

# THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Spring-Summer 2020



## THE WILD CASCADES ■ Spring-Summer 2020

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COVER: *This gorgeous undated photo of Image Lake by Skagit photographer Lee Mann was found in the collection of N3C founder Patrick Goldsworthy. Lee's notes say "Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Glacier Peak from the ridge above Image Lake. Short distance from the proposed open pit mine."*

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### The Wild Cascades

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#### *Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

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Tom Hammond, and Ed Henderson

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### 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.

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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING-SUMMER 2020

Members of N3C see opportunities, not just threats, in this time of coronavirus. Situations like this provide a glimpse (as Socrates told us) not of how to fight the old, but of how to build the new. I'm seeing the phrase "Reset for a New World." This may be our chance! As Ursula LeGuin said, "*We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change often begin in art, and very often in our art—the art of words.*" Here are a few words that might help.

As the economy starts to ramp up after the pandemic, the last thing we (and especially nature) need is a return to "business as usual" before COVID-19: the gospel of limitless growth and consumption. The natural world has had a nice breather during our pandemic lock-down. We can all breathe a lot easier now thanks to the reduction in traffic and industrial air pollution. If you live here, I'm sure you've noticed how clearly the North Cascades are etched against the horizon when clouds clear. And the relative quiet that now pervades our cities where rumble and roar once did. People walking and riding bikes. Animals seen returning to former habitat in cities. Do we really need any better evidence to compel us to change our ways? How about we consider continuing to work from home if we can, since we know it's possible and it will help save the planet?

With unemployment now at the highest levels since the Great Depression, I expect there will be more stimulus money flowing soon. The question is, how will it be spent? You'll read more opinions on that in this issue, but I agree with Colin O'Mara of the National Wildlife Federation who recently in the *New York Times* wrote that we need a new "tree army" along the lines of the "New Deal" Civil Conservation Corps (CCC). A modern, eco-revised CCC 2.0 could do a lot of good. Let's hope the majority of Americans vote to replace this most rapaciously anti-environmental administration in November; then such things will be possible.

Meanwhile, back to the here and now, we have a NEPA crisis. We need your help today to keep track of what our land management agencies are planning and doing. We keep seeing very short comment periods on their proposals, and if we miss one, we have no future recourse. So, I'm asking our members to email me personally when they see the Forest Service, Park Service or State DNR announce any new project. The sooner we hear, the sooner we can take a look at the site and get our comments filed. Thanks!

If you need a little inspiration (and who doesn't these days), read the review and use our member discount to get your copy of the new book just out: *An Open Pit Visible from the Moon*. It chronicles one of our most epic campaigns, to stop an open pit mine from desecrating one of the finest places in the Cascades or anywhere, Glacier Peak Wilderness. Public opinion was crucial then and it's crucial now. Stopping the Marblemount quarry one year ago was a classic example of how out-front public resistance can help push off harmful projects. When the next threat erupts, we'll be ready because you're with us!

Enjoy the quiet, the clear air and warm sun of Spring, wash your hands, stay distanced and mask-up in public. And keep in mind—a lot of things have changed, but not N3C's mission!

Phil Fenner  
[pbilf@northcascades.org](mailto:pbilf@northcascades.org)





# N3C Actions

FEBRUARY to  
JUNE 2020

*Advocacy carried out by  
dedicated N3C volunteers  
in the last three 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 public participation in the Seattle City Light (SCL) Skagit Hydroelectric Power Relicensing. As the relicensing process moves to the next phase with the Federal Energy Resource Committee (FERC) N3C board members have been participating on the Steering Committee and Resource Workgroups meetings since January 2020. (See page 17.)



## EXPANDING, ESTABLISHING, 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.*

- Submitted scoping comments to the National Park Service on a proposed environmental assessment (EA) for relocation of a trail and campground in the Thunder Creek Valley, off Ross Lake in the south unit of the North Cascades National Park in the Stephen Mather Wilderness. Our comments highlighted the fact that Thunder Creek was recently added to the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the use of helicopters should be minimized rather than use as extensively as proposed. (See page 18.)
- Joined Wilderness Watch, a national organization that protects against incursions into the National Wilderness Preservation System.



## 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.

- Sent email to the Washington State Congressional delegation supporting inclusion of residential environmental education in the COVID-19 relief legislation.
- Signed joint letter supporting the Legacy Roads and Trails FY21 Appropriations in the Federal budget.
- Renewed membership in LEAVE NO TRACE



## 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.

- Joined a Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal to the Middle-May timber sale in the Skykomish Valley near Wallace Falls State Park by Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This appeal is attempting to save the last remaining stand of mature second-growth in the valley. Legal representation is by Washington Forest Law Center.
- Under intense public pressure the Washington State legislature passed and Governor Inslee signed a new law governing motorized suction dredge mining. N3C has signed a new joint letter to Departments of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Ecology advocating strong, enforceable regulation of the sport of suction dredge mining in salmon-bearing streams. (See page 9.)
- Submitted comments to the Forest Service opposing the Gold Creek Restoration Project just East of Snoqualmie Pass near I-90. (See page 13.)
- Continued supporting SnoKing Watershed Council's (SKWC) appeal of Snohomish County Permit to "rebuild" the Index-Galena Road in North Fork of Skykomish River Bed. The old roadbed is now the new river bed in this salmon-bearing stream. The COVID-19 shutdown has delayed the court hearing of this appeal until later this summer. There will be no construction this year.
- Joined an Amicus Brief opposing the Lake Kachess Pump Station, part of the Yakima Plan. The pump station would take 200,000 acre-feet of water out of Lake Kachess, lowering the lake 80 feet below natural low water level during drought. It will take years of abundant rainfall to refill the lake to normal levels.
- Signed joint letter opposing a dam on the Chehalis River near Pe Ell in southwest Washington. A dam here would degrade a salmon-bearing stream by destroying over 12 miles of riparian habitats, eliminating critical spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook and steelhead, and increasing water temperatures to near lethal-levels.



