

THE WILD CASCADES



THE JOURNAL OF THE
NORTH CASCADES
CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Winter 2021

THE WILD CASCADES ■ Winter 2021

- 3 **President's report** — Phil Fenner
- 4 **N3C Actions: October 2020 to February 2021**
- 6 **Forest Service wants to industrialize the Nooksack** — Jim Scarborough
- 7 **Update on the Skagit Project Relicensing** — David Fluharty
- 8 **From Minnesota to NOCA: A career protecting natural, cultural NPS resources** — Jack Oelfke, recently retired NOCA Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources
- 9 **Stehekin valley road relocation at milepost 5.5** — David Fluharty
- 10 **In Memoriam: Tom Brucker**
- 12 **South Fork Stillaguamish: Nice trees...about to disappear** — Kathy Johnson, Pilchuck Audubon
- 13 ***Endless Pressure Endlessly Applied: The Autobiography of an Eco-Warrior*** — Brock Evans with George Venn
- 14 **Corvid's eye**
- 15 **N3C opposes Twisp Restoration Draft EA** — David Fluharty
- 16 **North Cascades Institute programs updated to promote diversity, equity in outdoor education** — Zoe Wadkins, Codi Hamblin, Cara Stoddard and Christian Martin
- 18 **We can't remain the Evergreen State without trust land transfers** — Jim Freeburg and Connie Gallant
- 19 **N3C membership application**

COVER: *Overstory*. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Anne Basye

EDITORIAL BOARD: Philip Fenner, Anders Forsgaard,
Tom Hammond, and Ed Henderson

Pat Hutson, Designer | Printing by Abracadabra Printing

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

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

The Wild Cascades Editor

To update your address or request electronic delivery of *The Wild Cascades*,
email info@northcascades.org

North Cascades Conservation Council
PO Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, N3C keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through administrative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past half century N3C has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, the Wild Sky Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

N3C is supported by member dues and private donations. These contributions support the full range of the Council's activities, including publication of *The Wild Cascades*. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership dues for one year are: Living Lightly/Student \$10; Individual \$30; Family \$50; Sustaining \$100.

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

N3C Website
www.northcascades.org



The Wild Cascades is printed on recycled paper.

N3C Board

Officers

PRESIDENT

Philip Fenner

VICE PRESIDENT

Carolyn McConnell

TREASURER

Lisa Bergman

SECRETARY

Marc Bardsley

Other Directors

Scott Crain

Dave Fluharty

Anders Forsgaard

Jim Freeburg

David Gladstone

Ed Henderson

Kurt Lauer

Thom Peters

Jim Scarborough

Advisors

Brock Evans

Kevin Geraghty

Tom Hammond

Robert Paul Kendall

Fayette Krause

Dave LeBlanc

Thom Schroeder



Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WINTER 2021

This winter has certainly been anything but “business as usual,” in so many ways. The signs are hopeful that we’ll be able to overcome the pandemic by next summer, and meanwhile the signs are very hopeful that many of the most damaging effects of the last four years of the Trump administration will be quickly reversed. In fact, the first two years of the Biden administration may be a golden opportunity to move rapidly forward with the conservation agenda. We celebrate the nomination of Deb Halland as the new Secretary of the Interior, which bodes well for Park and Rec. Area management in the North Cascades.

The question becomes one of priorities. Our challenge here is a bit ironic—the North Cascades was not harmed during the last four years as other parts of the country were, from ANWR and Bear’s Ears to the southern borderlands. N3C members can take some credit for having held off the worst of the industrial depreciation of the North Cascades landscape with our 62 years of activism. The irony now may be trying to get the attention of federal decision makers to turn here, when other more famous problems elsewhere come to mind first. Your voice will be needed to elevate our concerns to the agencies.

This will be a year of transitions for some folks who care about the North Cascades, as well. I’ll be retiring from my engineering career, which will free up more time for me to devote to N3C, which I’m very much looking forward to. Saul Weisberg, a co-founder of North Cascades Institute, is also retiring this Spring. And with the recent retirement of Jack Oelfke from North Cascades National Park we get to look back at his long career, which he relates on page 8, and look forward to working with his replacement at the Park as Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The backcountry suffered last summer under a deluge of hikers, which may happen again this summer if restrictions on indoor activities continue and again induce mass cabin fever. Our favorite corvid writes about that dilemma on page 14.

The Forest Service’s proposals to log-out the entire Twisp River valley in a purported effort to reduce fire danger is one of the worst threats we have faced in many years in the North Cascades. The South Fork Stillaguamish and North Fork Nooksack “vegetation management” plans are of the same ilk. This trend deserves all of our work to resist. Perhaps a new Forest Service Chief will be named, one who is more aware of the need to conserve unprotected forestland. But we can’t assume the agency will change its ways, so we’ll be fighting back against these monstrous proposals, and with your help we intend to stop them before they can rev up their chainsaws.

Our work to protect more State Forest lands, the Trust Land Transfer program, is an initiative that needs your full support. You’ll read more about plans for the current biennium in this issue, and I urge you to closely follow our Action Alerts when you get them in your email box.

Lastly, I’d like to ask you to reach out to friends who share our concerns for the price-less North Cascades and offer them a free first-year membership to N3C. Just ask them to email us at join@northcascades.org and we’ll get them started. Membership is central to us in so many ways, and your help with this outreach is crucial.

Phil Fenner

pbilf@northcascades.org



N3C Actions

OCTOBER 2020 to
FEBRUARY 2021

*Advocacy carried out by
dedicated N3C volunteers
in the last five months to
protect and preserve the
North Cascades lands,
waters, plants, and wildlife.*



DEFENDING WILD AREAS AGAINST DAMAGING INDUSTRIAL USES

Why it matters: resource extraction — mining, logging, hydropower — is the most harmful use of public land. N3C strives to save what remains wild, mitigate what's been lost, and restore what's been damaged.

- Continued participating on the Steering Committee and Resource Workgroups of the Seattle City Light (SCL) Skagit Hydroelectric Power Relicensing, now in the next phase with the Federal Energy Resource Committee (FERC). See page 7.
- Continued consulting with the Skagit River Alliance to prevent any resumption of mining at the former quarry site near Marblemount. See page 6.
- Signed joint letter to the Yakima Working Group (WA State Department of Ecology and Bureau of Reclamation) opposing new dams at Bumping Lake and Wymer Canyon and a pump station at Lake Kachess. All of these projects fail a cost benefit analysis.
- Signed joint testimony/comments to the Washington State House of Representatives and Senate opposing state funding in any form for Yakima Plan dams at Bumping Lake, Wymer Canyon or Lake Kachess Pump Station.



ESTABLISHING, EXPANDING AND PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

Why it matters: federal land designation as Wilderness and Park is the gold standard of ecosystem protection, precluding most damaging industrial and commercial exploitation.

