed my decisions.”

Rather than spend months in his retirement fighting the criminal charges, Wayne Shifflett has decided to pay the fine. The criminal charges come more than a year and a half after his actions to

save the frogs. The delay reflects months of back room pressure and meetings about whether Shifflett should be prosecuted even after he retired.

“This case is the perfect illustration of how federal wildlife policy is now being set by pencil pushers and political schemers rather than by experienced, dedicated professionals,” Ruch added. “Regardless of the costs, Wayne Shifflett’s decisiveness will pay dividends to the restoration of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem for generations to come.”

<http://www.peer.org>

*PEER is a national non-profit alliance of local, state and federal scientists, law enforcement officers, land managers and other professionals dedicated to upholding environmental laws and values.*

*PEER allows public servants to work as “anonymous activists” so that public agencies must confront the message, rather than the messenger.*

## WHEN THE TROUT ARRIVE, THE AMPHIBIAN EXODUS BEGINS

Martin Forstenzer  
*New York Times*  
November 28, 2000

[EXCERPTED]

... The crystal mountain lakes of the Sierra Nevada, set among verdant meadows and snowy granite peaks, have become known throughout the world as a paradise for trout fishing.

But this anglers’ heaven is man-made. Like most high-elevation lakes in the west, almost all of those in were originally fishless. The trout got their start in hatcheries and were placed by the millions in the lakes by the California Department of Fish and

Game.

The trout stocking, scientists are now finding, has been disastrous for some amphibians native to the areas. . . .

In his 1924 book, *Animal Life in the Yosemite*, the naturalist Joseph Grinnell noted an abundance of the frogs, but also that “the advent of fish in a lake sooner or later nearly or quite eliminates the frogs.”

In the mid-90s, Dr. Roland Knapp, a fish biologist at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and Dr. Kathleen Matthews, a biologist with the federal Forest Service, began a three-year study of more than 2,000 high Sierra

lakes to determine why the frog had vanished from most of its range.

They found that the frogs were seven times as likely to be found in the mountains of Kings Canyon National Park, located in the southern Sierra Nevada and where fish stocking was discontinued entirely in the 1970s, than in the Forest Service’s adjacent John Muir Wilderness, stocked intensively with trout by the state since the end of World War II. . . .

Another study in North Cascades National Park of Washington found that long-toed salamanders had either disappeared or were very rare at lakes that held

trout.

“It’s unfortunate that the kinds of management we’re trying to do now hadn’t started 20 years ago,” said Curtis Milliron, a state fish biologist who has supervised the trout removals in the Sierra so far. . . .

He added that any plan to remove trout from a large number of Sierra lakes would be highly controversial with some fishermen and local communities.

As soon as you start talking about removing fisheries on a massive scale, you’re going to have a lot of opposition,” he said. “I think that there would be quite an uproar opposing that.”

# Cell Phones: Death of Solitude

Cell phone towers are sprouting up all across the National Park System. But the National Park Service does not know how many or where they are. Instead, telecommunications companies set the location, size and number of towers in deals with individual parks.

When the Telecommunications Act of 1996 opened the door to cell towers on federal lands, Congress directed federal agencies to make appropriate regulations for preventing unsightly proliferation of towers. To date, only one of the 397 units of the National Park System – the Golden Gate National Recreation Area – has adopted a cell tower plan.

As the key committee report stated:

“The Committee recognizes, for example, that use of the Washington Monument, Yellowstone National Park or a pristine wildlife sanctuary, while perhaps prime sites for an antenna and other facilities, are not appropriate and use of them would be contrary to environmental, conservation, and public safety laws.” (House Commerce Committee Report on H.R. 1555 [July 1995])

Contrary to that legislative instruction and contrary to the clear directive of the agency’s 1916 Organic Act to “conserve scenery,” NPS has okayed the construction of a 100-foot stark, silvery pole with three antennas. The tower is unshielded by trees and is visible from much of what has been legally designated as the Old Faithful Historic District.

“Its custodians have been unfaithful to Old Faithful,” stated PEER Board member Frank Buono, a former long-time National Park Service manager. “The Old Faithful viewshed is one of the most recognized assets in our National Park System, but it is being managed with all the care of a strip mall.”

In addition, the Park Service failed to file a notice in the Federal Register, as required by law, that it was even considering approving the tower. In fact, a review of the Federal Register shows that the Park Service has failed to notify the public in all but a handful of cases that either a tower application was being considered or that an environmental assessment was available for public comment.

The larger issue, however, is that the unregulated spread of cell towers may soon mean that even in the most remote and wild corners of our national parks, the ring of a cell phone may be heard. Nowhere will true solitude be possible unless the Park Service can be induced to responsibly manage all of its assets, including peace and quiet.