# Heather Meadows flower phenology and pollinator monitoring project

By Jim Davis

The Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Native Plant Society supported a multi-year project to better understand flowering plant phenology and pollinator behavior in and around Heather Meadows. The project gathered information to determine seasonal variability in the availability of pollen and nectar for bumble bees in the North Cascades. We recently completed the fifth and final year of the project.

Alpine and subalpine meadows are key North Cascades habitats that support black bears, blueberries, bumblebees, and many other species. Whatcom County is unique in the lower 48 states for its very high proportion of alpine and subalpine meadows, which are unfortunately under threat from climate change and an array of other human activities. Climate-related tree line migration may pinch out some meadows entirely, decrease meadow acreage, and fragment meadow habitats. Meadow development and meadow overuse have and may continue to impact these meadows. Other threats include annual introduction of honeybee colonies (creating competition for native pollinators and potentially introducing pollinator disease organisms), herbicide and insecticide use (minor), and invasive plants.

Pollinators are essential for long-term maintenance of the flora and fauna of North Cascades alpine and subalpine meadows. Bumblebees serve as the primary pollinator for many native plants in North Cascades meadows. There are concerns that a decrease in meadow acres plus meadow fragmentation could significantly impact bumblebee pollination



*Phlox, Delphinium, and mystery Penstemon on West Church Mountain in early June.*

—JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO

of meadow plants. The remaining fragmented meadows may not support the full range of flowering species that are needed by bumblebee colonies so survive throughout the pollination season. Extirpation of one or more bumblebee species, reduced populations of bumbles, and/or barriers to

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## *Climate change, development, and honeybees threaten alpine meadows*

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bumble bee foraging (meadow fragmentation) may impact pollination, survival, and distribution of native plants.

Fifteen volunteers from the Koma Kulshan Chapter assisted with the project. They visited the Heather Meadows area every two weeks from snow melt to snow fall. Major project activities included: identifying all flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen in forest openings and

subalpine meadows sampling along 600' transects at various elevations from 2100' to 5600'; determining the temporal availability of nectar and pollen throughout the pollination season; identifying primary pollinators in subalpine meadows and surrounding areas (mostly bumblebees); and identifying flowering plants that are the primary source of pollen and nectar for bumblebees. Monitoring revealed one very early season (first flowers at Heather Meadows in mid-April—perhaps an example of what climate change will bring), three “normal” seasons

under our current climate (first flowers in mid-May), and one late season (first flowers in early June). For 2020, visits to Heather Meadows revealed another late season, with snow not melting out from early season flowering sites until late May.

Project volunteers identified 147 native plant species and 23 non-native plant species (which are relatively rare in meadows). Six species of bumblebees were identified, with *Bombus melanopygus* by far the most common. The project also revealed spatial and temporal patterns of flowering that are especially important for early-season pollinator foraging, when overwintering queens are emerging and vulnerable.

What can we do to protect subalpine meadows? Protect meadows from new development (roads, parking areas, ski areas, and new trails). Restrict pesticide use in meadows and nearby forests. Ban placement of honeybee colonies in/near meadows. Remove invasive plants from meadows. Restore degraded subalpine meadows.



# The world turned upside down

By Ed Henderson

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the world to the brink of historic changes, a reordering of the way society, the global economy and political power are organized. It is far too early to predict what form these changes will take. We only see now the inadequacies, inequities and inefficiencies of the current system in dealing with the pandemic. Whatever form new systems will take is unknown, but the N3C's mission to protect and preserve the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values of the North Cascades will remain.

In the near term the priority is to contain the virus and protect people. This involves the shutdown and social distancing. N3C is complying with these guidelines, sheltering-in-place and conducting our business virtually and online. As that's true for all the agencies and organizations we're involved with, progress on our projects is even slower than usual. How long this phase will take and what form and in what increments lifting the restrictions will take is pure speculation on my part, and I shan't go there. Once the shutdown is lifted, restarting the economy will take center stage. Over 30 million American have been put out of work and many of the jobs they left will not be coming back any time soon. Coping with this crisis will require federal stimulus funding in unprecedented amounts. This funding will present obstacles and opportunities for N3C's mission.

No matter what the results of the election in November, the government will be making huge amounts of money available for infrastructure projects in order to put people back to work and infuse money into the economy. While there are certainly many necessary infrastructure needs and decades of deferred maintenance to make up for, many projects of dubious or little value will no doubt be proposed. N3C has opposed many environmentally destructive road and dam proposals and timber sales in the past, and we have had success based on legal and economic arguments. We will continue to oppose projects with those failings. But the rules are going to change!

It will no longer carry much weight that a proposal fails to follow legal procedures or that the cost-benefit ratio is abysmal. The criteria that will take overriding prece-

dence will be to put people to work and money into the economy. It will not be sufficient to show that a proposal is a bad idea. N3C should be prepared to propose positive alternatives.

Two areas of direct concern to N3C are the multi-billion dollar backlog of required maintenance in the National Park system and over 370,000 miles of deteriorating roads in the national forests. Both present opportunities and challenges. There are many legitimate infrastructure needs for repair and replacement in the National Parks not only for the benefits and convenience of visitors, but for protection of the parks themselves. We will oppose Disneyfication of the parks simply for the sake of spending money and generating tourist revenue. Locally the North Cascades National Park is 94% designated Wilderness, but our experience shows the Park Service prefers to undertake aggressive projects employing motorized equipment like helicopters which violate the spirit, if not the letter, of Wilderness protection. So we must anticipate having to be even more vigilant in our opposition to that abuse if lack of funding is suddenly no longer a hindrance. There are many environmentally positive opportunities for labor-intensive work in the parks including eradication of noxious weeds and invasive species, revegetation with native plants, trail maintenance and repairs.

For N3C the biggest opportunity and greatest challenge will be the national forest road system. For years with the decline of the timber industry and the reduced volume of board feet cut and hauled out of the woods, Congress has reduced the Forest Service's budget. In 2019 the Forest

Service reported a 3 billion dollar backlog of deferred road maintenance. Hundreds of thousands of miles of hastily and poorly built roads lace the national forests. These unmaintained roads are falling apart and causing untold environmental damage. It is estimated that a third to a half of these roads are not needed and are dead-end spurs built for past timber sales. Rather than decommissioning unneeded roads, the Forest Service is simply closing roads and letting nature take its course—leading to washouts, erosion and sediment-clogged streams.