- Signed two joint letters to the Icicle Work Group commenting on inadequate scoping of the proposed SEPA Environmental Impact Statement for raising the Eight Mile Lake Dam in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.
- Submitted scoping comments to North Cascades National Park (NOCA) for the relocation of the Stehekin Road out of the flood plain at mile post 5.5. N3C will continue to monitor this action for “mission creep” once heavy roadbuilding equipment is on the ground.
- Discussed environmental issues of mutual concern with Sen. Maria Cantwell’s and Rep. Suzan DelBene’s staffs, particularly NOCA and the FERC relicensing of SCL. Sent a letter to NOCA superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich reporting on our meeting with Cantwell’s staff and expressing an interest in working together.
- Formed a Wilderness Committee to explore ways to advocate for improvements to Wilderness stewardship and expand Wilderness protection in the North Cascades. Contacted The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association and Wilderness Watch to renew collaborative efforts with their leadership and seek opportunities for joint action.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECREATION IN WILD AREAS

Why it matters: balancing access with economics and Wilderness preservation, we evaluate motorized use and places where it needs to be limited to reduce land impacts and recurring road repair costs.

- ✓ Signed a joint letter commenting on the Draft Management Plan for the Middle Fork and Pratt Wild and Scenic River.

WATCH LIST: POTENTIAL ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION

- Nooksack Vegetation Management Plan: Awaiting release of Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to evaluate and prepare comments.
- Index-Galena Road: In October 2020 the court ruled against the SnoKing Watershed Council's (SKWC) appeal of the Snohomish County Permit to "rebuild" in the north fork of the Skykomish River. We are awaiting the judge's written decision to determine if there is any basis for further action.
- "Restoration" Proposal for Twisp River valley on the Wenatchee National Forest: Considering potential legal action should the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest supervisor issue a Record of Decision (ROD) of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for logging 77,000 acres of forest including old growth and road building in Inventoried Roadless Areas. See page 15.

PROTECTING ANCIENT FORESTS, WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Why it matters: like real estate, they're just not making ancient forest anymore. We seek to restore watersheds and fisheries damaged from decades of heavy logging and road building and protect significant forests from degradation. From microscopic fungi to top predators, the wilderness ecosystem's living members are interdependent, so keeping viable populations of each species is essential to preserve the ecosystem for future generations.

- ✓ Submitted letter to the Region 6 Forrester commenting on Deferred Maintenance Priorities to address with funds from the *Great American Outdoor Act*. N3C strongly advised using a substantial portion to decommission many of the unused, closed and unmaintained logging roads in our National Forests.
- ✓ Submitted letter to the National Park Service (NPS) and NOCA objecting to the proposed McGregor Meadows land exchange in the Stehekin Valley. N3C has received and is evaluating an initial and partial response to this request from the NPS Office in Washington, and awaiting more complete information from the NOCA superintendent. (See *TWC* Fall 2020 page 20.)
- ✓ Wrote letter to the Snohomish County Executive and council supporting the Sauk-Seattle Indian Tribe request to negotiate reconveyance of 5,000 acres of Reiter Forest to the County from the WA State Department of Natural Resources. (This potential deal fell through. The 5,000 acres of timber on State Trust Land adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park will be logged.)
- ✓ Submitted request for the Darrington Ranger District's planned guidance for the Monte Cristo CERCLA track in Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) this summer season and permanent track closure to all motor vehicles when monitoring is complete. Received a response to our FOIA request for the records of gate keys loaned to private motor vehicles use of the CERCLA track in 2020. (See *TWC* Fall 2020, page 11).
- ✓ Signed joint letter to the acting Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to new Executive Order (EO) 13990 to review *final* decisions made during the last four years. We identified final decisions inconsistent with Biden administration objectives and identified the Stillaguamish Vegetation Management project for review and cancelation.
- ✓ Led a coalition of conservation groups lobbying the State Legislature to fund a robust Trust Land Transfer Program, including expansion of Morning Star NRCA. Sent joint Action Alert to N3C members with Conservation Northwest .
- ✓ Our Attorney submitted a request for Summary Judgment to the court to rule in favor of our lawsuit challenging the inadequacy of the Forest Service's environmental studies for logging 6,300 acres of mature forest and building nearly 60 miles of roads in the Stillaguamish Vegetation Management project. See page 12.



—JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

Marblemount Quarry assigned to DNR, not Skagit, sparks outcry

Jose Vila of Skagit River Alliance reports that the Cascade Big Bear Mine permitting process is currently being handled by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). However, this proposed huge mining operation is planned to be conducted by Martin Marietta for the extraction and barging of jetty stone boulders for coastal armoring projects. This operation would have a wide variety of significant impacts that clearly require Skagit County review and permitting.

In accordance with SEPA regulations the local jurisdiction, in this case Skagit County, is therefore required to be the SEPA lead agency. Skagit River Alliance has raised this issue with Skagit County Planning and Development Services (SPDS) and is awaiting a response. The Mt. Baker Group of the Washington State Chapter Sierra Club (MBG) has also objected to DNR as the lead agency, recently reminding SPDS that under Washington SEPA regulations, private applicants fall under the permitting jurisdiction of local government, and that county rights should not be subverted by state agencies, especially when Skagit County has previously been involved in permitting the exact same site for very similar proposed mining operations. MBG asked that SPDS: (1) advise DNR of its error so that DNR can back away; (2) assume responsibility for the permitting of this significant project; and (3) require an EIS for the mine, as SPDS did for the Kiewit quarry proposal.

Concern for impacts to migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, the duration of the proposed mine, and uncertainty of the consequences to downstream water quality were cited by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in its letter asking DNR to make a Determination of Significance on this project and to require an EIS to ensure a proper evaluation of the short and long term environmental impacts of this project. WDFW does not feel the

Forest Service wants to industrialize the Nooksack

By Jim Scarborough

As this issue goes to press, the U.S. Forest Service has just published a draft environmental assessment that moves the agency closer to transforming the upper North Fork Nooksack River basin into a massive logging show. Despite a thousand initial comments conveying adamant local opposition, the Forest Service has blithely proceeded in its sociopathic quest to bulldoze logging roads and heavily thin or clearcut nearly 3,000 acres in the shadow of Mount Baker. Up to 15 years of industrialization here would inflict direct hits to threatened wildlife, carbon capture

potential, slope stability above Canyon Creek, water quality, and recreation, while also increasing fire risk. It bears repeating that these National Forest lands are our lands, not the Forest Service's, and it boggles the mind that something so irreplaceable could be left to the whims of an agency that still thinks it's 1980. The fight continues into the next round. By the time you've read this, an N3C action alert may already be in your inbox. It's crucial that we tell the Forest Service again, loud and clear, that we won't allow them to trash our backyard.

Membership matters!