From: Earthjustice *In the News*

## WYOMING WOLF PLAN THREATENS WOLF RECOVERY

### State must come up with protective plan

THE REINTRODUCTION OF gray wolves in the Northern Rockies in 1995 and 1996 has been a major success story. Biologists report, for example, that wildlife populations in Yellowstone National Park are far healthier with wolves helping to restore balance among various species. In fact, the wolves have thrived to the point that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is edging slowly toward removing the species from the endangered list.

In order to “delist” wolves in the Northern Rockies, however, the government requires that Wyoming, Montana and Idaho come up with plans to ensure that wolves continue to thrive. Wyoming has advanced a plan that would allow unregulated killing of the many wolves that currently live in or use areas outside of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and neighboring wilderness areas. This means killing by anyone and by any means, whether that means shooting, trapping, poisoning or even dynamiting pups in their dens.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected this plan and a coalition of two dozen Wyoming interests filed suit in an attempt to force the government to accept the plan. Earthjustice attorneys Abigail Dillen and Mark Poe have moved to intervene in the case on behalf of the Sierra Club to help ensure that wolves continue to find a safe home in Wyoming.

For more information check out: Earthjustice <[www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)>

## Tiny Band of Grizzlies Fights for Its Life

GRIZZLY BEARS in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems of northwest Montana, northern Idaho and northeast Washington stand at the brink of extinction. These two small grizzly populations each number only about 40 bears, and much of their habitat exists in national forests that are laced with more than 20,000 miles of old logging roads that bring people into bear habitat.

As a result, the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk grizzly bear populations have suffered high human-caused mortalities in recent years, and biologists now warn that the tiny Cabinet-Yaak grizzly population is declining.

That’s why bear advocates were shocked last year when the Forest Service approved a road

management plan for the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems that leaves most of the existing road system in place — and even allows logging roads to be punched into some of the most secure grizzly bear habitat remaining in the area. Late last year, Earthjustice attorney Tim Preso filed a lawsuit challenging the new road plan. The lawsuit asks a federal judge to invalidate the plan and to require federal agencies to devise a new plan in light of scientific research documenting grizzly bear habitat needs. Earthjustice is representing the Cabinet Resource Group, Great Bear Foundation, Idaho Conservation League, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Selkirk Conservation Alliance.

— Earthjustice newsletter, *In Brief*, 2005



# More biographies of recently elected NCCC Board Members

## BRUCE BARNBAUM

Bruce Barnbaum was born in Chicago in 1943, and moved to Los Angeles in 1955. He received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mathematics from UCLA 1965 and 1967 respectively and worked for 3½ years as a computer programmer in missile guidance systems, then abruptly turned to photography as a lifetime career in late 1970.

Bruce became active with the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club through its camera committee, being named chairman in 1972 and also served on the Board of the chapter for 4 years. Following that he was active within the club's regional conservation committee for many years. In 1975 he received the club's Ansel Adams Award for Photography and Conservation.

In 1989 Bruce moved to Granite Falls, Washington and became involved with NCCC shortly thereafter, being named to the Board in 1993 (?). In 1991 he co-founded the Stillaguamish Citizens' Alliance and lead the fight against two major gravel pits and quarries along the Mountain Loop Highway in Snohomish County. SCA won both battles against the companies, but lost to the politicians who changed existing laws to grant permits to the operations that were clearly illegal under existing law.

His photographs are shown in galleries throughout the United States. He has published three books: *Visual Symphony*, *The Art of Photography*, *An Approach to Personal Expression*, and *Tone Poems – Book 1*.

## TOM HAMMOND

I was born in Vancouver, Wash. in 1964, and have always loved the outdoors. I didn't discover the North Cascades until I came to the UW in 1982.

At that time I began to be aware of land use, watershed integrity, and of course local relief. I still can't believe some of the roads that have been built, and continue to be rebuilt. The preponderance of extractive practices on public lands, especially high in watersheds, has motivated me to send many letters to government officials, agencies, and publications in an attempt to steer the course our country takes. I maintain active contact with a couple of NPS personnel, and am attempting to meet with USFS decision maker(s). I am a member of the Cascades Conservation Partnership and take an active role in helping make my fellow citizens aware of the decisions being made about our public lands. My interests include planetary

science, specializing in atmospheric science/glaciology, geology, and geography, though I'm not a pro in any.

Adventure has included participating in/contributing to glacier/climate research as a member of the North Cascades Glacier Climate Research Project (<http://www.nichols.edu/departments/Glacier/index.html>) and visiting nine glaciers in two weeks in a large cross-section of the Cascades from Mt. Daniel (Daniel, Lynch, and what's left of the Ice Worm Glaciers) to Mt. Shuksan (Lower Curtis Glacier).

## KEVIN GERAGHTY

In my childhood wild country meant the woods of northern New England. As a teenager I spent a couple of arduous summers canoeing in traditional 19th-century style over the Canadian Shield country of northern Ontario.

I have now lived in the Northwest over fifteen years, long enough to develop an intimacy with our local natural areas.

I studied statistics and finance at the University of Chicago, a terrible place for an aficionado of the outdoors, but a good place to think. After a business school teaching stint, I ended up in Seattle, where my work is now statistics and software.

I have been involved in efforts to preserve local wildlands for perhaps the last decade. As with many personal commitments, it's something that has happened gradually, as I have learned more of the local institutional, social, and natural environment, and as I have watched other local activists in action. There is, in truth, something addictive about "making a difference".

# 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 want to join the 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.

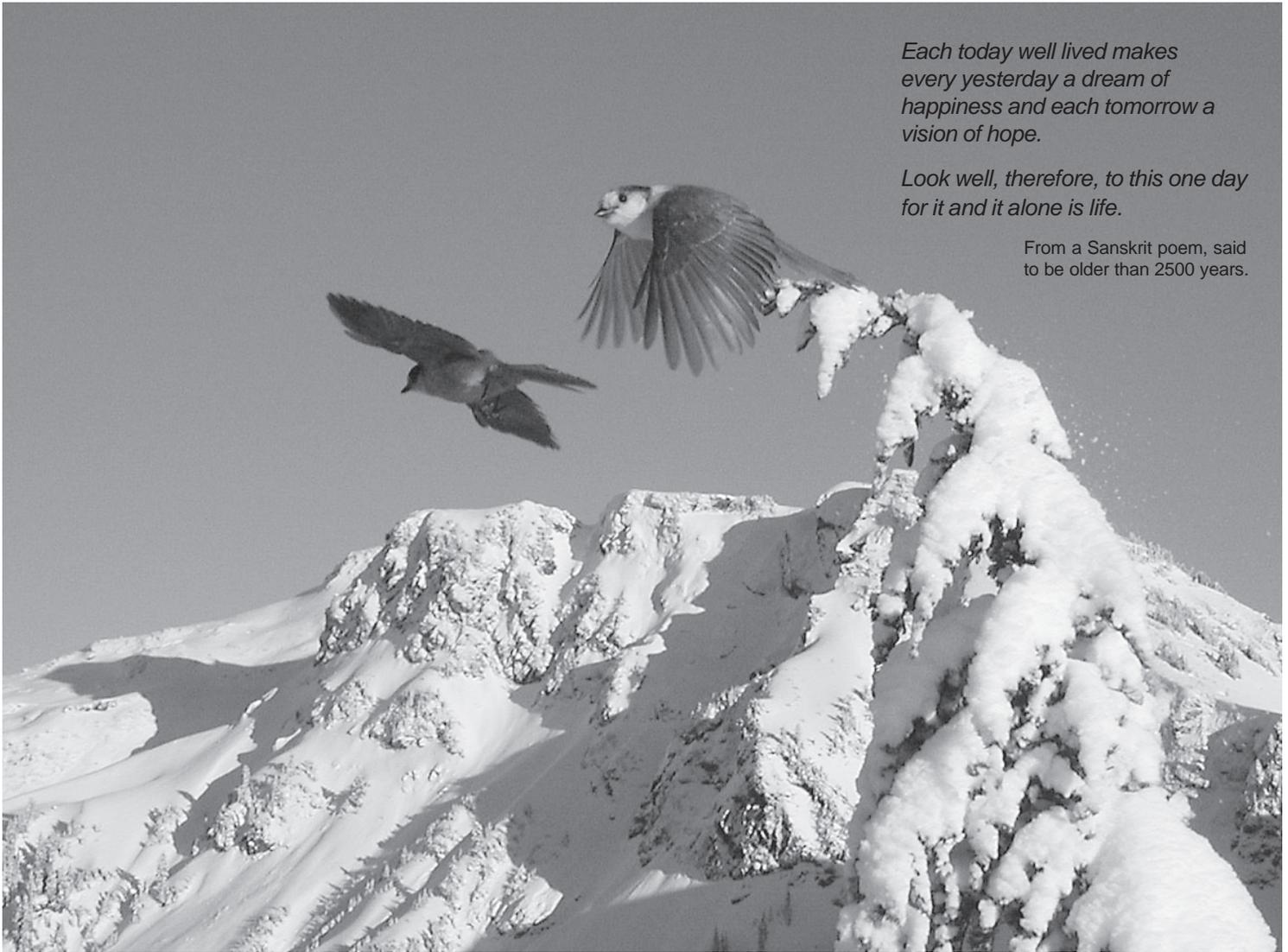
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**Everett, WA 98208**



*Each today well lived makes  
every yesterday a dream of  
happiness and each tomorrow a  
vision of hope.*

*Look well, therefore, to this one day  
for it and it alone is life.*

From a Sanskrit poem, said  
to be older than 2500 years.

*Pair of gray jays at Gold Run Pass — KEN WILCOX PHOTO*

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