N3C would support a massive budget increase comprehensively planned for a sustainable road system to provide for proper maintenance of the required roads and for decommissioning of unneeded mileage. We will resist the cries to keep all existing roads. Just as much money can be spent and employment provided by proper decommissioning, removing stream-blocking culverts, recontouring and revegetation of roads no longer needed. In the long term removing these roads will restore the integrity of the forest, reduce the danger of human-induced wildfires, provide more unbroken wildlife habitat and reduce future road maintenance cost.

N3C will work to support increased spending of economic stimulus funds that protect the environment and produce results for long-term improvements. We believe that the long neglected backlog of deferred maintenance in the National Parks and forests offers an opportunity to employ many people in labor-intensive work to restore degraded habitat, restore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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## Restore Our Parks Act is the kind of project N3C would support

On June 4th, several U.S. senators announced that a new study of their Restore Our Parks legislation reveals that it will support more than 100,000 jobs over the next five years and help address more than \$12 billion in NPS maintenance projects. The Senate will consider *S. 3422*, the Great American Outdoors Act to address the deferred maintenance backlog across the federal land management agencies and to provide permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (the Great American Outdoors Act includes the Restore Our Parks legislation). It is projected to provide up to \$6.5 billion over five years to address delayed repairs to infrastructure and asset needs in the country's national parks.

# The latest update from Monte Cristo



ED HENDERSON PHOTO

Gretchen Smith, the New District Ranger in Darrington, has issued a letter setting forth the terms of motor vehicle access on the CERCLA track this summer. Property in-holders will be allowed to check out a gate key for two days upon a written request until the ground water monitoring of the Waste Repository is completed this fall. When the monitoring is finished, the

track will be placed in reserve status and not accessed by any vehicle. The track will not be fully removed because emergency access may be required to the Waste Repository. It is unclear what form the reserve status will take or how the no vehicle access prohibition will be enforced.

N3C has acknowledged receipt of this letter and has restated our position that no private motor vehicle access should be allowed in accordance with the terms of the RAM that authorized the CERCLA track in the Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) for the clean-up. Once monitoring is completed we will ensure that the track is rendered impassable and undrivable, restoring the integrity of the IRA.

# Upside down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the ecological function of floodplains and riparian zones, and eradicate noxious weeds and invasive species. N3C wants to insure that money is spent on things that are good for the environment and done in ecologically sensitive ways—which tend to employ the most people and provide the greatest long-term benefits.

The North Cascades Conservation Council's mission remains protection of the North Cascades; we will take advantage of the opportunities in a changing world. With forethought and good planning the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic can be an opportunity to improve the protection of the wilderness environment and prepare it for the future in a changing world.

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## Two significant trust land transfers in play

Despite the challenges facing our world, N3C continues to advocate for the protection of lowland forests throughout the North Cascades. Currently, we are targeting two parcels, along the Cascade River and in the Sultan basin, that are risk of being logged. These lands are held in trust by the state and managed to provide income for schools. We will be asking the legislature to instead preserve these forests through the trust lands transfer (TLT) program, which removes them from income-generation status. Stay tuned for action alerts asking our state government to protect these parcels. Meanwhile, here's a recent exchange between DNR and N3C Advisory Board member Fayette Krause on the two parcels.

From: WINSLOW, ROBERT (DNR)  
<ROBERT.WINSLOW@dnr.wa.gov>  
Date: Thu, May 28, 2020 at 10:24 AM  
Subject: RE: Trustland Transfer (TLT)  
To: Fayette Krause, DNR staff, Rick McGuire, and Phil Fenner

Fayette, DNR is preparing for the next legislative session and any capital bud-

get requests that the agency may have to include Trust Land Transfer projects. Unfortunately, it is still too early in the budgeting process at this time to know with any certainty the final DNR agency requests that will be put forward.

Things are especially complicated going into this session with the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, state revenues not meeting previously forecasted levels, and the Governor's request for agencies to implement hiring freezes, personal services contract freezes, and to plan for up to 15% cutbacks to budgets.

From your email I think that you would strongly support Trust Land Transfer nominations be considered by DNR for the 2021-2023 biennium for the Cascade River project and the Morning Star projects. Two NW Region staff are recipients to this email as is Dave Gordon who heads up DNR's statewide transaction program so your request for these two projects has been heard and received. I will get back to you later this summer once DNR's TLT request amount and project list is better finalized.

Contact me at any time, and we appreciate your support for these two projects located in the North Cascades ecosystem of Washington State.

From: Fayette Krause  
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:18 PM  
Subject: Trustland Transfer (TLT)

All — It is very unfortunate that the State Senate bill for TLT did not prevail in conference committee in 2019. This Senate TLT bill would have moved the nearly 1000 acres of Mt. Stickney into the full protection of the Morningstar NRCA, as DNR requested. It is equally unfortunate that DNR did not take advantage of Seattle City Light's offer to accept TLT for the Cascade River tract (approx. 1800+ acres of off-base land).

My question, in part on behalf of N. Cascades Conservation Council (N3C), is whether the DNR will press for the inclusion of TLT in DNR's state budget for 2021. Please let me know whether DNR will offer support for TLT of these off-base lands.



# Update and reflections on state action to limit dredging for gold in Washington streams and rivers

By David Fluharty

In November 2019 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) completed its revision of gold mining rules in Washington waters. All persons engaging in motorized suction or gravity siphon dredging for gold are required to obtain a Hydraulics Permit Application (HPA) and to comply with seasonal closures when adult spawning salmon are present in a river. Ostensibly the HPA would apply to steelhead, bull trout and freshwater mussels as well. This tightened the controls over when and where motorized gold dredging could occur but it still does not apply to manual gold mining, e.g., with pans, hand held sluice boxes, etc.