N3C needs YOU—to reach out and bring in one new member! Our membership is stable but we'd love to grow, and you can help. N3C would double its membership if each member brought in an average of just one more. And we will waive their dues for the first year. Who do you know that would like to get the e-TWC and our Action Alerts? Just send their name(s) and email address(es) to: join@northcascades.org

The wild Cascades thank you!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Update on the Skagit Project Relicensing

By David Fluharty

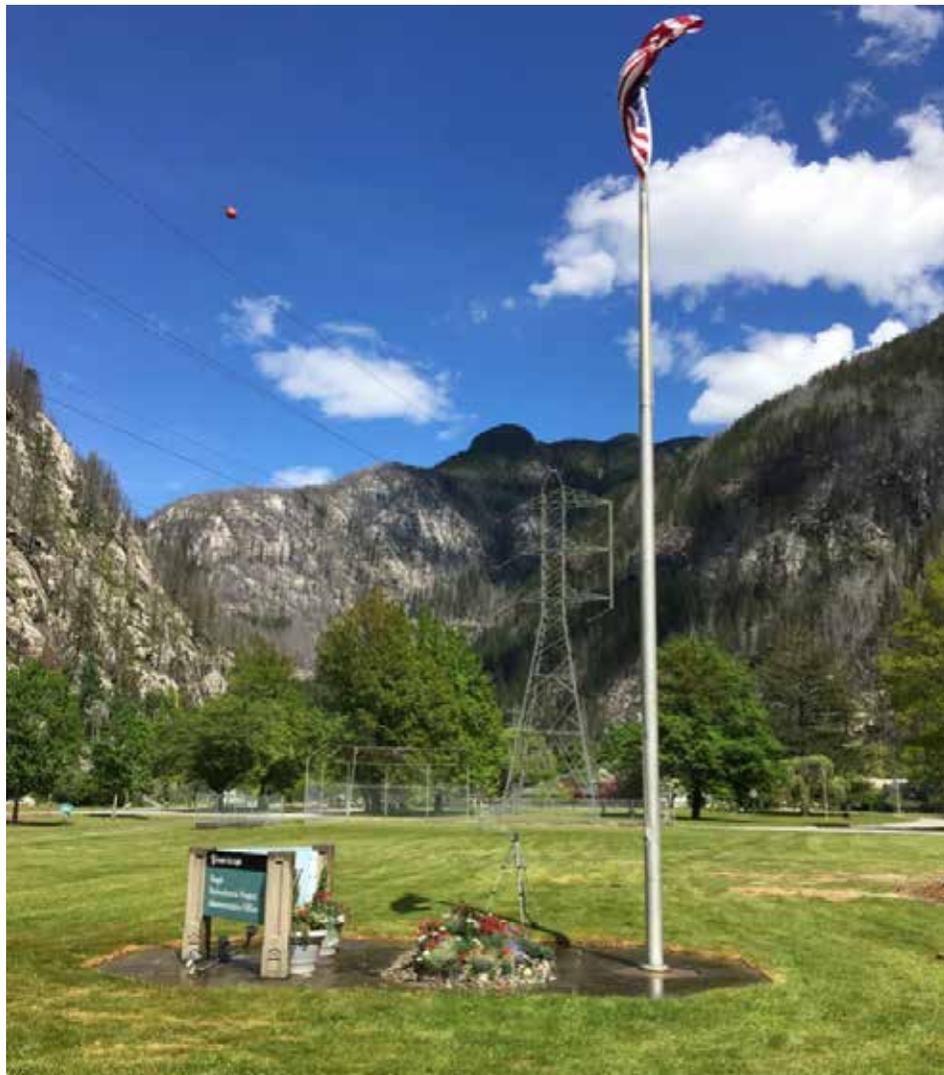
N3C continues to tough it out alongside all the other participants in Seattle City Light's Skagit Project Relicensing. The seemingly endless rounds of meetings required under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Integrated License Process (ILP) has moved into new phase that is supposed to help to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the plan for studies needed to inform the relicensing process. Already we have been through several steps where license participants, including NCCC, submitted proposals for needed studies to Seattle City Light (SCL). SCL submitted a package of its proposals to FERC. License participants made formal comment on that package to FERC. SCL responded to our comments by basically refusing to perform many of the studies proposed by the participants.

SCL argues that it is not required by FERC to perform the studies requested by Tribes, Federal and State Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations like NCCC. The current spate of meetings has been extremely disappointing because instead of resolving issues, SCL seems to be stonewalling and not engaging while participants become increasingly frustrated. Treaty tribes are seeking to maintain treaty rights. Federal and state agencies with trust responsibilities and legislated mandates are finding that SCL is taking an extremely narrow and conservative view of the studies required. Much of the conflict is over studies that would seek to determine if salmon could spawn in the Upper Skagit River if fish passage were provided. Studies are also needed to determine the river flows necessary to maintain water quality through the project. The results of these studies could mean that SCL needs to develop fish passage facilities and to maintain flows in the parts of the Skagit that are currently bypassed much of the year. Such results could be costly for SCL and its rate-payers but they may be a required cost of doing business under current regulations to protect the environment for endangered salmon, etc. SCL claims that it is listening to the concerns of the tribes and agencies but it is not budging from its interpretation of what is required by FERC as part of the relicensing. It appears that the caucus of all of the

license participants may have to make its case directly to FERC. The pressure is on because most of the studies can only be

done in next spring and summer in order to stay with the ILP rigid guidelines.

Green power towers



Here's a photoshopped view of a power transmission tower in Newhalem, edited by Seattle City Light (SCL) to show how it would look painted "olive green," to help it blend with surroundings, compared to the current grey galvanized steel you see now throughout the transmission corridor. 30 years ago, SCL committed to recoat its transmission towers through the Ross Lake NRA during routine maintenance with paint colors that would soften their visual impact, to mitigate one of the most visible aesthetic impacts of its hydropower project in the heart of the North Cascades. SCL has asked N3C to participate in the planning for this project which they're implementing now in the last few years of their current license, after an inspection revealed it remained undone. N3C, always "in it for the long term", advocated for SCL to fulfill this commitment and would not agree to their proposal to defer the project.

From Minnesota to NOCA: A career protecting natural, cultural NPS resources

By Jack Oelfke, recently retired
NOCA Chief of Natural and
Cultural Resources

I grew up a country kid in rural Minnesota, frequently roaming the woods, the beginnings of a lifelong appreciation of, and eventual devotion to, nature and wildlands. I lucked into a summer job right out of high school in Glacier National Park, Montana, the first mountains I had ever seen. I worked on a trail crew for 10 summers, maintaining the backcountry trails. These experiences were my entrée into the world of the National Park Service, in a setting of majestic mountains and grizzly bears, and it set the course for my life.

After graduate school and a few stepping stone positions, I wound up in the Stehekin Valley in 1988 as the NPS Resource Management Specialist, my first resource management/protection position in a large natural park...just as the park had achieved designated Wilderness status. It was to be my first of two stints in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (NOCA). While at NOCA I worked for four different superintendents, and perhaps as an indication of how complicated and intriguing a park NOCA is, I am aware of at least 10 former employees who went on to become superintendents, regional directors, or even NPS Director (Jon Jarvis) after working at NOCA.

In Stehekin, I dealt with many controversial issues at the local level—private residents' access to firewood from NPS lands, private land issues within an NPS unit boundary, responding to the ever-changing Stehekin River and its impacts to roads and NPS and private infrastructure, bringing prescribed fire into a very fire-prone environment. But it also introduced me to the first real efforts to consider grizzly restoration at a landscape scale in and around NOCA. I'll never forget one summer day, upon hearing of a possible grizzly bear sighting near Park Creek Pass, of a mad dash up the trail I made to Park Creek Pass in hopes of confirming a grizzly, a 16-mile roundtrip. I did see perhaps the largest brown-colored black bear I've ever seen in



my life—but alas, only a black bear.

I left Stehekin in 1992 to work in another great national park, Isle Royale, returning to NOCA in 2003 to lead the natural and cultural resource division. Grizzly recovery was still simmering at a low level within the agencies, and it wasn't until late 2014 that the stars aligned for a focused effort. I had the honor of delivering a presentation to then-Director Jarvis seeking approval for grizzly recovery planning,

and as expected he whole-heartedly agreed. What followed was a 5-year effort to secure a restoration plan for recovery; nearing its conclusion in 2019,

the Trump administration halted that effort. But the foundation and more has been laid should the new Administration have the will to pursue it again.

Along the way at NOCA several issues placed me (and others) in front of unfriendly crowds who clearly opposed mission-driven decisions we were making. Such issues included the push by some to reopen the upper Stehekin Valley Road that was heavily damaged by flooding, and would take a herculean (and resource-impactful) effort to reopen; restoring

grizzlies to NOCA; keeping manipulation of the Stehekin River to a minimum. I learned to not take the hostile attitudes as personal; I relied on the courage of my convictions, and honestly, an extremely lofty NPS mandate of preservation for future generations. To be accused of being too protective of park resources became a badge of honor.

Another, related passion I've worked on in the Cascades (and elsewhere) has been to manage and protect for the wilderness character of NOCA. Wilderness management at NOCA is extremely complex, with issues ranging from managing overnight use, responding to an exploding level of day use, balancing commercial uses with other public use (climbing and hiking guided trips, for example), stock use, restoring ecological integrity, administrative use of motorized tools (including helicopters), etc. I recently helped the park complete a wilderness character baseline assessment report so the park can track the wilderness character of the park into the future. The wilderness character qualities the park is to manage for and protect include Untrammeled, Natural, Undeveloped, Solitude and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, and Other (for NOCA, this typically means cultural resource

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Stehekin valley road relocation at milepost 5.5

By David Fluharty

North Cascades National Park Service (NPS) Complex has proposed to reroute the Stehekin Valley Road in Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) about 5.5 mile upriver from the Landing. The Stehekin Valley Road was a Chelan County and US Forest Service byway until it was transferred to the National Park Service. There has been frequent need for repair of the roadway, bridges, culverts and efforts to protect the road from the shifting course of the Stehekin River. The recent (2017) undermining of two large maple trees toppled them and a portion of the roadbed into the river. This necessitates a relocation of the road out of the flood plain.

N3C supports the NPS General Directive to remove the road from the flood plain instead of hardening the river bank. However, how to accomplish the relocation with a minimum of environmental,

social and economic impact? N3C asked the NPS to address the following concerns as it develops plans for the relocation and assessing its environmental impacts.

1. Align the new road to avoid the larger and more mature trees above the river.
2. Ensure an onsite NPS project supervision of the contractor because it seems that design specifications for the road are not being required as a cost-saving measure. This leaves a lot of discretion to the contractor.
3. Provide a specific estimate of need of roadbuilding materials from LCNRA vs. imported weed-free material.
4. Make sure adjacent property owners and Stehekin residents are adequately consulted about relocation and construction impacts.
5. Explain the status of the abandoned road segment.
6. Identify the impact of the reroute on the proposed hiker trail parallel to and above the Stehekin Road in the Lake Chelan NRA Management plan.
7. Specify how wood from trees cut for road construction will be managed under the Firewood Management Plan
8. Specify the permitted use of the two

staging areas for the road construction and how fuels and other hazardous materials would be managed.

9. How would land disturbance due to road relocation be mitigated and revegetated?
10. Are all public services and emergency service requirements anticipated in the reroute? Specific ways in which these are mitigated should be identified as part of the Environmental Assessment.
11. How is temporary housing for employees expected to be provided by the contractor?
12. How would impacts on visitors and residents be minimized during road construction and how would they be notified of closures or other restrictions?
13. Attempt to minimize impact by confining the project to one season of activity and not two.
14. Specify whether there is any plan to use explosives as part of the construction process.
15. Specify performance measures for the contractor to avoid starting fires from use of chainsaws, heavy equipment and other activities associated with road construction.

Jack Oelfke reflections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

protection). These qualities stem from the Wilderness Act legislation.

Grizzly bear restoration comes back into play regarding wilderness character as well. In my opinion, if we have the ability to restore an extirpated species into the park's Stephen Mather Wilderness—such as grizzly bears or fisher, our two recent examples—then it is incumbent on us to do so. Such “trammeling” actions can be hotly debated within the wilderness community, but I harken to a favorite quote: “wilderness without wildlife is just scenery”. For me, a wilderness without ecological integrity, when the means exist to restore certain elements of that integrity, is not protecting NOCA's wilderness character to the fullest extent possible.

I chose to invest much of my time in the last years of my career on those topics, in the beautiful, wild landscape of the North Cascades. I hope to continue those efforts in some capacity, and enjoy any discussion on the topics. It has been an honor to work to protect these majestic places...and the work never ends, as all of you associated with N3C well know.

Marblemount Quarry assigned to DNR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

current level of environmental review has enough information for making a threshold determination for a project with such a prolonged duration on the landscape.

Another concern is that Martin Marietta's application included an SM-6 land verification form, signed by a previous SPDS director in 2006. The form includes an incorrect property floor elevation. The Skagit River Alliance's review of available permit application materials and other ma-

terials obtained through Public Document Requests indicates that DNR has provided Skagit County Planning and Development with no other project plans, summaries, details, or other operational information to establish the applicability of the 2006 SM-6 which in turn refers to the “pre-existing” zoning and land-use approval (1976 conditional use permit), for this new permit application.

IN MEMORIAM

TOM BRUCKER

Climber, bicyclist, North Cascades advocate and family man Tom Brucker died December 27, 2020.

Tom worked as an attorney for 25 years, as an Assistant US Attorney and later in private practice. During this time, he fought for protection of the wilderness he loved, including in the North Cascades, Hells Canyon, and even Pioneer Park and Ellis Pond on Mercer Island. In the mid-1980s he found new purpose teaching at the UW Business School until retirement in 1996. At the UW he helped start the Environmental Management Program, which helped students incorporate environmental considerations into business decisions.