The 2020 State legislature passed a bill that becomes effective June 11, 2020 that prohibits motorized and gravity aquatic mining in waters of the state that are designated as Critical Habitat under the Endangered Species Act for all salmon, steelhead, or bull trout with designated uses of salmonid spawning, rearing and migration. The map of open areas shows the aquatic systems that do not have these designated uses are relatively few, located in central Washington counties like Lincoln, Grant, Adams, etc. In addition to receiving a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit from WDFW, prospectors must apply for and be issued an individual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality permit from the Department of Ecology. The NPDES implements the US Clean Water Act to ensure that water quality is protected by entities operating in state waters. This significantly increases the protection of salmonid species in the state. Note, however, that a NPDES permit is not required for manual gold mining.

As of April 15, 2020 no applications for NPDES permits from gold dredgers had been received by Ecology. Ecology requires that the application be submitted 180 days prior to the proposed activity. Because the issuance of a HPA permit by WDFW requires that the NPDES permit be part of its application one might surmise

that in the near term no motorized dredging will occur in Washington waters.

So far there has not been a suit challenging the new regulations. The key questions to keep in mind are 1) whether either agency has the ability to monitor and enforce the regulations, and 2) what loopholes or unexpected consequences can be found and exploited in the implementation of the regulations.

All of this effort is encouraging but it still gives me pause to think that manual gold mining can occur in freshwaters of the state waters under a HPA limited primarily by the short period

in the summer and fall when salmon are spawning in waters of the state. Why are we not protecting the young salmon emerging from the eggs and rearing in the streams? How does a window for spawning help endangered bull trout that are in some of the streams year round? What is the effect of present levels of manual gold mining on stream morphology and integrity? Reflect on this, "4. You may not use vehicle-mounted winches. You may use one motorized winch and one hand-operated winch to move boulders and large woody material that is not embedded, and additional cables, chains, or ropes to stabilize them." (A boulder is a stream substrate larger than 10 inches in diameter.) WDFW Gold and Fish: Rules for Mineral Prospecting and Placer Mining, June 11, 2020. For sure a major rain on snow event or storm can do a lot to rearrange streams and rivers but why increase the damage to streams with gold mining?

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## *Why increase damage to streams with gold mining?*

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Nearing the end of a complimentary year of N3C membership?

Please renew before your membership expires in July, so you won't miss a single Action Alert or issue of *The Wild Cascades*.

## **Join our N3C Facebook page!**

*We're up to 564 friends and growing. Help us build our clout by friending us and then recommending our page to your friends concerned about preserving the North Cascades.*

*293 people like this*

*310 people follow this*



## **Attention N3C members**

Please inform us of mailing address changes! It's much easier to update our records and make sure you get your copy of *TWC*, than to wait for the P.O. to return it to us. Thanks!

We're now offering an electronic delivery option for *TWC*. Just let us know and we'll send it as soon as it's ready, usually a couple of weeks before the paper copies arrive, and not sending paper will save some trees and some postage.

For either of these, email us at [nccinfo@northcascades.org](mailto:nccinfo@northcascades.org) and we'll take care of it.

# *An Open Pit Visible from the Moon: The Wilderness Act and the Fight to Protect Miners Ridge and the Public Interest*

BY ADAM M. SOWARDS, University of Oklahoma Press

Reviewed by Ronald Eber, Historian, Sierra Club - Oregon Chapter



*Image Lake and Glacier Peak at sunrise. —DAVID R. SIMONS PHOTO*

*“When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”* The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance

Adam M. Sowards tells more than the legendary story about how a small group of concerned conservationists organized and aroused the public to oppose an open pit mine in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the North Cascades. It explains the controversy’s history, the conflict between the U.S. Forest Service, concerned citizens and Kennecott Copper Corporation as well as the mix of law and politics that lead to the story’s undramatic but satisfying conclusion.

In 1966, Kennecott Copper announced plans to operate an open pit mine in the heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The proposal shocked the conservation community not only because of the specific place where it was proposed but also because it was perfectly legal. While the Wilderness Act of 1964 formally designated the Glacier Peak Wilderness, it also included exceptions that recognized prior valid mineral claims and permitted mining. With no environmental laws available, the central question was whether this compromise to permit mining in wilderness areas would actually destroy the places and values the law was intended to

preserve? Would the public interest in wilderness outweigh the value of the mineral wealth found there?

Sowards provides insight into the real on-the-ground struggle and immense obstacles and uncertainties faced by conservationists where the outcome was not preordained or predictable. He tells the story through the eyes of the conservationists involved. It goes beyond just the public and published records and digs deep into their personal files, recollections, newsletters and publications of the conservation groups so that the reader gets a complete picture of the grave challenges they faced.

It is not just about the political campaign to stop the mine but more broadly



about the Wilderness Act and the public interest movement for wilderness protection. Others have summarized the political campaign against the open pit mine but Sowards' book provides the context for the fight within the broader environmental and wilderness movements. He writes:

*The story of Miners Ridge reveals a critical episode in wilderness history...[and] shows how wilderness was made, challenged, and championed in a crucible when the law and concept remained malleable, with Americans still struggling to define its limits and protect its integrity.*

While blocking the mine may seem inevitable from today's perspective, conservationists like Sierra Club representative Brock Evans felt "a palpable sense of near-inevitable doom...It was a matter of life or death, permanent loss or permanent rescue." It is these personal stories and emotions that Sowards brings to life. The book is divided into three parts. The first, "Bedrock", tells how the U.S. Forest Service came to occupy the North Cascades and their efforts to manage forests, promote multiple uses and protect wilderness. It also tells about the origins of the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) in 1957 and the conservation community's efforts to protect the region's wilderness. The second, "Challenges", tells about the many concerned people devoted to protecting the Glacier Peak and North Cascades wilderness and the varied tactics they used to try and persuade politicians, corporate executives and the public about the proposed copper mine that threatened it. Books, movies, photo exhibits and the now famous full-page newspaper ad and other techniques were all used. Sowards provides the background about how all these tactics significantly affected public opinion.

You will learn about N3C founders Patrick Goldsworthy, Polly Dyer, Grant McConnell, Phil and Laura Zalesky and Harvey Manning as well as the Sierra Club's David Brower, Mike McCloskey and Brock Evans. There is the "camp-in" led by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, Dr. Fred Darvill's challenge to Kennecott Copper at their 1967 stockholders' meeting and student activism by Benjamin Shaine from Oberlin College in Ohio. These are the stories about the people who cared enough to dedicate their time and energy to the cause. They are well written and compellingly told.

The third and final section, "Resolution", tells how it turned out. There is no

mine on Miners Ridge and so the conservationists and the public interest won. But there is a bigger story without a dramatic ending. Sowards writes:

*Kennecott pursued its plans; activists organized; government agencies watched. But never did a court stop the corporation from digging. No legislation nailed the casket lid shut over the top of the open pit. No mass action convinced copper executives to cut their losses and leave the Suiattle River drainage. No president signed an executive order banning mining in designated wilderness.*

The two sides stood eyeball to eyeball and Kennecott blinked. There was no climatic finish but in Brock Evans' words "endless pressure – endlessly applied" determined the outcome. The patented mining claims were never developed and never will because they were sold in 1986 to Chelan County. Eventually they were exchanged for lands outside the wilderness area as part of the 2008 Wild Sky Wilderness Act.

"An Open Pit Visible from the Moon" was the startling headline about an improbable conflict over an incomparable place – Miners Ridge in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Sowards concludes that Min-

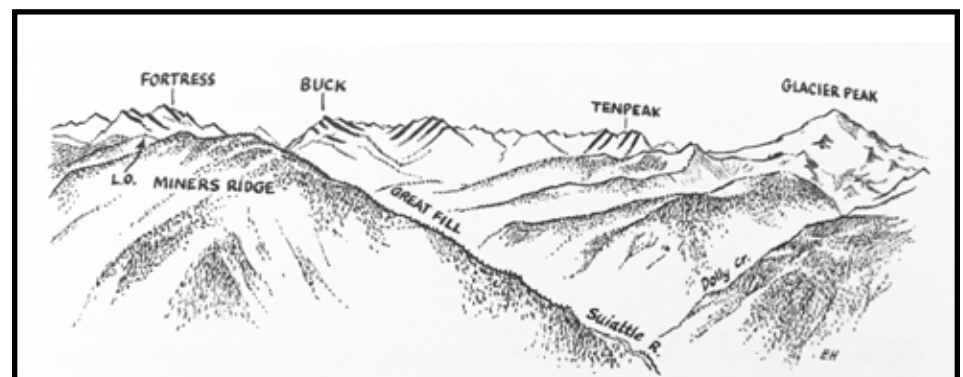
ers Ridge remains whole because "people worked creatively and energetically with dedication and urgency. In the process those involved debated and *created* the public interest, for it is in engagement as citizens that the public interest is defined. This was—and is—the means and the ends to wilderness."

I highly recommend reading Adam Sowards' book in order to learn about those who fought passionately for the wilderness they loved and so you can continue their work and preserve their wilderness legacy into the future.

**Special 20% discount for N3C members!**

Use code 18N3C20 at checkout when you order from <https://www.oupress.com/books/15458872/an-open-pit-visible-from-the-moon>

Offer does not apply to e-books.



*The Bear Creek Mining Company has based an intensive prospecting operation on Miners Ridge. Company geologists have explored a low-grade copper deposit and drilled numerous holes into the mountainside to bring out samples. Because the claims were made and patented before the establishment of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the company has access rights. The small encampment here has been supplied by helicopter for several years.*

*Illustration and text from Routes and Rocks by N3C member Rowland Tabor, 1965, Mountaineers Books.*





## Thousands object to filling Gold Creek Pond. Here's why: this land is land for every American

By Bob Mecklenburg, Friends of Gold Creek Pond

If you come with me to Gold Creek Pond, you'll be treated to a view deep into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, iconic peaks rising above the forest, their image doubled in the Pond's reflection.

But the wildland is only half the story. From my perspective, Gold Creek Pond is one of the very few places that citizens of any background can easily come face to face with the best of their public lands. Here are my recollections of meeting a few of the many thousands of annual visitors to the Pond.

Last March, I met two young moms at the Pond who had pushed their toddlers in strollers a half mile across the snow from the Sno-Park. That same day at the Pond, other moms and dads were teaching their kids the basics of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Last July I had a conversation with a husky middle-aged man who spoke as little English as I spoke Spanish. As he loaded an elderly gentleman into a wheelchair, I finally understood that he brought his dad to the Pond as a respite from chronic dialysis.

In August I met two veteran hikers of advanced age who were so pleased to continue to be able to enjoy the mountains, water and flowers in their National Forest. The next day, I met a grown daughter with her elderly parents from Romania.

And I met a grandmother walking the trail with her family in a brilliant sari, other women in headscarves, Asian grandparents conversing with me through their grandchildren, construction workers driving to the Pond in pickup trucks, international visitors making the Grand Tour with

their families in rented campers, locals from the Pass or North Bend who visit the Pond frequently, and those returning past the Pond with their full packs, dusty boots and unshaven faces from Alaska Lake or the Pacific Crest Trail. The mix of backgrounds, languages and ethnicities you'll find at the Pond continues year-round.

What is especially important about this place was expressed by a Black American at a Forterra event several years ago. He said preserving our wildlands depends on the support of a citizens of color as they come to represent an increasing proportion of our population. To defend the places we love, we need to introduce our wildlands to people of all backgrounds,

*Gold Creek pond.*  
—ROBERT MECKLENBURG PHOTO

ages, and abilities — and to make them readily accessible. Each of us needs such places at this time. Social equity extends past the city limits.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest includes over 4 million acres, the greatest proportion of which is inaccessible to the majority of citizens. Yet tens of thousands take pleasure and inspiration from the 23-acre Pond each year. Many are too young, too old, too infirm, too inexperienced or too ill-equipped to visit the backcountry. But they can and do make it to Gold Creek Pond. And from this special place they can view and experience a small measure of the public lands that are their joy and their birthright.