Tom Brucker, 2012. —KARL FORSGAARD

With Tom's support, we dared and we won

By Dave Fluharty

In the early 1960s when I became a member of N3C, I attended work parties at Patrick Goldsworthy's home. As we walked around the dining room table collating *The Wild Cascades* and getting it primed for mailing, I learned a lot about the organization and its people. Tom Brucker's name came up quite often because of his legal support for N3C's efforts to prevent the raising of Ross Dam and Reservoir by 125 feet which would have drowned the valleys of Big and Little Beaver Creeks and flooded into Canada. I didn't meet Tom in person until the early 1970s when we were both N3C

board members.

Later, when I became N3C president, I really started to get to know Tom. I was no stranger to the US system of government having a degree in political science. I had taken law courses in environmental law and water law from Joseph Sax and international law (William Bishop) and law of the sea (J. Stein) at the University of Michigan Law School. However, there were many legal aspects of running a non-governmental organization, registration with and annual reporting to the State, the difference between a 501(c) 2 versus 501(c)3 status, etc. Tom realized I needed help. We both worked at the University of Washington at the time so Tom suggested that we get together regularly for lunch. I learned a lot from those lunchtime

tutorials. Along the way, I heard Tom say many times, "I didn't study law to get rich but to do something important."

That commitment to do something important was why I was hearing his name at work parties, heard him speak at board meetings and eventually, working with Tom on law suits. N3C decided to challenge the North Cascades National Park Service Complex's General Management Plan for failure to adequately address environmental effects of fish stocking, resource use, etc. In this and other legal actions, Tom was there to advise on strategy, putting together a legal team, reviewing court documents and everything else that led to successful resolution of the issues—including making sure as N3C Treasurer that we could cover the costs of those actions. As N3C president, I would never have dared to sue the NPS or Chelan County, but with Tom's support we dared and we won!

I can't tell you how valuable it was to have Tom's expertise and long-term commitment to complicated laws and agency policy. That is nowhere better exemplified than in N3C's efforts to protect the Upper Skagit River. Starting in 1967 Tom led the High Ross dam challenge and the resulting negotiations for the Treaty with Canada 1979-1983. Tom's advice to N3C continued in the relicensing of the Skagit Project 1988-1996 and, even after his stroke, Tom engaged with N3C on the third round of Skagit Project Relicensing now underway.

Every time my energy flags during one of the interminable Seattle City Light meetings or while reading the voluminous regulations from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I am inspired by the example of Tom's

dedication and persistence to take heart, pay attention and push ahead. I do miss Tom—our colleague and mentor in conservation.

Tom, a requiem

By Brock Evans

Oh what a sad loss, both of a close personal friend and of one of the finest conservationists I ever knew.

I first met Tom at one of those passionate Congressional North Cascades hearings in Seattle, mid-1960s. We became fast friends then, and forever after. I still cherish many memories of evenings by his home fireplace on Mercer Island, sipping his scotch, and talking about—well, everything—before savoring one of Mary's wonderful dinners.

What a loss for our state's conservation/wilderness community too... Tom was always right there, serving on our committees and boards; going to those seemingly endless meetings with decision-makers, always there with the rest of us, during those intense years of struggle: from saving Horse-shoe Basin in the Pasayten to the Stop Kennecott Mine campaign, to our efforts to enlarge the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, down to those early efforts to protect the ancient forests of the Bumping Valley in the Cougar Lakes country... and everything in between. Tom was there.

Tom and I explored a lot of the North Cascades together then, especially some of the lesser-known places. I have special memories of a pioneering hike across the Picketts at Whatcom Pass, then down the Chilli-wack and Big Beaver valleys (1966); and another, down the Cascade Crest, on the then-little-known Ptarmigan Traverse, 1970.

A most skilled lawyer and great advocate, Tom was always there whenever the need arose during all those years. His great skills weren't just important for our North Cascades efforts either. Early on, I—a rather inexperienced young lawyer—approached him about helping me in a new campaign to rescue the last free-flowing stretch of the Snake River, in Hells Canyon.



Tom and Mary Brucker, Index Town Wall, 2011. —KARL FORSGAARD

He gladly became my co-counsel in our legal battle to halt construction of a dam there.

These were my first legal proceedings in a federal court, and I was very nervous; what do we do and how do we do it? Experienced Tom, always calm and unflappable, always knew just what to do... and after a three year trial, we won. Three more years later we, together with many wonderful Oregon and Idaho activists, succeeded in passing legislation, creating the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Saving this deepest North American canyon forever.

A treasury's treasure

By Lisa Bergman

Tom Brucker is missed greatly by many. Our hearts go out to his family and friends. My heart aches by the realization that I will never again witness him bursting through the door at N3C board meetings, leaving his heavy boots at the door with a resounding clunk, and hollering "Where's the coffee?" Then and only then, with his hand firmly on the cup, his eyes would lock with mine and out would burst an intense description of his latest frustration with an inadequacy of

the programming at a classical music radio station where I work as an on-air announcer. Though my face would redden during these confrontations I soon recognized that he was generally spot-on, and I grew to look forward to his opinions greatly. His frankness and knowledge of classical music was a force majeure.

It has been my honor to follow in his footsteps as treasurer of N3C. Through careful inspection of his records of over 20 years, I'm intimately familiar with his file-keeping, his mental processes and his dedication to the running of the organization. I've walked miles in his shoes and I will forever admire him. Tom Brucker: the keeper of the treasury and a treasure of the North Cascades.



A younger Tom Brucker. —FAMILY PHOTO



South Fork Stillaguamish: Nice trees...about to disappear

By Kathy Johnson, Pilchuck Audubon

On a cold January day when N3C's attorneys were preparing to file an important document for our case against the South Fork Stillaguamish "Vegetation Management (aka roadbuilding and logging) Project," I decided to vary my routine by taking my COVID-exercise walk on a closed logging road up the Mountain Loop Highway, knowing that it would be far less crowded than the area trails. I chose the River Road, which parallels the SF Stilly east of Red Bridge. But I hadn't been there in about 30 years, and I soon discovered that the road is washed out at

Gordon Creek so I couldn't get very far. Instead I decided to go up the logging spur for a longer walk. Somehow I'd forgotten (undoubtedly a sanity-saving brain trick) that almost every used-to-be road on the South Fork now has a timber sale on it, thanks to the SF Stilly "Project."

I took some photos of the Bonanza timber sale and the "road" that they're going to reconstruct in order to log it, complete with streams and waterfalls. There are slides all over the place up there, little creeks everywhere (including 5 meters or less from the sale unit boundary); it's

obviously a very wet area with unstable slopes. There is also some beautiful old growth in between the sale units.

From these photos, you can see some of the nice trees they're going to cut. The forest is thinning itself naturally, the strongest trees surviving (unlike in a human-engineered thin, where the best trees for lumber are taken); with openings and good understory development in places.

Murrelet habitat near sale.



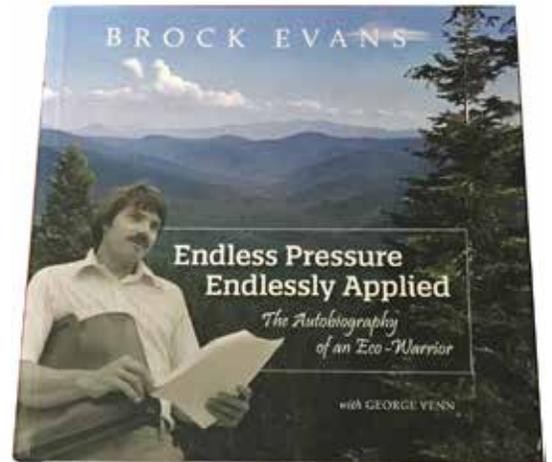
Above: A road.



Also a road.



Road sliding away.



Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied: The Autobiography of an Eco-Warrior

By Brock Evans with George Venn

N3C is very pleased to announce that Brock Evans' memoir has been published.

Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied highlights and documents Brock Evans' 50-year career as a leader in the environmental movement. These nearly 500 pages form a unique 80-year autobiographical collage pieced together from three main sources: A forest of stories, a mountain of documents, and a river of photos. As a regional then national lobbyist for Sierra Club, Audubon, and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs—who was active in the North Cascades Conservation Council the whole time—his stories dramatize leading and winning environmental battles across the United States. For this advocacy he's received over 20 of the most prestigious environmental awards and these words from President Jimmy Carter in 1979: "I cannot adopt every position you advocate, [but] I will always seriously consider your views. I hope you will continue to inform me about your major concerns."

For details and to order the book, visit <https://www.wakerobinpress.com/endless.html#/>

Corvid's eye

Many volumes discussing the vast sociological ramifications of the pandemic are being written as we stroll with masked despondence past the darkened theaters, arenas, restaurants, and watering holes we once called our own. Surely an entire volume of the eventual anthology, maybe three, will be devoted to how this watershed event created millions of new outdoorsy people among those who'd previously spent their lives inhabiting delicate-cycle garments. Any longtime lover and explorer of the North Cascades has observed this sudden crush of naive, doe-eyed humanity upon our natural areas.

Toilet paper flowers have become more abundant than mushrooms. Trails are suddenly twice as wide as before, as a stampede of human feet seeks solace from beleaguered parks and forests, all while attempting to preserve some distance when unfamiliar pilgrims come striding from the opposite direction. Families and groups loudly argue amongst themselves beneath cathedral trees or before azure lakes, as if in disagreement over which chicken breast to purchase at the supermarket. Blisters, pulled muscles, head injuries, and general exhaustion accumulate as the day progresses. And for those not already frightened off by the onslaught, good luck finding a spot to park, or even threading one's way through the flash traffic jam.

This past summer, the corvid noted a solid mile of vehicles parked on each side of Highway 20 at Rainy Pass. But nothing topped the chaos near Lake Cushman in the Olympics, where so many desperate people tried to reach the hallowed ground of Staircase that the Forest Service closed the access indefinitely. In too many ways, the resulting trampling and destruction brought to mind mother!, a disturbing 2017 flick by Darren Aronofsky that turned many viewers off but lit up the crania of certain professional critics. In short, this Hollywood allegory dealt with the difficult marriage of Ma Nature and a Yahweh-like deity, the latter's addiction to the adoration of the ever-growing hordes he creates, and the subsequent, mindless incineration of Paradise.

This is not to say that the participants in this near-daily spectacle, from Cascade



Pass to Tiger Mountain and well beyond, are of ill intent. A pack of hounds let loose in a humble kitchen similarly does not embrace havoc as its goal. The dogs are merely famished and desire to sate themselves, while having no understanding of how to behave in a manner that might sustain the bounty of the kitchen for the long term. It now seems forever ago that we fretted about “nature deficit disorder” and lack of a constituency for wild places. How ironic and tragic that an overly domesticated majority lost all of its options aside from descending upon the scenic areas and trailheads en masse, so as to fill the sudden societal void and arrest the resulting ennui.

For those who've been around for a while, it's easy to recall a distinct change in tone among guidebook authors and numerous others who pointed the way to wilderness at the dawn of the 21st century. Emphases on backcountry ethics, respectful and responsible behavior, and deference to natural systems as so effectively communicated in the Manning/Spring 100 Hikes series gave way to variations on “if it feels good, overdo it.” This shift was not just a harbinger of what was to come, but an indication of what was already well underway. So we should not ascribe full blame to the self-actualizing and “find your bliss” authors, movers, shakers of the time, though they may have acted as an accelerant toward the current crisis. An era of narcissism, even solipsism, was upon us, and the merchants were clearly

responding to the expressed needs of their clientele.

Years later, still pre-pandemic, we were subject to countless images of attractive people furthering their Very Online influencers' brands by posting photos of themselves crushing desert wildflowers while provocatively posed. Unstated message: only the most striking natural scenes will suffice to reflect the beauty and charisma that emanate from me like a waterfall. Behold! And this was merely the cream of the crop. In modern America and across most of the Western world, the hierarchy of admiration and accolades for the Sacred Individual would stretch to Venus and back, with even the lowest rungs doing their level best to self-promote.

How, then, to usher the atrophied public conscience into what is undoubtedly a brand new period in human history, only now revealing its contours? How best to repair and otherwise stave off the damage of millions of individuals, all seeking to fill their cups from the same sparkling mountain stream? On the one hand, the critical mass that green NGOs have professed to desire for decades for purposes of furthering the legal protection of our lands and waters would seem to be upon us. Babes in the woods are behind every tree and atop every knoll, in growing astonishment that the surrounding world may in fact be far more rich and wonderful than the entrepreneurial and hustling calculations within. Should the NGOs fail to tap this limitless reservoir for major conservation

gains, they have no one to blame but themselves.

We will certainly hear more about user quotas and other recreation limits in popularized areas (which now seem to be nearly everywhere), but this doesn't resolve the larger conundrum. Since Eugene McCarthy's hippies transformed into Ronald Reagan's yuppies, we have been raised from infancy to believe that life is largely about personal achievement and accumulation of wealth. It goes without saying that such trends have been far from conducive toward collective conservation efforts, but perhaps the shock to the system that came with 2020 is just the disruption to prompt a different trajectory. In his more irrational moments of optimism (admittedly, not too often), the corvid imagines that ascendant tribalism, so threatening by itself, might be the anxious dawn toward a more harmonious worldview.