This land does not belong to special interests. It belongs to each of us. Save the Pond.

## Fill Gold Creek Pond?

Gold Creek Pond fills an old gravel pit dating back to the construction of the Sunset Highway, predecessor of I-90. More gravel was excavated from it in the 1970s, but contrary to plans then it was never restored to its natural wetland/riparian state after the building of I-90. Meanwhile it has become a very popular recreation site, something of the Greenlake of the Cascades. Should it be filled in now?

A group of organizations is proposing that the pond just east of Snoqualmie Pass be filled and a replica of the original wetland be created there. The vision appeals to those to whom landscape restoration sounds like a good thing in principle. It would also be very expensive and carbon-intensive. N3C is evaluating the proposal and its trade-offs. It is important to think critically about where scarce funding could best be used, and to remember the recreational values the pond provides as it is. The accompanying essay advocates for those recreational values.

As the planning process moves forward, it is important to keep in mind, as the proponents of this project say, “Given that Gold Creek is National Forest System land, the U.S. Forest Service is the ultimate decision-maker on how this area is managed...” We recommend our members and the public read the proponents’ promotional materials with some healthy skepticism. Send your thoughts to [ncccinfo@northcascades.org](mailto:ncccinfo@northcascades.org) and read up on the project here:

Petition <https://www.change.org/p/michelle-capp-save-gold-creek-pond>

Facebook [www.facebook.com/savegoldcreekpond](http://www.facebook.com/savegoldcreekpond)

Website <https://savegoldcreekpond.org>



Gold Creek pond in winter. —ROBERT MECKLENBURG PHOTO





## “Boulevard-like” Deadhorse road project threatens big trees

The decrepit Deadhorse road 37, east of the town of Glacier, offers jaw-concussive passage to thousands of hikers annually who desire to bask in the subalpine majesty of Skyline Divide, beneath the watchful eye of Mount Baker. Beyond the frenetic summer season, this national forest road also provides access to the south side of the North Fork Nooksack River, recommended for protection under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. The area needs no introduction, as evidenced by predictably full parking spaces, human footprints and fire rings in every direction along the river bars, and increasingly trampled meadows up high.

To date, the U.S. Forest Service has said little about the impacts of recreational overuse in this Tier 1 Key Watershed and Late Successional Reserve (LSR), crowned by the Mount Baker Inventoried Roadless Area above the Skyline Divide trailhead, transitioning finally to the Mount Baker Wilderness. But the agency has now expressed keen interest in rerouting up to

a mile of FSR 37 away from the North Fork Nooksack and into the adjacent slope. This proposed project area is located about three miles up the road from its junction with the Glacier Creek road, where it proceeds along a low, flat, exceedingly potholed bench above the river.

The Forest Service has recently released an exceptionally brief and decidedly uninformative environmental assessment (EA) for its desired reroute. Across a total of 15 pages, the reader may glean that the agency wishes to protect the road from the river’s potentially rowdy meanderings by relocating a section of it onto higher ground. Three alternatives are offered for where the reroute would depart and begin climbing the slope from the existing FSR 37 on its west end. All alternatives converge in the east half of the project area.

*One of several large western red cedars that would be lost to the Deadhorse road re-route. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO*



The EA states that over 100 trees exceeding 40 inches diameter would be taken out via preferred Alternative 3, while the obsolete segment of existing road closer to the river would be decommissioned (along with removal of a damaged, fish-blocking culvert at the confluence of Cascade and Boyd creeks). All project alternatives, though, feature a slightly greater length of new road construction than decommissioning. For Alternative 3, this difference would amount to 0.12 mile. The Boyd Creek Interpretive Trail, which stands in the way of the reroute, would be eliminated as well. Lastly, four rock groins supporting the existing road would be removed and engineered logjams (composed of the cut trees?) installed in the Nooksack's active floodplain.

Beyond this primer, the EA offers little else to inform the interested public. In its comments to the Forest Service, the Mt. Baker Group of the Sierra Club urges development of a more benign reroute alternative(s), while expressing concern about the destruction of currently intact late successional forest habitat, whereby impacts are "only addressed in the most cursory manner." Of particular note, the letter decries the Forest Service's habitual intention to carve an unnecessarily broad swath for the reroute, with a boule-

vard-like width of 41 feet. The letter rightly urges consideration of a right-of-way width of 20 to 25 feet with turnouts instead. In this same vein, the Forest Service is reminded that the Northwest Forest Plan mandates that projects of this sort must be designed to minimize adverse impacts.

During a site visit in late May, the author walked the length of the preferred reroute. The forest subject to removal has the appearance of a naturally regenerated stand, perhaps dating back to early railroad-era logging, and certainly much older than the 80-year limit on new logging in LSR. Some conifers whose days are numbered are quite large, including several robust western red cedars. The channel migration zone of Cascade Creek where it meets the interpretive trail area appears wide, complex, and tricky from a road engineering perspective, as does the steep and clearly unstable slope where the preferred alternative would be blasted upward. There is little evidence of recent encroachment on FSR 37 by the river.

N3C generally supports projects on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest that remove problem roads from proximity to rivers and streams, though the devil is in the details. The Forest Service's Deadhorse road relocation proposal avoids such details to a fault and, where some

specifics can be detected, appears intent on overdoing it. No survey for threatened species (such as marbled murrelet) was conducted, cumulative impacts and opportunities for mitigation are breezily disregarded, and there is obvious preference for preservation of FSR 37 versus conservation of adjacent natural attributes.

The Forest Service must at least narrow the footprint of this reroute to the minimum clearing widths practicable in order to conserve mature LSR forest and a rich forb community, while offering a defensible rationale for how it intends to negotiate geomorphological hazards along the reroute which portend future slope failures and degradation to the local hydrology. The larger context: The formerly peaceful Mt. Baker Ranger District, of which the Nooksack River is part, has been beset of late by one destructive project after another, including two instances of expanded mining in inventoried roadless areas, as well as a newly revised mega-proposal for clearcutting and commercial thinning across vast acreages of the North Fork watershed (more to come soon on the latter).

See the Deadhorse EA for yourself at this URL: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/112621\\_FSPLT3\\_5246673.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/112621_FSPLT3_5246673.pdf)

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## Interview with District Ranger Erin Uloth

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**Erin Uloth, District Ranger of the Mount Baker Ranger District of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, generously responded to several questions related to concerns stemming from the Deadhorse road relocation proposal. Many thanks to Ranger Uloth for her time.**

*Funds for road maintenance on national forest lands have been scarce for many years. How were funds for this project sourced and prioritized for this specific project?*

The funds are from WRIA-1 salmon recovery board funding. This project is protecting critical habitat and has been on the project list for several years. As you know, the recovery board is a collaborative effort comprised of several agencies/organizations from the area.

*The LSR forest through which the re-route would proceed appears to be naturally regenerated, perhaps from the railroad-logging era (prior to World War*

*II). Is this correct? Any available estimate as to the age of this stand?*

We believe the stand structure and age was a result of a stand replacing fire ~1856. We didn't see any signs of past logging. There were visible fire scars on some of the larger, older trees.

*A Sierra Club letter expresses concern with proposed clearing widths for the reroute, particularly given LSR zoning in a Tier 1 key watershed. Is the USFS amenable to minimizing clearing widths to the extent practicable?*

It is policy/practice in the FS to minimize clearing for any road building or maintenance activities so long as safety standards are met.

*Related to the above question, a number of quite large red cedars, a rich forb community, and the clearly dynamic channel migration zone of Cascade Creek appear particularly at-risk from this project. Would reduced clearing width mitigate these impacts?*

Any reduction to ground disturbance would reduce impacts to these communities. We consider this when we consider the total cost-benefit tradeoff of an action (the benefits to this action are high for critically endangered fish species and the riparian ecosystem).

*The "jumpoff" point of preferred alternative 3 from FSR 37 appears to be an especially steep and unstable location, topped by alder on what is apparently a slow-motion landslide. Is this an accurate observation?*

We are unsure where exactly you are referring to with this statement. That said, all alignments are preliminary and as we work through the final design process, some adjustments to the alignment may be necessary to avoid undesirable locations and for ease of construction. We will also incorporate appropriate design measures to mitigate potential unstable soils as needed.

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Erin Uloth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

*FSR 37 through this section is riddled with potholes, though no “time bomb” with regard to the river potentially taking out the road in the near term is obvious. Any estimate as to the likely longevity of this stretch of 37?*

We typically don’t speculate on longevity of roads; however, this stretch of road is in critical habitat and is continually impacting resources in that stretch of river.

*For a project of this level of complexity, the EA is as sparse and uninformative as any we’ve read in nearly two decades of doing so. Is this a staffing issue? Lack of a dedicated NEPA compliance officer?*

This EA is in alignment with CEQ regulation and meets all federal requirements. The Forest Service has been working for some time to improve our process procedures and improve efficiencies (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/eadm>)

*The Mount Baker RD has been known for some time as “quiet” and “green” in comparison to other ranger districts. This situation has changed significantly in recent years, with mining expansion into inventoried roadless areas in the N. Fork Nooksack and along the northwest flank of the Twin Sisters, a very road-friendly Nooksack ATM plan, the aggressively expansive NICE logging/rec project (now transitioning to a similar “vegetation management” project), and the Dead-horse road project. To what would you attribute this change in atmosphere within the RD? Revised management emphasis from D.C. and or Region 6? Coincidental?*

I am unclear how you are defining “quiet” and “green”? All of our projects are responding to needs on the ground and management actions that promote the desired future conditions for these areas. As you know, the FS does not operate mines nor propose mining projects; we respond to plans of operations put forward by proponents. An increase in mining activity on the district is due to increased interest by individual mining claimants, not the agency. The decision rationale for each project is outlined in the decision documents; please let me know if you have concerns with specific issues.

## *In memoriam*

# Peter Hardin Jackson 1966-2020

By Tom Hammond



Peter Jackson and wife Laurie Werner. —SAUL WEISBERG PHOTO

Peter Jackson passed away March 24, 2020 at the age of 53 after battling pancreatic cancer. Peter will be sorely missed by many people—especially those who knew him, called him friend and worked with him—and some who never met him nor will know of or understand the efforts he put forth to make all of our lives better.

Peter was deeply and meaningfully involved with efforts concerned with human rights and environmental protections. One need look no further than the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area in our North Cascades to understand Peter’s history, passion and depth of knowledge for meaningful lands protections. The legislation that led to the designation of the Jackson Wilderness, the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act, served to help young Peter understand how to move conservation efforts forward, something he was able to share with others.

I first met Peter nearly two decades ago as I was coming up to speed on conservation efforts and how to get formal protections in place for some

of our most threatened and vulnerable areas of the North Cascades (read: low elevation, ecologically critical forests, streams and wetlands). I remember how some people in the conversation community were closed to new energy, seemingly jealously withholding experience and plans from “newcomers” such as myself. Not Peter: he welcomed me with open arms and open mind and shared so many profound concepts and ideas—part mentor and full partner. He did so in a very deprecating and soft-spoken manner—humility was one of his endearing traits. That’s the kind of attitude and approach that makes conservation and conservation efforts work, and Peter Jackson epitomized all that is good in such fraught endeavors.

Speaking for every member of the N3C: Happy Trails Peter Hardin Jackson, you are missed, and we’re thankful for all you gave us.

Please see the *Everett Herald’s* excellent write-up: <https://www.beraldnet.com/news/peter-jackson-writer-and-scoops-son-dies-of-cancer-at-53/>

# N3C enters new phase of relicensing of the Skagit River Project 553

By David Fluharty

At the end of April 2020 Seattle City Light (SCL) submitted its Pre-Application Document (PAD) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which initiates a multi-year relicensing process leading to replacing its current license expiring on April 30, 2025. For over a year, N3C and other interested tribes, state and federal agencies and NGOs have been meeting frequently to get a running start on the FERC process—especially to determine what new studies need to be performed in order to have sufficient information on which to base licensing requirements.

The 900-page PAD (available at <http://www.seattle.gov/light.skagit/Relicensing/default.htm> if you need some bedtime reading) contains an Introduction (Section 1), a full schedule for the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) (Section 2), a detailed description of the Project facilities, lands and operations, etc. (Section 3) and a comprehensive summary of the natural and cultural resources in the Project vicinity (Section 4). Section 5 lists preliminary issues for study during relicensing that are informed by the extensive amount of research conducted prior to and during the current license. Appendix G includes information regarding archaeological and historic sites containing cultural resources. Due to the potentially sensitive nature of this information, Appendix G is not being distributed to the general public.

The process chosen by SCL for the project relicensing is the Integrated Licensing Process instead of the Alternative Licensing Process preferred by nearly all participants. The ILP is a timeline-driven process where opportunities to interact are strictly scheduled and formal. In contrast to the current license developed in a collaborative fashion, participants are now simply consultants to SCL in a strictly controlled process. It definitely feels like being in a straight-jacket. Also, in contrast to the previous relicensing, SCL is playing hardball and seems only willing to do the minimum required by FERC's instructions under the ILP. SCL repeats often that if



Power towers. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO

other participants have ideas or requests for studies that SCL rejects, we can take our concerns directly to FERC at specific times in the ILP process.

Already, concerns over important issues that SCL seems unwilling to consider have prompted the Upper Skagit Tribe to invite N3C and other participants to caucus outside scheduled SCL meetings on the need to study maintaining flow of water in the Gorge Reach, the need to study the potential for fish passage through the Gorge Reach, and other issues with a nexus to the Skagit Project relicensing.

N3C is represented in these complex proceedings by stalwarts president Phil Fenner and board members David Gladstone, Ed Henderson, Scott Crain and David Fluharty. As reported earlier, N3C is intensely interested in holding SCL accountable for implementing all agreed license provisions in the current license—the most important being painting transmission towers in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area in less contrasting colors. Because SCL did not perform this activity as part of its annual maintenance as allowed in the existing license, this task has

become a much larger project requiring planning, budgeting and other bureaucratic impediments. SCL assures N3C and other parties that it will fulfill its obligation before April 25, 2025. Trust us!

N3C's involvement in the relicensing is to support environmental improvements in the upper Skagit River basin and specifically to ensure that the more than 10,000 acres of land purchased for wildlife and recreation are serving those purposes; that the North Cascades Institute continues to thrive; that revegetation continues where needed and invasive species are controlled; and that unforeseen environmental impacts with a nexus to the Skagit Project are mitigated.

Web Special about the Skagit Hydro Project: [www.northcascades.org/wordpress/programs/skagit-hydro-project-relicensing](http://www.northcascades.org/wordpress/programs/skagit-hydro-project-relicensing)

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## New name for a familiar threat

Marc Bardsley

From time to time, *The Wild Cascades* has reported on the U.S. Forest Service plan that would manage the South Fork Stillaguamish River Basin's timber resources, aka the South Fork Stilly Vegetation Management Plan. Basically, the USFS would like to stage many "thinning operations" that would concentrate on removing trees younger than about 80 years old. This in an area that was heavily logged and clear cut in the last 60 or so years. The goal is to improve the stands and somehow make the forest better. Draw your own conclusions. Additionally, some roads would be constructed or rebuilt and the area's major roads would have some improvements. A few years ago, a sale was proposed in the area but there were no bids and nothing happened.

N3C has determined that the scale of proposed logging in the Stillaguamish

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18





Thunder Creek. —MARK NELSON PHOTO

## N3C scoping comments on the Environmental Assessment of the Lower Thunder Creek Trail and Camp modifications

By Dave Fluharty

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment for modifications it intends to make in the lower Thunder Creek trail and Campgrounds and asked stakeholders for their concerns. Included is a proposal to remove the metal I-beams from the failed hiker bridge to McAllister Camp using a helicopter or sawing them into small enough pieces to be packed out. N3C commented that the NPS should consider two different alternatives, i.e.,

- 1) leave the failed bridge in place in Thunder Creek, or
- 2) winch the I-beams out of the river and leave them in an out-of-the-way location.

In our comments we noted that none of the current maps in the Scoping Document or on the North Cascades Complex website showed the Wilderness Boundary adjustment made in September 2012. This is an important issue because of the proposed relocation of about 1500' of the Thunder Creek Trail that is threatened to be washed out. N3C understands the need for the relocation but requested clarification if trail constructions would be done using only non-motorized equipment because it is inside of the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

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### New name

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Basin is of such a scale that the overall natural environment is at risk. Recently, this sale (as modified) was re-advertised and is now under consideration. Now called the Green Grouse Sale, you will likely hear more about it in the future. We intend to follow through with vigorous action to modify or stop this sale and others that may follow. We will as events develop and give further details.

## Grizzly recovery update from NPCA

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) held an online webinar on May 28th with bear biologist Bill Gaines to talk about grizzly recovery in the North Cascades and to answer questions. N3C reps attended.

When asked whether helicopters were being used for bear surveys, Gaines said no. The hair trap sites are all accessible by hiking, and the process of getting permits for helos in Wilderness, National Park and national forest is very difficult and not worth it. This was good news to N3C!

Gaines was cognizant of the shortage of source bears just across the Canadian border, and said north of Kamloops and in our own Northern Rockies were the places to source bears without depleting sources.

He confirmed that the North Cascades grizzly recovery EIS process has been paused due to the Administration choosing not to pursue it, but that it is probably no more than a few months from being finalized when it's restarted.



VAHALLA WILDERNESS SOCIETY PHOTO



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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\* 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.

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*A verdant, bountiful wetland in Paradise Valley in Manning Provincial Park in British Columbia, a place that no American lover of the North Cascades can legally get to right now. —JIM SCARBOROUGH PHOTO*