If tribalism represents an evolutionary, if half-baked, step beyond solipsism, where is the point of connection that moves us to take the necessary steps that follow? The answer is under our multitudinous noses. Nature is at work within all of us. The breath we draw is Her breath, and we are the eyes of Her world. Like our animal cousins, our genes are still wild, and we are dependent as ever on Her waters, Her plants and fungi, Her whispered reminders. Somewhere along the way, we left the path, and woe unto us and most of Earth's inhabitants for doing so. As we now witness the collapse of our sand castles, the time is right to find the path again, and many of our Indigenous neighbors have already begun the long walk. So preach it, sisters and brothers, and do not be ashamed. Once heard, the receiving ears at some level will remember.

High along the trail-less flanks of Mount Chaval in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, snowmelt originating from the immensity of the Pacific forms countless rivulets, meeting and merging like duck soup to form the headwaters of Buck Creek. This obscure stream then proceeds along its ancient, forested course through one of the wildest remaining valleys of the Northwest, gathering and growing with ever more assertiveness until finally reaching the reliably vigorous Suiattle. The force and cohesion of this larger river as it meets the Sauk and then Skagit rivers belie its innumerable contributors. Their destination, also their point of origin, is all-inclusive. Perhaps, then, it's not a trail map we need, but the wholeness of a watershed.



N3C opposes Twisp Restoration Draft EA

By David Fluharty

The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) is deeply troubled by the proposed Twisp Restoration project as it is described and assessed in the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA). NCCC has strongly criticized the approach in the DEA and calls for a complete restart of the planning process, the development of other alternatives, and a more realistic timeline and actions consistent with what can reasonably expect to be funded over the 30-year time frame for the project.

It may seem strange that NCCC is opposing what the USFS terms a long-term, purportedly ecosystem-based management approach to "restoration" of the Twisp River Watershed. However, the only thing that NCCC can be sure of is that virtually every available tree will be harvested to achieve a "new" logged-over forest ecosystem. Further, the USFS own economic assessment shows that logging will not pay for itself, much less pay for other project elements. The final blow is the inclusion of a totally unrelated element to open more forest roads to ATV use.

Under the Twisp Restoration proposed plan, the public is forced to commit to a 30-year *carte blanche* to allow wide range of management actions for forest health—ostensibly to reduce the likelihood of stand-replacing fire, avoid insect infestations, etc. However, the extensive interventions proposed only substitute management actions for nature's own self-healing restoration. The plan neglects to recognize that much of the watershed has recently burned and is well on its way to recovery as a result of natural succession. Can the USFS do a better job than

Mother Nature at healing an ecosystem?

NCCC's assessment of the proposal indicates that it is most likely in violation of many existing laws like the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act as well as not following the Roadless Area Rule and the Northwest Forest Plan. All of these failures point to the likelihood that legal action is necessary. Complicating things is the fact that our friends in other environmental organizations are of the opinion that they can collaborate with the USFS and endorse these plans even though they are in violation of our Nation's most important environmental protection laws. NCCC takes the position that self-appointed environmental groups cannot negotiate away the application of laws of the land and the USFS is bound to uphold them as well.

The change of Presidential administrations may bring some sanity back into forest management decision-making. In his first day of office President Biden issued Executive Order 13990 directing all federal agencies to review this type of agency action in light of best available science and the administration's goals, including "nature-based" solutions. It is uncertain how the Twisp Restoration project will fare under this scrutiny. NCCC hopes that it goes back to the drawing boards. Those who know and love the Twisp River Valley deserve better management of the incredible scenic, wildlife, and water resources it contains as well as its trails, roadless and wilderness values.

Twisp River Basin from near Elbow Coulee
—JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO



North Cascades Institute programs updated to promote diversity, equity in outdoor education

By Zoe Wadkins, Codi Hamblin, Cara Stoddard and Christian Martin

Changes are coming to the North Cascades Institute's signature educational programs, which have helped thousands of people of all ages learn about, experience and enjoy the natural world—connections that lead to people caring for and protecting this special place.

Through the three-day Mountain School program for 5th graders and the 8- to 12-day backcountry Youth Leadership Adventures (YLA) for high school students, the Institute reaches many people of color, LGBTQ youth and low-income students. In 2018, 72 percent of YLA participants identified as coming from low-income families, 63 percent identified as people of color, and 10 languages were represented. For over half of the students, it was their first visit to North Cascades National Park, while 77 percent said it was their first time participating in an outdoor program.

At Mountain School, 39% of students identify as people of color and many are the first in their family to ever visit a National Park.

These statistics are significant, because while for many white people, the outdoors has traditionally offered a place of solace and restorative healing, the Institute recognizes that for people of color, rural places and wildernesses are often associated with ancestral violence and trauma. For noncitizens, even a day trip to the North Cascades can be risky, since Immigration and Customs Enforcement are allowed to set up immigration checkpoints anywhere within 100 miles of the Canadian border.

A new Mountain School curriculum being introduced in 2021 uses a student-centered approach to affirm and welcome the differing experiences, perspectives, and values that students bring with them to

the North Cascades. Instead of a top-down approach telling them the “right, correct” way to view and know this place and the natural world, the curriculum encourages student-led inquiry, interest and sharing.

The new curriculum also introduces students to ways that climate change is impacting the North Cascades and the people of this region. As well, it positions students to think about changes they may already be aware of and experiencing in their home communities and how we should adapt and mitigate in response to these changes.

The Institute understands being successful in the 21st century requires skills like creativity, risk taking, and ingenuity. In the midst of a global pandemic and a national reckoning on racism—on a planet that is rapidly changing as the atmosphere

warms—the ability to “think outside the box” is critical. Indeed, new ideas, resiliency and strengthening our capacity to include diverse perspectives and experiences will be essential to how our region and nation recovers and rebuilds in the years ahead. Educational staff at the Institute strive to give all students increased opportunities to develop these creative muscles, believing it is crucial to their becoming the leaders that they already are.

The Mountain School curriculum redesign aims to broaden student exposure to indigenous narratives and emphasize the interconnectedness of culture, identity, and the environment. Incorporating the new ‘Since Time Immemorial’ tribal sovereignty curriculum, which all Washington State public schools will teach, will support this goal. The new curriculum promotes a greater understanding of the continual presence of indigenous people in the North Cascades and reinforces the idea that non-dominant ways of knowing hold equal legitimacy. For example, it has only recently come to be scientifically legitimate to talk about how plants and trees communicate with each other, but the idea that plants have agency and personhood is a very old indigenous belief.

The new curriculum builds on the understanding that place teaches. Standing

at the foot of a waterfall surrounded by Western Red Cedar and salal and sword fern ignites a different series of questions in students’ minds than what they can learn by reading about a waterfall or an alpine forest in a textbook or by watching a nature documentary on YouTube. So much of this new curriculum depends on the three-day immersive duration of the program and the distinct geology, plants, and animals native to the north shore of Diablo Lake.

NCI had planned to pilot this curriculum redesign with a handful of schools last fall, but Mountain School was suspended in 2020 and for spring 2021. “When school groups can return to residential programming at the Learning Center, hopefully in the fall of 2021,” said Codi Hamblin, a long-time Mountain School leader, “we are excited to pilot a curriculum designed to be student-directed and to affirm non-dominant cultural experiences in a post-pandemic era of Mountain School.”

Climate science at the core of Youth Leadership Adventures

Despite coronavirus, the Institute did manage to offer a modified version of the Youth Leadership Adventures program in 2020. Faced with the pandemic, Institute staff offered small cohorts of local high school students a combination of self-guided, at-home activities, social media prompts, and a culminating in-person adventure day of sea kayaking.

“The snowfields and glaciers of the North Cascades melt and send fresh water down the Skagit and Nooksack Rivers, which feed the Salish Sea where we were kayaking with the kids,” said Julie Stone, Institute’s youth leadership manager. “So that was a cool connecting thread between these different iterations of YLA.”

Climate science is a central theme of the program. Last summer, instructors interviewed each participant about the climate crisis and produced a half-hour podcast sharing the hopes and fears of a generation of young people who will be living through the impacts wrought by our warming planet. (Find “Normalizing Climate Change Conversations and Envisioning a Future of Hope” at https://youtu.be/vW_xobKiURs.)

“This podcast gave students an opportunity to take a deep breath and reflect on their feelings surrounding climate change, a challenge that in many ways defines their generation,” said Stone.

North Cascades Institute is resuming YLA backcountry sessions in 2021 with a detailed COVID safety plan. High school students can apply now at <https://ncascades.org/youth>.

To stay informed of North Cascades Institute’s Mountain School, Youth Leadership Adventures and other programs for people of all ages, join their mailing list at <https://ncascades.org/newsletter-signup>

Left, Mountain school; below, Salish Dancer —NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE





We can't remain the Evergreen State without trust land transfers

N3C is taking the lead in asking the legislature to revitalize funding for the trust land transfer program, one of the best opportunities for the state to preserve more lowland forests in the Cascades. We've organized a statewide coalition to lobby the legislature and we are optimistic we will be successful. The following op-ed kicked off this effort and has been mentioned multiple times by legislators in our meetings with them.

An op-ed published in the Seattle Times November 10, 2020 by N3C board member Jim Freeburg and Connie Gallant, president Olympic Forest Coalition

What if the public had a way to protect more iconic places like Mount Si and West Tiger Mountain? Don't you think we should be taking advantage of that opportunity? Oddly, the Legislature has defunded a tool called trust-land transfer in recent years, and it's time to reverse the trend.

A quick history lesson: Washington was given millions of acres at statehood by the federal government to provide nontax revenue for schools and other public institutions. In 1957, the Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources

to oversee these state "trust lands" and improve their financial performance. The trust lands now total more than 3 million acres. Most trust lands are forests, so timber sales are the primary way for DNR to provide ongoing revenue for the state.

However, DNR has recognized that some trust lands are too valuable or too difficult to log. And the public has come to expect more from the state than just clear-cuts.

Under the trust-land transfer program, DNR uses state funding to "buy" trust land from itself. A portion of the funds

North Butte on Blanchard Mountain is part of the Harriet Spanel Forest which is protected now. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

generated from the purchase are used to buy revenue-generating land elsewhere. But the bulk of the Legislature's funds are used for school construction, just as the timber revenue would have done. The trust land is then protected by DNR or other government agencies. It's a rare feat when the Legislature can fund schools and protect the environment without resorting to budget tricks.

DNR often targets timberland for trust-land transfer that is difficult to manage. The timber may be on slopes too steep to log or on small parcels that are inefficient from a cost perspective. By removing these nonproductive assets from the state trust and replacing them with revenue-generating assets, we are improving the financial condition of the state's balance sheet.

Since 1989, the trust-land transfer program has preserved our state's image as the Evergreen State. The transfer program ensures that the first glimpse of the San Juan Islands for ferry-going tourists isn't of clear-cuts. Today, Cypress Island stands

as a beacon of nature to the world and the last largely undeveloped island in the San Juans.

If we keep trust-land transfer going, we can protect Devils Lake, a rare piece of undisturbed Hood Canal shoreline. We could save land along the Cascade River, home to challenging whitewater paddling and multiple salmon runs. And we could preserve ancient forests in a place called Morning Star that hosts at least six rare plant species.

Trust-land transfer is an extremely versatile tool. It can be used to protect endangered species, drinking water or regional trails. It also keeps millions of trees alive to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, key to fighting climate change.

Yet another upside to the transfer program is that much of this state land is located close to urban centers, so it's easy to access for recreation. You may have been hiking on a trail that exists only because of trust-land transfer, but you didn't know it. Hiked Mount Si? West Tiger? Mailbox

Peak? Oyster Dome? All trust-land transfer projects.

The state is facing major challenges—a deadly pandemic, a budget crisis, thousands of residents unemployed and uncontrollable wildfires. Because of all these problems, DNR has reasonably decided that we shouldn't invest in big new trust-land transfers right now. But we can't let go of trust-land transfer completely. It's just too valuable.

Sadly, the Legislature has been short-sighted and limited funding for trust-land transfers recently. Luckily, our Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz has committed to a brighter future for trust-land transfer. She realizes its potential. But we, the public, need to advocate for the program if it is to continue.

Tell your legislators to keep trust-land transfers alive. Keep funding trust-land transfers like Devils Lake, Cascade River and Morning Star. It's key to making sure we remain the Evergreen State.



**Enjoy The Wild Cascades? *Not a member yet?*
Join NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL!**

Yes! I want to support North Cascades Conservation Council's efforts working on many fronts to establish new wilderness, defend our forests, support wildlife conservation and keystone species, and promote sound conservation recreational use. Be part of a vibrant grassroots

network of advocates for protection of unique lands, clean waters, native plant life, and wilderness of the North Cascades. You'll receive your copy of *TWC* three times a year.

Donate online at www.northcascades.org – just click “Donate Now” and use your credit card.
Or fill in this form and mail it to us at the address below.
Provide us with your email address and you'll receive our e-newsletter, the *Cascades Catalyst*.

Support the N3C with a generous IRS tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

- \$10 Living lightly/student
- \$30 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Supporter*
- \$200 Defender
- \$300 Advocate
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1000 Patron

\$ _____ Other

Please bill my Mastercard VISA for my contribution to N3C

Name as it appears on card: _____

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

* Donors at the \$100 level and above will receive a free copy of *Wilderness Alps* by Harvey Manning.

ALL donations include N3C membership and a subscription to our journal, *The Wild Cascades*. N3C is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If paying by mail, send this form with check or money order to:
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
PO Box 95980, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Post Office Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-2980

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT No. 8602



East spur of Table Mountain with Mount Baker's Grant Peak and Sherman Peak in the distance. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO