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# THE WILD CASCADES

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THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

WINTER 2001



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*Cover photo: Dome Peak and Dana Glacier (1938)—Dwight Watson, see page 9*

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## The Wild Cascades

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*Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

EDITOR: Betty Manning

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**T**he North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These support publication of *The Wild Cascades* and lobbying activities. (NCCC is a non-tax-deductible 501(c)4 organization.) Membership dues for one year are: \$10 - low income/student; \$20 - regular; \$25 - family; \$50.00 - Contributing; \$100 - patron; \$1000 - Sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500.

■  
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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## The President's Report

Winter 2001

There has been a campaign over the years to convince the public that government is ineffective at accomplishing anything except perhaps waging war and raising taxes. Examples of government failures are all too easy to find. Unfortunately the many successes tend to be downplayed. The ability of the private sector to do everything better is now the fashionable thought.

**Allowing private self-interest to make all the major decisions about basic services is dangerous and wrong.** By definition these groups are not interested in the needs of the general public, but rather their specific cause, which is usually financial gain or political power. Without going into relevant topics such as health care, public safety, education and the like, let me analyze a related topic of interest close to all of those reading this publication — Commercialization of Public Land.

This concept is nothing new of course. Logging, mining, ranching, and guide services have been around since the beginning. When performed with moderation and thought, I don't see these activities as completely bad. On the other hand, with the world's overpopulation problems and the demand for more and more of everything, **the public land base will soon reach a saturation level.** This is truly regrettable.

Furthermore, there are many direct impacts on our organization's goals. Perhaps one of the more outrageous of these is the inevitable unfair competition for "space" or "permits" or "passes" or whatever they will be called. I can imagine that larger and larger corporations will squeeze out the small operators for commercial rights in attractive areas. The average weekend hiker looking for a place to camp will have no chance. The groups with the biggest pocket book and political influence will have their way, as usual. The mom and pop rafting services and small packers will be displaced by Disney or Universal Studios.

Even now the inequity pinches our toes. Forest Service regulations forbid me to take my Boy Scout troop of 14 souls into the same wilderness that permits 12 persons and 18 horses. Who does the worst damage to the resource? **Is there a question of who has political clout in that local forest's area of operation?**

This is just the old "tip of the iceberg" compared to the future when **Corporate America gets into high gear writing business plans for the park and forest supervisors.** Whoever came up with the concept of "partnering"? The word makes me cringe. In days of old, the logging companies and the like were able to manipulate the Forest Service. Now that most of the trees are gone, their influence is somewhat less but the need for agency money has not gone away.

Declining timber sale proceeds and scandalously low congressional/legislative appropriations for all land management have combined to force federal and state agencies to adopt a user-pays system for much of their funding and to use a concessionaire approach to keep their own costs down. Right now this is costing you and me money, not to mention the impact on those with very little money.

But more than that, **we are losing our right to use land which truly belongs to us all in this democratic society.** When the land-managing agencies are free to write the rules on how our land is used, we are able to have a hand in writing these rules. When the Park Service or the Forest Service become even more commercialized as the trend seems to indicate, we will certainly lose our input.

My goal here is to point out how **government itself has been demonized to the point that support of essential services, including land management, has withered away.** Agencies will become mere extensions of the corporate power structure. Over the long term, only those with money will be able to use the land and water that belongs to the people of this country. Somehow this trend must be reversed.

# Fee-Demo Court Case Won

CASE AGAINST DEFENDANT FOR ALLEGED FAILURE TO PURCHASE RED ROCK PASS DISMISSED (From: Wild Wilderness, [www.wildwilderness.org](http://www.wildwilderness.org))

Heather Songster was recently arraigned in Sedona, AZ. for allegedly failing to purchase a Red Rock Pass. After waiting over an hour, the proceedings did begin. And they were relatively short-lived.

As part of their nation-wide Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, the Forest Service has made it clear that they view anyone who has the audacity to enjoy their

public lands, which we all pay to maintain every April 15th, as a criminal. And they treat them as such. The case of Heather Songster was no exception.

Fortunately, Heather was well aware of both her rights and the simple fact that the burden of proving her guilt was solely the responsibility of the Forest Service. Having nothing to hide, she refused to incriminate herself in any way and let the Forest Service make the best case against her they could. And their case was woefully inadequate.

"Surely the Forest Service is aware of the simple fact that they do not have the legal authority to demand that a pass be purchased simply for parking one's vehicle on the national forest. Yet they continue to deceive the public and pretend that this is the case, even attempting to prosecute those who know better," said Dave Sherman of the AZ NoFee Coalition. Members of the coalition attended the trial in support of the defendant.

"It has become increasingly clear that the Forest Service is relying on intimidation and coercion in order to achieve compliance with what is clearly an unpopular, unjust and environmentally destructive program," continued Sherman.

Confronted with the simple fact that the Forest Service had no evidence of the defendant ever being on the trail in question, as required by the law, the Forest Service prosecution opted to dismiss the case. Heather walked out of the courthouse innocent and without having to pay a dime. Numerous cases regarding Fee Demonstration programs have ended the exact same way across the country.

If you haven't yet added your signature to the online petition against Fee Demo, please do so now! This is an easy and simple way to register your opposition to the program. Please spread the word about this petition as well. Send an email to EVERYONE you know and encourage them for your help.

[www.petitiononline.com/feedemo/petition/html](http://www.petitiononline.com/feedemo/petition/html)

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## Land Deal a Real Bonanza

**300-Acre Mining Claim Will Join National Forest**

*Seattle Times*, Thursday, July 6, 2000

The Bonanza Queen Mine in the middle of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will be signed over to the U.S. Forest Service for \$810,000, thus ensuring the land's protection against commercial development. The Bonanza Queen property sits just north of Silverton on the northeastern slope of Long Mountain, south of Darrington. It is home to an expansive variety of trees, endangered spotted owls and streams that are valuable to salmon spawning. A Forest Service road runs through the property.

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## E-mail Inundation

Associated Press reports (Ides of March, 2001) that Congress can't cope with the flood of e-mail. House offices get as many as 8000 e-mails per month, some Senate offices 55,000.

It usually takes about three weeks to respond to e-mails. The so-called "snail mail" — on paper — gets read while the electronic channels are all clogged up awaiting the plumber. Of course the great mass of e-mailers never have "written" a letter in their lives. Perhaps a website could be set up instructing them in how to buy envelopes and stamps.

# NCCC Board Meetings

October, 2000

## Position taken by the NCCC Board

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

As non-highway gas monies are being used by the US Forest Service and the state of Washington in spending lavishly to repair and build trails for ORVs it is important that the NCCC pay special attention to the Forest Plan with its trail designations for ORVs on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forests. The plan will seek comments in 2002 and is scheduled to be completed in 2004.

A motion was passed (Dyer/Edwards) that North Cascades Conservation Council reaffirms its support of legal action in preventing Off Road Vehicle use and abuse of hiking trails and sensitive forest areas.

MARCH 18, 2001

NORTH CASCADE CORRIDOR PROPOSAL

The Corridor project would connect Chopaka Mountain in the Cascades to saltwater in Whatcom County. This may be the only place where you have an extensive land corridor opportunity such as this in the whole Cascades. This would not be a wilderness proposal, but would include a jumble of links and designations. It would extend from Blanchard Hill (Elephant Mountain) to Chopaka Mountain in the Pasayten.

A motion was passed (Manning/Edwards) that the North Cascades Conservation Council endorse the proposal by the North Cascades Corridor Project to provide a corridor from the mountains to saltwater in Whatcom County.



*Heart of the North Cascades Corridor, Sisters Range and Mt. Baker from South Fork Nooksack River valley. — Ken Wilcox photo*

## Town Outlaws Endangered Species

The town council of Virgin, Utah has passed an “ordinance outlawing the designation of endangered species within its borders” says the Christian Science Monitor 3/14. The desert town has also banned most environmentalists and prohibits the “recognition of any wetlands locally” as well as making it a “crime not to own a gun.”

## The Wild Washington Campaign

Wild Washington is a coalition of environmental groups of which NCCC is a member, working closely with Senator Patty Murray to establish new Wildernesses in Washington. Check out the website for more information:  
<http://www.wildwashington.org/whois.htm>

# East from Elephant Mountain

## *The North Cascades Corridor Project — A Unique Opportunity*

Ken Wilcox

Thanks to the efforts of the North Cascades Corridor Project (NCCP) and others, conservationists have begun to recognize a unique opportunity that exists to protect a large regional landscape of wooded foothills, meadows, wetlands, lakes and streams in an area referred to as the “North Cascades Corridor.”

Straddling the Whatcom-Skagit County line in northwest Washington state, the area forms an ecologically important divide between the Skagit and Nooksack River systems, providing habitat for a wide range of low to mid-elevation flora and fauna. Generally, such areas are poorly protected within Washington, especially at a larger landscape scale.

The Conservation Biology Institute noted in its recent Pacific Northwest Conservation Assessment that of the nearly 8,700 square miles encompassed by the “Puget Lowland Forest ecoregion” (from the Columbia River to coastal British Columbia), protected and relatively undisturbed wildlands account for only 1.2 percent of the total, or less than 60,000 acres, with most of that in British Columbia. In 1999, the World Wildlife Fund characterized the need for protection in the same region as “critical.”

In this highly impacted and fragmented region, opportunities to protect additional wildlands are extremely scarce, especially in terms of the old-growth forest communities, freshwater wetlands and coastal marshes that covered much of the region previous to Euro-American settlement in the mid-1800s. Today, while remaining wetlands and coastal marshes benefit from a certain level of regulatory protection, large stands of old-growth forest generally cannot be protected because they no longer exist.

If we are to recover a significant portion of the region’s ancient forest heritage, ideally at a landscape scale, then a

major emphasis on restoration will be essential. Large stands of maturing, low-elevation second-growth forests will need to be protected if they are to help provide a foundation for tomorrow’s old-growth forests.

Restoration, in concert with income-producing ecoforestry management of some forest lands, and the preservation of small remaining tracts of old growth and other wildlands, may be our best hope for long-term protection and recovery of meaningful, near-pristine ecosystems within the lowland forest ecoregion.

### *The Corridor*

The North Cascades Corridor may represent one of the best opportunities in our state to protect, enhance and restore a regional west slope ecosystem. The corridor consists of a broad uplift of forested foothills that extend all the way from Mt. Baker and the high alpine country to the east, to the Chuckanut Mountains and Georgia Strait to the west. It is the only place in the Cascade Range where the foothills extend all the way to saltwater.

More than 200 square miles of wildlife habitat and many miles of salmon streams exist within the North Cascades Corridor. Natural breaks at Lake Whatcom and the South Fork of the Nooksack River provide critical regional links and add to the broad array of habitats available to migratory birds, large and small predators, anadromous fish, amphibians, and other sensitive or imperiled wildlife. Substantial links already exist between the North Cascades Corridor and adjoining protected areas, although that is not to say that development and resource exploitation have not had major effects on the environment that exists today.

Much of the Cascade foothills has been committed to intensive timber management and road-building for more than a century, and growth and development are consuming the lowlands and lower foothills of the

Puget Trough at a rapid clip. We are just now beginning to truly assess the real long-term damage—the “hidden environmental costs”—that were so readily overlooked in the past. In the context of salmon recovery especially, we are as focused as ever on the impacts we, as a society, have had on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. While there is much we are still trying to assess and understand, we do know that meaningful, large-scale protection and recovery of these stressed ecosystems and habitats is still possible.

Protecting the North Cascades Corridor does not necessarily mean outright preservation of the entire region. Extensive private ownership could render such a goal cost-prohibitive and impractical. However, through the preservation or restoration of key habitats and wildlife corridors, combined with public policy changes, conservation easements, land acquisition, low-impact ecoforestry, and an aggressive educational program to encourage ecologically sustainable development (as best we can define it), we may be able to guarantee long-term viability of the Corridor ecosystem.

In Whatcom and Skagit Counties, despite a long history of logging, mining, agriculture, human settlement, and other development, substantial areas remain largely untouched since vast stands of old-growth forest were first cut-over in the early 1900s. Many forests, including many thousands of acres of state-owned forest land, have reached age classes greater than seventy years, and small amounts of old-growth forest and other relatively pristine habitats still exist. Few paved roads penetrate the Corridor and urban-level development is largely non-existent.

The Corridor also offers exceptional opportunities for recreation, including hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and a long list of other low-impact activities. Plans have been drafted for both regional and localized trail systems, including a recent multi-agency

master plan for an 80-mile nonmotorized trail system in the Chuckanut Mountains south of Bellingham.

Important historic and cultural values also exist, though they are not always well documented. Scenic values are very high, especially in the vicinity of Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters Range, in the South Fork Valley, around Lake Whatcom, and in the Chuckanut Mountains, where at 2,000 feet above sea level — atop a 300-foot cliff at Oyster Dome—one can enjoy a naturally unobstructed view of the San Juan Islands, the Gulf Islands, and three mountain ranges (Cascades, Olympics and B.C. Coast Range).

### *Securing What's Wild*

A great deal of conservation work has been accomplished in and around the North Cascades Corridor in recent years, including preservation of the two largest remaining stands of privately-owned old-growth; public acquisition of park lands and other extensive forest lands in the Chuckanut Mountains; ongoing conservation initiatives in the Lake Whatcom watershed; acquisition

of an historic homestead and nearly five miles of adjoining riparian habitat along the South Fork Nooksack River; and designation of a regional park and preserve at Squires Lake.

A NCCP-led effort is currently underway to transfer 3,000 acres of Washington DNR-managed land in the Chuckanuts to Natural Resources Conservation Area status (an NRCA assessment of the area by DNR was very positive, yet the agency is resisting meaningful protection). The city of Bellingham has agreed to develop a land acquisition program in the Lake Whatcom watershed to ensure protection of the city's water supply, and the state legislature has considered new restrictions on logging in municipal watersheds altogether. Efforts to restore threatened salmon runs and to create a marine sanctuary in the northwest straits will also likely benefit the future integrity of the Corridor.

The North Cascades Corridor Project is a grassroots-driven initiative to address biodiversity, threatened ecosystems,

wildland recreation, water quality, ecoforestry, and sustainable development issues at a landscape level. Perhaps nowhere else in the state is there a more favorable opportunity to protect and restore, from craggy summit to glimmering tidepool, an ecologically intact corridor of this magnitude.

For more information, contact the North Cascades Corridor Project, 1101 Harris Avenue, Suite 27, Bellingham, WA 98225. Donations are tax-deductible.

### **Reading List**

*Hiking Whatcom County*, Ken Wilcox, third edition, 2000, Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham. Descriptions of Chuckanut Mountain, Blanchard Hill (Elephant Mountain and Oyster Dome), and proposed 74-mile Bay-to-Baker trail from Squalicum Beach to Shuksan Arm.

*Walks and Hikes in Footbills and Lowlands*, Harvey and Penny Manning, revised 1999, Mountaineers Books, Seattle. Trips on Chuckanut Mountain and Elephant Mountain-Oyster Dome.



*Mt. Garfield and Dutch Miller Peaks from Quartz Mt. (Middle Fork, Snoqualmie River).*

—Kevin Geraghty photo

# More Wilderness for the Cascades?

Rick McGuire

Conservationists are excited about the possibility of designating some new Wilderness areas and adding to existing ones in the Cascades. Senator Patty Murray has indicated her interest in working toward gaining Wilderness protection for some of the areas in the state's national forests which were excluded from previous bills. Rather than a statewide effort, a series of bills focusing on individual areas may be her preferred approach. Other than within national parks, Washington state has seen no new wilderness since 1984.

A casual glance at the map of existing Wilderness shows that in most cases, lower elevation forested areas are outside the Wilderness boundaries. These are the most productive places, with the greatest values for wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Although every effort was made to include these when the various Wildernesses were established, the political power of the timber industry made it a struggle to protect every acre which had trees on it. Nevertheless, some remarkable forests were preserved — places like the upper Suiattle valley in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Greenwater valley in the Norse Peak Wilderness, and the Boulder River valley east of Everett. Each of these places would have been roaded and logged by the Forest Service had not the conservation movement succeeded in convincing Congress to protect them as Wilderness.

The political landscape is much changed since the 1984 bill. Only Norm Dicks, representing the 6th district, remains from the congressional delegation of those days. And on the west side, timber cut levels on the national forests have declined and with them the political clout of the timber industry, or at least that segment of it which purchases federal timber sales. The

hope is that new members of Congress will be interested in extending Wilderness protection to some of the lower elevation forests which didn't make it into previous bills.

One major problem is the political divide between the eastern and western halves of the state. The most extensive and threatened areas are generally on the east side. Eastern Washington's two congressional representatives, George Nethercutt and Doc Hastings, have not been sympathetic to conservation initiatives. With a Republican administration, it is highly unlikely that any new areas in the fourth or fifth districts can be protected unless they can be persuaded to lend their support.

The situation is brighter on the west side, though. The hope is to persuade 2nd district freshman Democrat Rick Larsen, and five-term Republican Jennifer Dunn in the 8th district, to look at new Wilderness on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. The King-Snohomish county line divides the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest roughly in two, with the north half in the 2nd district and the south half in the 8th.

An argument can be made that additional Wilderness on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie wouldn't add much protection in light of the Clinton Forest Plan and the decision by the Forest Service to quit cutting old growth there. But as we've seen with the Clinton roadless protection initiative, what one president giveth, another taketh away, directly or indirectly. Administrative protections come and go. Congressionally designated Wilderness is the safest, most protective land classification there is. It is the closest thing possible to a real "lockup," as the timber industry used to derisively call it.

On the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, the areas which have attracted the most interest for a new Wilderness bill are the Skykomish valley and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie. The North Fork Skykomish is a salmon river, with the best remaining habitat in the Snohomish basin. There are extensive areas of unprotected old-growth forest, notably in tributary valleys such as Trout, Howard, Troublesome and West Cady Creeks. The lower valley is mostly naturally regenerated second-growth forest, railroad logged in the early years of the twentieth century. These second-growth forests are well on their way to becoming old growth, and have been targeted for logging by the Forest Service. The very destructive "Sky Forks" timber sale would road and log large areas of this valley, under the ridiculous pretense of "accelerating the development of old-growth characteristics." Putting these forests into Wilderness would end that threat.

Likewise on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie, the extensive natural second-growth forests of the Pratt River valley have been the target of past timber sales. These were turned back only with great effort by the conservation community. The roadless Pratt valley is the wildest place in King County, and belongs in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Including it there would protect a large area of highly productive low-elevation lands, a rarity in the Cascades.

NCCC believes that it makes sense to expand our Wilderness areas and add low-elevation forests to them, and has made this a high priority. For more information, or to help, please call Rick McGuire at 206-363-6954.





*Chickamin Glacier from Sentinel Peak (1938) — DWIGHT WATSON PHOTO*

## Dwight Watson *1930s Explorer and Photographer*

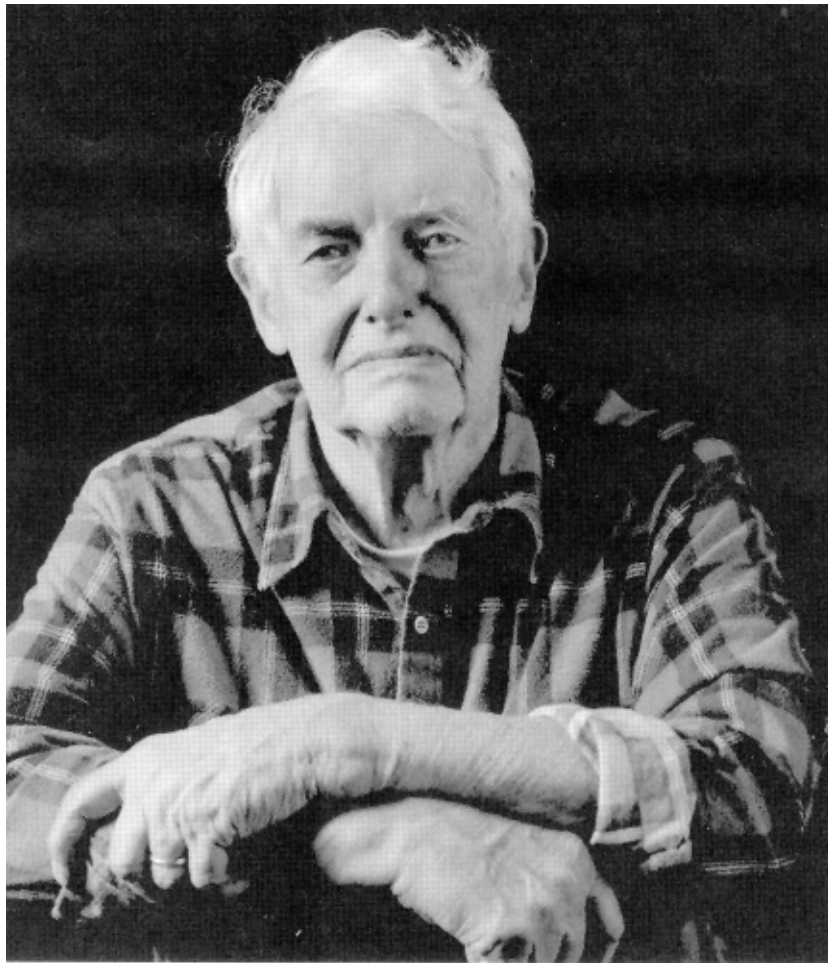
Dwight Watson was an explorer of the North Cascades in the 1930s, when hardly anybody was but a few rangers and climbers of that era, and later (including now) of glacier researchers. We have come into a treasure trove of Watson photos. These we will be using from time to time — to remind us of what we are in the process of losing due to all that carbon dioxide etc., we're

exhaling that President Bush says he can't see...so forget it.

Dwight's executors deposited in the University of Washington Library, Mountaineers Archives, Special Collections, his 600-page mountain scrapbook. A word to the wise. Someday some smart publisher will make a book of excerpts — and selected

photos. Meanwhile, contact the UW Library and take a look.

A young ski mountaineer, Lowell Skoog, has plunged deep into the scrapbook in the course of pursuing his Alpenglow Ski Mountaineering History Project. See his home page: <http://www.alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/ms/dw-scrapbook.html>



Todd Pickering, 1998

# David R. Brower

July 1, 1912 - November 5, 2000

There were two giants in conservation in the second half of the century. Rachel Carson and David Brower. I've known Dave since I went to Congress in 1955. He was the point man for the entire conservation movement for all those years, always bold. His vision grew as the movement advanced, eventually forcing us to think about the planet. We didn't clash. He knew that as Interior Secretary I couldn't do everything he wanted, everything I wanted to do, but he was relentless in pressing his cause. He was extraordinary in many ways, especially as a publicist and lobbyist. It's a great loss.

— STEWART UDALL

*Whatever you can do,  
or dream you can, begin it.  
Boldness has genius, power,  
and magic in it.*

— GOETHE

I first knew of Dave in 1939, reading in the *Saturday Evening Post* his sensational story of the Shiprock ascent. I knew about him in 1951, when a Shiprock comrade became my comrade on peaks of the North Cascades. I met the man himself at board meetings of the North Cascades Conservation Council, beginning in 1960 (the year of his epochal *This Is the American Earth*). Through the decades thereafter I served among his legion of acolytes (or whatever the equivalent is for Archdruids). In 1957 our locals (plus Dave) founded the North Cascades Conservation Council. In the early 1960s, as it grew obvious we locals had to "go national," Dave's leadership became paramount. He knew all the buttons of all the players in the national game. He pushed them. And thus, in 1968 was created the North Cascades National Park.

— HARVEY MANNING

## A FEW RECOLLECTIONS OF DAVE BROWER AND THE NORTH CASCADES

Dave Brower was among the first of our contemporaries to advocate that the North Cascades be a National Park Wilderness and not an administrative Wilderness under the Forest Service. Most of us on the NCCC Board of Directors were skeptical. Remember, this was before the Wilderness Act of 1964 gave statutory guarantees. From our experience, the National Park Service had not had a particularly good record for protecting areas. Many of us felt Wilderness under the Forest Service, though having only administrative status, might be far safer.

He was utterly incorruptible, absolutely true to his principles. When there was a change in administration in Washington or another capitol, and our colleagues in various organizations began sending in their resumes, hoping to get their hands on the levers of power as a way to bring about essential changes, he would despair. The system sucks in good people, grinds them down, destroys their own principles, forces them to compromise. He preached that we should resist the call, keep pushing these inertia-ridden bureaucracies from outside. Look at our government and tell me he wasn't right.

— TOM TURNER

Dave dipped into his Sierra Club "hip pocket" to come up with a few dollars to send some young people to photograph the Glacier Peak and general North Cascades areas. One was David Simons, who was accompanied on these backpacking/photo excursions by John Warth of The Mountaineers. Brower then put 20-year-old Simons to work researching the laws and policies, advantages and disadvantages of wilderness protection under the two agencies. Dave Simons concluded that over the long run, the National Park Service had much stronger requirements (and a better record, if I remember correctly) than the Forest Service for preserving and protecting wild country. I treasure the memory of the little note attached to my copy of Simons's then still-confidential study. Dave Brower had written, "Two Daves can't be wrong."

Most of you know Dave produced the film, *Wilderness Alps of Stebekin*. Though making no pretense to be a professional, he had put together other films, such as *Two Yosemite* (contrasting the dammed and flooded Hetch Hetchy valley with its unflooded twin, Yosemite.) After an NCCC board meeting in Yakima, we all stopped off at Chuck and Marion Hesse's in Naches to see Dave's first film footage. I think Chuck probably had the only movie projector available back then. He made the first North Cascades movies. I particularly recall beautiful sequences of cross-country skiing. Dave's initial effort was disappointing — he had focused mostly on alpine areas, showing very little of the forests, the targets of the Forest Service's logging plans. He soon remedied that oversight. I've always been tickled, too, that the Happy Wanderer, the musical theme of *Wilderness Alps of Stebekin*, Dave transcribed from his personal album on his home record player.

Everyone knows it was Dave who "twisted Harvey Manning's arm" to write, in record time, *The Wild Cascades: Forgotten Parkland* — an Exhibit Format that served as a political tract, influencing Congress and the President. One of its centerpiece photos is from the Sierra Club outing in the Glacier Peak area, an outing Dave promoted in order to ensure that some club members of the club from afar learned in person the need for wilderness protection.

Let me close with some quotes from the November 11, 2000, editorial in the *Seattle Times*.

"If exploiting natural resources and worshiping technology was the dogma of modern times, then Brower was the apostate.

"His mission was to show people how their lives were intertwined with their surroundings and make them aware of their responsibility and relationship with those finite resources:

" 'We seek a renewed stirring of love for the earth. We plead that what we are capable of doing to it is often what we ought not to do. We urge that all people now determine that an untrammelled wildness shall remain here to testify that this generation had love for the next.' "

"That was David Brower's credo, his single-minded pursuit and, occasionally, his joyful victory."

— POLLY DYER

# FEE DEMO: Year 6

HARVEY MANNING

Fees for entry to national parks and for overnight stays at campgrounds have been common for years. “Fee Demo” was introduced by Congress in 1996 to determine its viability for other situations and to experiment with ways and means. Why, suddenly, fees for the traditionally free?

Users were startled, confused. Yet since money was spent in travel to trailhead, why not a bit more to travel on the trail? Confusion mounted to befuddlement as there came to be some 20 separate state and federal charges for this and that, here and there. The Forest Service reduced its share of the confusion by issuing region-wide passes, in our area named Northwest Forest Pass, for parking at national forest and some national park trailheads, the cost (as of this date) \$5 a day, \$30 a season.

“Pay to play” was aggravating but perhaps reasonable. The question arose, though; whose minds did the reasoning? The Forest Service could plead convincingly that trails were suffering from starvation. But what about Congress? Was not its role to preserve the national infrastructure, to appropriate public money for essential public purposes the public urgently desired? What was happening in *that* mind?

Better ask, whose mind was manipulating the mind of Congress. We refer you to the roster of Think Tankers in the Summer-Fall 2000 *The Wild Cascades*. Better yet, go to the Wild Wilderness home page, click on “Fee Demo in the News.” Then send e-mail queries to [silver@wildwilderness.org](mailto:silver@wildwilderness.org) (and, while you’re at it, request a free copy of the bumper sticker, “NORTHWEST FOREST PASS — DON’T BUY IT!”).

At the center of the think-tank web, note American Recreation Coalition/(ARC). Marvel at its intricate lines out in all directions to ARRA, ORCA, PERC, Blue Ribbon Alliance, American Trails — plus the Forest Service — plus Congress. (It smugly identifies as its “two KEY ACTORS,” Ralph E. Regula (R Oregon) and (gasp!) Norm



Dicks (D Washington). The ARC is the War Room. Of what war? The Class War. To learn where the attacking armies are mobilizing, see the following article on “Commercialization/Industrial Strength Recreation/Motorization/Privatization.”

October 11, 2000, President Clinton extended the Fee-Demo experiment through September 30, 2002. The ARC has drafted a Phase II of the Demo extending it through 2004. Senator Slade Gorton introduced a bill to make the demo permanent; when Gorton was ejected from the Senate the bill died — but not really, it’s still writ out clean and tidy on paper, ready to go anytime. President Bush, following a strategy prepared by a group of far-right Tank Thinkers chaired by Chris Demuth of the American Enterprise Institute, is firmly committed to a free-market approach to public lands.

Thus, 2001 is what may be called the Stalingrad Year, or the Gettysburg Year. Not the final year of the Class War, but the (or a) decisive year for Fee Demo.

The Forest Service, having over-logged the public lands for many years, no longer can sustain its bureaucratic health by logging alone. It is staking its future dimensions and health as a major player in the public game as a recreation provider supported less by Congress than user fees. It has been hailing “Northwest Forest Pass — Another Successful Year.” It is very, very sensitive about criticism. In California and New Mexico it has laid traps for prominent protestors and when these demanded court trial, has asked the judge not merely for \$50 fines but \$500 and half a year in jail!

The Northwest Forest Pass is required at more than 1000 trailheads in Oregon and Washington. This is the broadest, most intensive test in the nation of “willingness to pay.” The Forest Service remembers that student protests doomed the Southeast Asia War. It fears a mass outbreak of hiker

protests. In 2000 it issued only a dozen tickets in Oregon and Washington, and by ticketing, video-taping, scowling, and generally menacing, got “willingness” from some 30-80% (a range that suggests, “Who is counting? What?”) of trail users.

Prospects for 2001 are that the rangers, their numbers augmented by citizen volunteers wearing hardhat-haloes will start getting really mean. A person come to the wildwoods seeking the peace that surpasseth understanding is likely to pay the man the \$5 (or \$30) rather than spend the trail day fretting about a \$500 fine and six months in jail — or simply by an unpleasant encounter with a frightening policeman, a camera, and perhaps a surly crowd of citizen hardhats singing righteous psalms.

Many (most) doubtless will opt for less risky protests. Such as:

1. Display the bumper sticker,

“DON’T BUY THE FOREST PASS.” Even if in fact you do buy one, the ranger and/or his deputies plus other hikers will see it.

2. DEMAND THAT YOUR CONGRESSPEOPLE FUND THE FOREST SERVICE AT THE LEVEL NECESSARY TO MEET AMERICAN NEEDS. Do it by paper letter; e-mail channels to D.C. are choked.

3. Sign onto the Internet petition by Free Our Forests to eliminate Demo fees on public lands: <http://www.petitiononline.com/feedemo/petition.html>

A major exception to the rule that “there are lies, damn lies, and statistics” is an article, “Do User Fees Exclude Low-Income People from Resource-Based Recreation?” published in the *Journal of Leisure Research*, vol. 32, no. 3, 2000. The research was done by a professor at the University of Massachusetts and Thomas More of the Forest Service Northeast Research Station. Their study found that 23% of low-income respondents had reduced their use of public lands, compared



**Points to make when writing  
your (paper) letter to  
Congress:**

- Fee Demo is broken, must be scrapped.
- The Forest Service and ARC have “cooperated” in surveys that “prove” users welcome fees. GIGO
- Though some of “our people” have been duped, and a few of “our” groups are going mugwimp on us, all Green organizations (that still deserve the name Green) have denounced Fee Demo.
- Since lying to Congress risks severe penalties, the Forest Service has had to reveal in its financial report for fiscal 2000 that the Demo fee revenue went 19% into “repairs maintenance resource protection,” 18% into fee collection, 31% to “annual operation” (whatever that catch-all might be), and 3.3% to law enforcement.
- More than half the income attributed to Fee Demo actually is from national park entry fees, which were being collected prior to 1996. (Note, though: President Bush has proclaimed a “National Parks Initiative” which would replace Congressional funding with user fees!)
- Though the Forest Service/AMC have produced masses of statistics purporting to prove their case, remember Mark Twain’s dictum: “There are lies, damn lies, and statistics.”

to only 11% of high-income users. Response also showed that an increase in fees (inevitable in the Forest Service/Bush scenario) — would drastically reduce low-income use. The Forest Service reacted by commanding More to keep his mouth shut. It already knew from its register records that the number of visitors to no-fee sites had increased explosively. Finally, ask Congress — ask the Forest Service — ask those mugwimp environmentalists who buy the FS/AMC line — what effect the Stalingrad/Gettysburg year of 2001 will have on America’s Norman Rockwell image of The Ranger. As the wildland scene is embellished

# DOMBECK RESIGNS

## Clinton’s Forest Service Chief Leaves Bush Administration

By KATHERINE PFLEGER  
*The Associated Press 3/27/01*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forest Service chief Mike Dombeck, who tangled repeatedly with timber and mining interests during his four-year tenure, is stepping down because of differences with the Bush administration over the agency’s future, a former senior aide says.

Dombeck could have stayed until the end of April, longer if asked. Instead, he told his boss, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, he was resigning effective Saturday and planned to tell the agency’s leadership Tuesday.

“It was made clear in no uncertain terms that the administration wants to take the Forest Service in another direction,” said Chris Wood, who served as Dombeck’s top aide until Friday. But “it is very cordial.”

A fisheries biologist by training, Dombeck, 52, took over the service in January 1997 and reshaped it from a government agency considered to be a friend of the timber industry to a cautious guardian of about 192 million acres of national forests.

As chief he worked to conserve old-growth forests, expand protections for wilderness areas and increase funding to fight wildfires and protect communities.

Perhaps one of Dombeck’s most notable initiatives, but one facing multiple legal challenges, will be the roadless plan, a ban on road-building and logging in 58.5 million acres of national forest lands, except in the rarest of circumstances.

with signs-signs-signs warning of fines and imprisonment, as the kindly caretaker-host is transformed into the tough cop on the beat, as the museum of primitive America becomes a Disneyland patrolled by uniforms and a posse of hardhat volunteers — one must ask, what

The ban originally was to have gone into effect March 13, but President Bush postponed it until May 12 so he could review it. Timber interests had sought a court injunction to stop the ban.

During his tenure Dombeck made enemies of some Western Republicans and the timber and mining industries. “His objective is to terminate harvesting in the national forests,” Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has said.

Last week the Interior Department, bowing to mining groups, decided to suspend new hard-rock regulations for public lands that would have strengthened environmental standards. The new rules were imposed on former President Clinton’s last day in office.

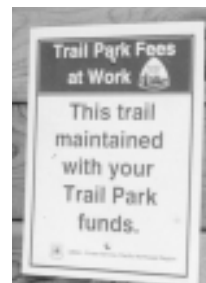
In departing, Dombeck wrote Veneman a six-page letter outlining 10 recommendations for the agency. Among them:

—The Bush administration should not negotiate a settlement with those opposed to the road-building ban.

—The agency should complete an inventory of old-growth forests and ensure their conservation.

—The federal government should increase funding for employees who protect wilderness areas, an effort Dombeck expanded and raised in importance within the agency when he made it a separate program.

On the Net: Dombeck’s biography:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/intro/dombeck.pdf>



will be the new ambience of the national forests when the hiker no longer enjoys the freedom of the hills, when the 9-5 slave of city and freeway nevermore will feel himself/herself “king/queen of the wild frontier?”

# NORTHWEST FOREST PASS

## DON'T BUY IT!

541-385-5261 [www.wildwilderness.org](http://www.wildwilderness.org)

“Communist” has lost its one-time power to set the knees of the republic a-jerking. The “Evil Empire” has been dumped back in the comic strips where it came from. The Think Tankers who brew up the catchy stuff (“death tax”, “faith-based garbage collection”) to flap lips in Congress, have had to rummage around for fresh fright wigs to make children scream and maidens faint. Lo, a grand old bloody shirt has been exhumed from the Joe Hill-New Deal past. Class warfare. Spooky! Certain of the greenish in our own ranks, careful as they are to provide their backsides a “soft landing” should push come to shove, preface their mugwimperly, “I am not now and never have been . . .”

The halls of Congress echo the hollering and screaming about the underclass erupting from soup kitchens, cramming uppers into tumbrels, and trundling them to the chop-chop. Well sir, the screamers are dead on — there surely is a class war in progress, has been since the Constitutional Convention, and in the new millennium the temperature is rising toward that of 1933 or 1860.

“The struggle between people and corporations will be the defining battle of the 21st century.” So an oracle has pronounced. Sure enough, the world was watching breathlessly as Seattle hosted a skirmish in December of 1999, the WTO affair, and the Florida-Supreme Court travesty of November 2000 shivered the timbers of the national psyche.

The screamers are right about the war, wrong about the disposition of combatants. It is not the underclass on the attack. It's the upper.

The general staff of the Compassionate

## Trampling Out The Grapes of Wrath

Conservatives has two problems. The underclass has nothing left to steal and the upper class is too tiny to field significant masses of troops.

However, a classic strategy of American politics in the 20th century solves both problems in a single stroke: deploy half the middle class as the attacking army, the other half as the enemy. Ignore the actual underclass; except for the occasional drive-by shooting it's invisible. Every person in America between Li'l Abner and Croesus identifies himself/herself as “middle class.” Of course, they're not all the same middle. For most political purposes they fall in one of two lots.

Half or so, enough to win the balloting for president (though losing, in the Supreme Court, 4-5) hold the government responsible for providing essential services, maintaining the national infrastructure, and protecting the public property by continuing and constant reinvestments. This half or so willingly pays the taxes required. The other half or so, enough to accidentally elect a Bush (5-4), want Government to pack up its

tiresome tax-tax-tax, spend-spend-spend, get out of town, and leave the running of the show (bare bones, no fat) to the upper class. The personal plan of this half or so is to loyally vote the upper class ticket so that when a shot comes at pie in the sky (bye and bye) their slice will be waiting. That they have as much chance as snowballs in Florida of getting anywhere near the pie doesn't matter. They have faith (“the evidence of things impossible”).

The engine that powers the Great Greed Machine of the uppers and wannabes is Fee Demo, yet another implementation of the Class Warrior strategy of shifting the cost of government from the relatively progressive income tax to regressive user fees. Where are the engine drivers headed once they get out of the factory?

For sample objectives, see the Summer-Fall 2000 *The Wild Cascades*; find a few more in following pages.

More important in these years of decision when hardly a day passes that Bush II and his merrie Tank Thinkers don't loose another nuke on the people, is to go to the Wild Wilderness home page and click on “Fee-Demo in the News.” <http://www.wildwilderness.org>

### Commercialization

Deputy Chief Jim Furnish, in a December 4, 2000 message to high-level Forest Service officials, declared a necessity “to turn outdoor recreation into a business . . . to operate under business plans . . . set fees based on willingness to pay . . . rigorously explore concession management.”

Derrick Crandall, proud papa of the original Fee Demo and president of the

American Recreation Coalition, has drafted a Fee Demo Phase II, that emphasizes, “20-year partnership permits with the private sector.”

In November 2000 the National Park Service welcomed four corporate “Proud Partners”: American Airlines, Discovery Communications, Eastman Kodak, and Ford Motor Company.

In May 2001 the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association and the American Recreation Association (behind the curtain, this bunch is fully motorized) will stage its Sixth Annual Grassroots Lobbying Show (“Taste of the Outdoors”) in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of members of Congress and thousands of their staffers are expected to meet face to face with dozens of CEOs at the exhibition tables, breakfasts, lunches, and all and all.

Bush II swept into office on his 5-4 landslide with an agenda prepared by a panel of distinguished Tank Thinkers under the leadership of Bush’s advisor on public lands, Terry Anderson of the Political Economy Research Center. The presidential mission is declared to be to put public lands on a paying business-like basis. The class war is to be advanced by reducing the size of government, the resulting power vacuum filled by the private sector. Support is transformed from taxation to user fees, opening opportunities for free enterprise.

## Privatization

Terry Anderson, in his 1999 report, “How and Why to Privatize Public Lands,” presented a blueprint for auctioning off all public lands in 20-40 years.

Bush advisors reject the notion that the federal government is the chief guardian of the environment. The face of Bush II policy is Gale Norton, a protégé of Reagan’s Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, remembered as the apostle of privatization and the philosopher who declared it didn’t matter how man screwed up the earth because we’d soon all be called Home.

The national park concessionaires at Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite (among others) have been skating on the thin ice of scandal for generations, protected

and encouraged by the National Park Service and politicians. Whenever “Delaware North,” the titan of concessions, comes up, droll folks put a finger to one side of the nose and push it into “broken” position. Dave Brower’s last battle was to prevent the National Park Service from “converting his temple, Yosemite, into a Profit Center.”

Mount Rainier National Park was created through the efforts and for the profit of railroads, hotels, chambers of commerce, and timber barons who were authorized to exchange worthless Northern Pacific loot (ice and flowers) for fat old trees (“lieu lands”). A site once occupied by such fat trees cuddling boundaries of the (too small) park, is proposed for a motel/swimming pool/golf course/bar complex. When pleasures there grow wearisome, customers will be comfortably motorized to views of the ice and flowers.

Near Cle Elum, on land which was public until granted to the Northern Pacific, the multinational Trendwest is building a 6225-acre Mountain Star Resort. The four-season operation exploits forests, rivers, roads, trails, and air of the adjoining Wenatchee National Forest.

A group of Leavenworth amateur actors wants to build an outdoor theater along Ski Hill Drive in Wenatchee National Forest.

The Summer-Fall 2000 *The Wild Cascades* (which see) lists 35 fee-charging outfitter/guide businesses operating with Forest Service permits in and around the Pasayten Wilderness. In this issue is a list of the likes in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Adjoining the (abandoned — why?) De Roux Campground at the head of the Teanaway River Road, High Country Horsemen Outfitters has set up headquarters, flooding trails of Wenatchee National Forest with fee-paying hikers and horsepersons and establishing “reserve out-camps” (bread and breakfast and supper too).

## Private Leeches

In 1988, the dawn of the rule of Bush I,

Terry Anderson published an article, “Inside Our Outdoor Policy.” He stressed that the provision of natural resource-based recreation on private lands (such as, the Northern Pacific Land Grant) was hampered by competition from the public sector. Fees were essential not only “to get the Forest Service off the tax habit” but to provide opportunity for private enterprise to market its Gilded Age loot.

Looking to the future (which arrived with Fee Demo in 1996), in 1987 Champion International, heir to 135,000 acres of lieu land west of Mount Rainier National Park, opened the gates to admit anyone willing to pay \$10 per person-day. Hikers did not rush in. Hunters did. The “tree farm” had no trees left standing and no trails but functioned nicely as a meat farm with good roads to transport weapons carriers and meat wagons.

In 1994 Weyerhaeuser chimed in with a \$60 a year Cascade Recreation Access Permit giving road access to the edge of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

## State Parks

December 14, 2000, the National Governors Association adopted a position, written for it by the American Recreation Coalition, endorsing state and local as well as federal user fees and also investment opportunities for the private sector at every level.

In January 2000 the Washington Institute Foundation issued a white paper, “Privatization Opportunities for Washington State Parks,” funded by the Public Policy Institute. (No wisecracks.) “By substituting the creativity of the marketplace for government monopoly, privatization can often lower costs, improve visitor services, and allow government to focus on its core functions.” (What *are* these?) “By granting State Parks the option of contracting out operations, lawmakers would respond to voter demand for greater efficiency.”

March 22, 2001, the Washington State Parks Commission placed a \$5 daily parking fee for day use of some two-thirds of state parks — all those popular enough to pay the expense of parking lot attendants

(that is, park rangers). The fee will go into effect in 2002 unless the Legislature rules otherwise. The government-is-good faction of the middle class is in an uproar. Even the underclass is heard to sob.

### Industrial-Strength Recreation/ Industrial Tourism

*Timeline* is a 1999 novel by Michael Crichton. In it an entrepreneur explains his project of time travel to reconstructed archaeological ruins in preparation for time-travel tourism: "We'll own the hotels and restaurants and shops. Tourists will pay to get into the site, but they'll spend \$500 in living expenses outside the site — to us. We'll make sure it is done tastefully, of course." A *New York Times* interview, January 28, with Mark Burnett, *Survivor* producer. Interviewer: "I believe we're going to see something like Microsoft Grand Canyon National Park." Burnett: "We couldn't care less if it's IBM Yosemite National Park. It's like, whatever. If somebody's paying to keep it up, fine. The endgame here, the game we're all in, is selling."

Viliumis Malinauskas, Lithuanian entrepreneur, is building what the Wall Street Journal describes as a "theme park that combines the charms of Disneyland with the drama of the Gulag. Customers will be herded into cattle cars and dumped off at the information center of Stalin's World. Yosemite and Grand Canyon will have to compete for the international tourist dollar ruble franc peso . . ."

### Motorization (Roadless Area Initiative)

In October 1999 President Clinton unveiled "the centerpiece of his environmental legacy" (see Summer-Fall 2000 *The Wild Cascades*). In January 2001 he declared nearly 60,000,000 acres of pristine forests off-limits to road-building and all logging except for stewardship.

The environmental community praised the concept of the initiative but not the implementation, which chartered the Forest Service as a provider of "Pay to Play".

The Blue Ribbon Coalition and the International Mountain Bike Association

were smugly pleased.

The Clinton initiative is truly historic. But by no means decisive. We still must battle motorization of the trails (see the Karl Forsgaard Chronology in these pages). But if President Clinton's initiative prevails we will come to that battle in a position of strength. If not...

At the request of Jim Hansen, R-Utah, top gunslinger in Congress for Fee Demo, Larry Craig, R-Idaho, Frank Murtowski, R-Alaska, and the like, on February 5, 2001, President Bush II delayed the initiative to May 12, 2001.

What then?

WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas & Acres:		OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas & Acres:	
Chelan	74,937.24	Liberty Bell	112,430.00*
Myrtle Lake	11,132.32	Sawtooth	128,720.00**
Stormy Mountain	32,615.70	Hungry Ridge	11,431.00
Slide Ridge	11,432.87	Black Canyon	15,410.00
Entiat	72,616.96	Long Swamp	70,180.00
Rock Creek	32,235.57	Long Draw	4,652.00
Twin Lakes	22,736.48	Tiffany	24,027.00
Canyon Creek	7,980.59	Granite Mountain	28,860.00
Heather Lake	11,736.20	South Ridge	5,510.00
Nason Ridge	19,330.71	Jackson Creek	7,381.00
Alpine Lakes Adj	54,193.84	Bodie Mountain	3,847.00
Devils Gulch	24,427.43	Mt. Bonaparte	10,790.00
Thorp Mountain	16,195.71	Clackamas Mountain	13,266.00
Teanaway	67,139.09	Total:	448,439.00
Lion Rock	4,691.58	(*35,900 Congressionally designated acres not covered by Rule)	
Naneum	4,508.92	(**42,600 Congressionally designated acres not covered by Rule)	
Taneum	22,141.61		
Quartz	8,544.87		
Manastash	11,187.62		
Norse Pk Adj	10,161.99		
William O. Douglas Adj	17,956.00		
Goat Rocks Adj	5,941.75		
Blue Slide	17,504.73		
Total	561,350.00		
(Adj=Adjacent)			



# New International Border Park

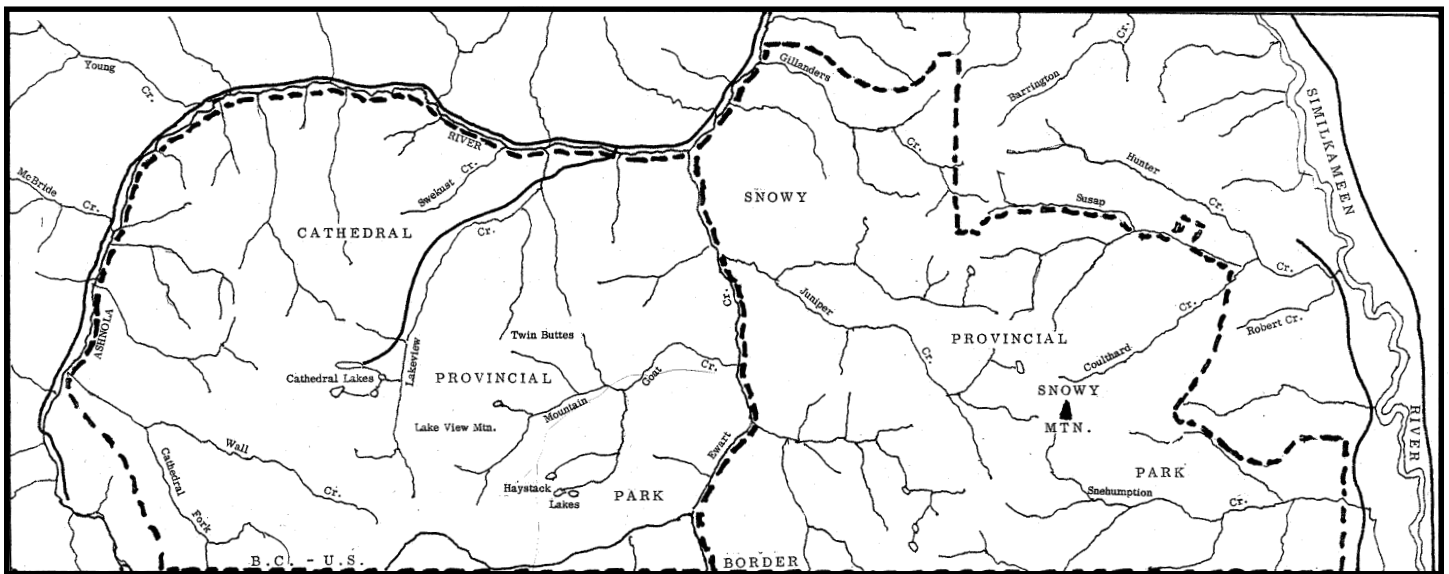
## B.C. Snowy Provincial Park and Okanagan-Shuswap Land Use Plan Completed

**A** Snowy Provincial Park will soon be created from the newly established Snowy Protected Area of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This is the most recent addition to the trans-B.C.-U.S. Border collection of ten protected areas: five in British Columbia (Chilliwack, Skagit Valley, Manning, Cathedral, and Snowy Provincial Parks) and five in the United States (North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, Mt. Baker and Pasayten Wildernesses, and North Loomis Conservation Area).

The Snowy Park, together with the Crater Mountain addition to Cathedral Provincial Park, links these protected areas with the Loomis Conservation Area of Washington state. The park will support a significant herd of California Bighorn sheep.

The Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP, completed in January 2001, has 49 protected areas and passes the B.C. target of 12 percent for land protection. This is one of the most ecologically complex areas of the province. It includes a diversity of ecosystems and biogeoclimatic zones. The region

is noted for its arid landscape, unique in Canada. The area also includes the largest number of rare, endangered, and threatened species in British Columbia. An article will cover land use planning in British Columbia in the Spring issue of *The Wild Cascades*.



*Snowy Provincial Park, British Columbia — PATRICK D. GOLDSWORTHY*



## Grazing in the Pasayten

(Excerpted from letter to Harvey Manning, NCCC board member, from Sonny J. O'Neal, Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, March 26, 2001) "Re: Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) No. R6-17-01-123 and information requests regarding grazing rights within the Pasayten Wilderness. . .

"Grazing: Three grazing permits issued to grazing permittees for livestock grazing within the Pasayten Wilderness have been waived back to the Forest Service. The grazing permittee who ran cattle on the Rimmel Cattle and Horse Allotment and the grazing permittee who ran sheep on the Horseshoe Basin and the Hart's Pass Sheep and Goat Allotments were contacted by the Methow Conservancy in Winthrop regarding their interest in discontinuing their grazing use on these three allotments. The Methow Conservancy facilitated an arrangement whereby the two permittees were paid a sum of money to waive their permits for livestock grazing on Rimmel, Horseshoe Basin, and Hart's Pass back to the Forest Service.

"This arrangement was entirely between the permittees, the Methow Conservancy, and those who came up with the funds. The Forest Service has no knowledge of who financed the arrangement or how much the permittees were paid to waive their permits back to the government. It is important to note that the

grazing privileges on these three allotments were not acquired by the purchasers nor are the permits being held by the purchasers. The permittees were paid a sum to waive their grazing permits back to the Forest Service, and subsequently releasing their grazing privileges on these allotments.

"The Rimmel Cattle and Horse allotment, the Horseshoe Basin Sheep and Goat allotment, and the Hart's Pass Sheep and Goat allotment are currently vacant and are incurring no cattle or sheep grazing. Prior to any restocking of these three allotments by livestock, the appropriate NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) analysis must occur. Conducting the NEPA analysis for these allotments is currently a low priority and it is not anticipated in the foreseeable future.

"If you have additional questions on this issue, please contact Keith Rowland at (509) 826-3067."

*Help conserve Pasayten plants*

## Environmental Analysis Pending

*(Excerpted from Washington Native Plant Society publication Douglasia 25(1) winter 2001, page 15.)*

The review of recreation impacts in the Spanish Camp and Rimmel areas coincides with the Forest Service process of renewing several outfitter-guide five-year operating permits. Analysis of the existing conditions and impacts of these commercial uses is underway, with an Environmental Analysis (EA) to be released for public review this spring. The EA should reveal the agency's plans for protecting plant resources from recreational traffic and stock grazing.

A number of measures to protect Wilderness resources are under consideration. However, the Forest Service is also proposing an increase in the amount of barren-ground core area allowed at five to seven of the outfitter-guide campsites, up from the existing Forest Plan standard of 400 square feet. It is important for WNPS members to voice our support for protecting fragile plant communities in the Pasayten and to provide meaningful feedback on the EA. Comments or questions about the above, and requests to review the EA should be directed to Jennifer Zbyszewski at the Winthrop Work Center, 24 W Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA 988546, or (509) 996-4021.

For more information on conservation of plants in the Pasayten, contact George Wooten at (509) 996-3835, [gwooten@methow.com](mailto:gwooten@methow.com) or Liz Tanke at (509) 687-5607, [liztanke@crcwnet.com](mailto:liztanke@crcwnet.com). Liz Tanke is the Eastside Field Representative for Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and Conservation Chair for the Wenatchee Chapter of WNPS.

# Saving the Wildlands of the Loomis State Forest

Patrick D. Goldsworthy

**B**rian Boyle, Commissioner of Public Lands and, as such, head of Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), established an *ad hoc* citizens committee in 1991 to review upcoming timber sales. His elected successor, Jennifer Belcher, expanded this committee in 1994 into the Loomis Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC) to establish goals and objectives for the management of the Loomis State Forest. Okanogan County sued the DNR in 1995, claiming violation of the Common School Trust Mandate by not logging to stop beetle infestation.

A preliminary draft Loomis Landscape Management Plan (LLMP) was released by DNR in December 1995 but it "aborted the ecosystem management process." In March 1996 Mark Skatrud, a lynx ecologist board member of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (NWEA), and president of Friends of Loomis Forest (FOLF), resigned from LFAC because the DNR plan ignored LFAC goals and objectives. DNR's draft LLMP, which was released for public comment in March 1996, emphasized the need for clearcuts and more than 350 miles of roads. The Okanogan County lawsuit was rejected by the court in May 1996. DNR approved the LLMP, and NWEA and FOLF continued to appeal timber sales in 1996.

In October 1996 NWEA presented a plan to "compensate foregone Loomis logging reviews through the enactment of a conservation lease." FOLF found, in February 1997, "evidence of fishers and rare forest carnivores in the Top Dog timber sale area." Two lawsuits were filed by NWEA and other conservation organizations against DNR in March 1997, claiming "road-building in Loomis roadless area is a violation of grizzly bear protection called for by the Endangered Species Act," and again in July 1997, claiming that "the LLMP would violate Washington's Clean Water statute." The Federal District Court denied a NWEA injunction to halt logging while the lawsuits were pending.

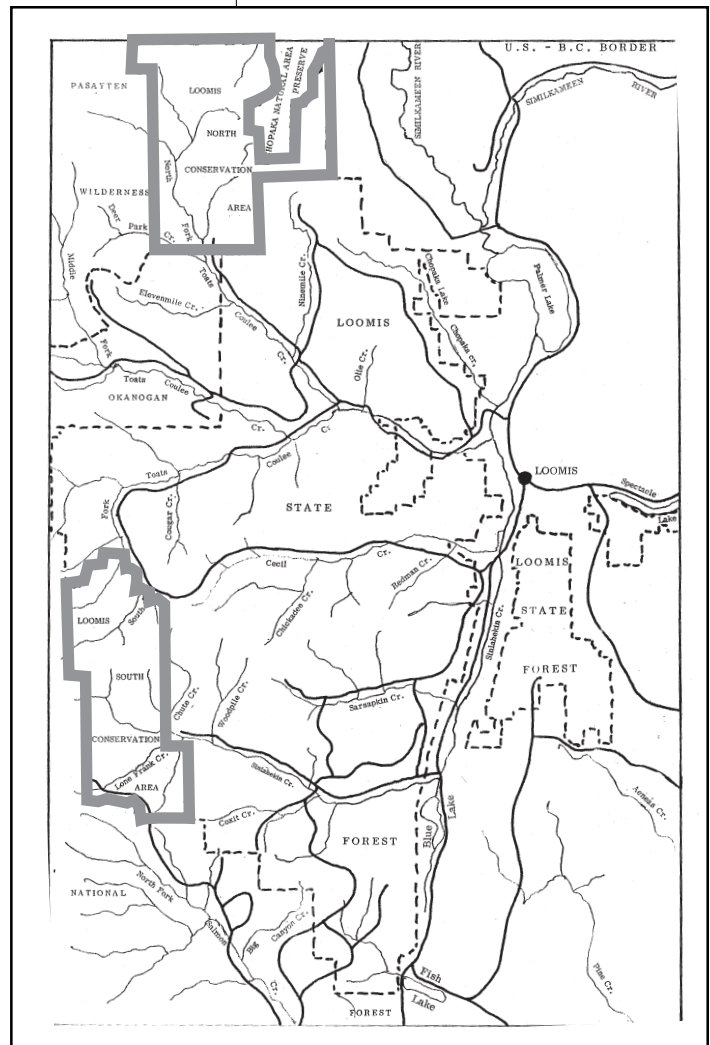
An out-of-court settlement between DNR and NWEA et al., was reached in April 1998, wherein "NWEA agreed to drop pending lawsuits and DNR agreed to protect two roadless parcels totaling 25,000 acres if NWEA and allies raise the \$13.1 million needed to compensate the Common School Trust by July 1, 1999." The Loomis Forest Fund (LFF), a coalition of 70 conservation groups, businesses, and organizations led by NWEA, had a year to raise the \$13.1 million compensation. By July 1998, \$94,817 had been raised as "earnest money that halted these timber sales for a year."

On October 5, 1999, the DNR board raised the price of transfer from \$13.1 million to \$16.54 million in response to political opponents of the transfer. This was due to the "appraisal reducing the period a hypothetical timber buyer would assume he would log these lands in 20 years instead of 80 years." However, wildlife habitat objectives could not be met in so short a time as 20 years.

Because the Loomis Forest Fund had already raised \$13.1 million, it now considered further litigation. The Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation saved the deal with a contribution

of \$3.4 million — raising the total collected from private individuals and foundations to \$16.5 million.

On January 4, 2000, the Board of Natural Resources voted unanimously on final approval of language on a "quit claim deed to transfer ownership of the (25,000-acre) Loomis Wildlands from trust status to Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) status," split into two parcels: Loomis North and Loomis South Natral Resource Conservation Areas.



*LNCA and NSCA Loomis State Forest*

— PATRICK D. GOLDSWORTHY

# Commercial Recreation on National Forests

## OUTFITTER/GUIDE PERMITS

(Excerpted from Newsletter, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District, March 8, 2001)

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: The North Cascades Conservation Council has commenced a study of commercial recreation use of wildernesses of Washington. At present, we are in a fact-finding phase.)*

For several years, outfitter/guides have been conducting a variety of group outdoor recreation activities on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Special use authorizations for these outfitter guides are typically reissued (conditional on good performance), either annually or for five-years periods.

The outfitter/guides are for-profit companies and non-profit organizations that lead their clients on these trips. Operating plans submitted by the outfitters include resource protection methods and safety procedures. Use is on well-established trails, campsites, and other use areas in backcountry and wilderness, and does not change the level of use or continue unsatisfactory environmental conditions.

The types of activities include mountain climbing, overnight backpacking trips, day hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountaineering and avalanche training.

The outfitter/guides, activity types, and months of operation are listed below at right.

OUTFITTER/GUIDE	ACTIVITY	SEASON OF USE	DISTRICTS
Alpine Ascents Intl Am. Alpine Inst.	Mountaineering	March-Sept.	MB,Dar,Sno
	Mountaineering	May-Oct.	MB,Dar,Sno
America's Adv. Base Camp, Inc.	Backpacking	June-Sept.	Dar
	Xctry ski/s.s.	Dec.-Feb.	MB,Dar
Bellevue Comm. Col. Wilderness	Mountaineering	May-Aug	MB,Dar
	Backpacking	May-Aug.	MB,Dar
	Leadership	Dec.-March	Sno
	Navig./Survival	April-May	Sno
	Wild. Scramble	April-May	Sno
	Glacier Climbing	May-July	MB,Sno
	Mountaineering	Aug.-Oct.	MB,Sno
	Backpacking	Aug.-Oct.	MB,Dar,Sky
	Mountaineering	July-Aug.	MB
	Xctry ski /s.s.	Nov.-April	All
Camp Nor'wester	Day Hiking	May-Oct.	All
	Backpacking	July-Aug.	MB,Dar
	Canoe Camping	June	MB
	Day hiking	June-Aug.	Dar
Hidden Valley Camp	Backpacking	June-Aug.	Dar
	Mountaineering	June-Oct.	Dar,Sky
	Avalanche Sem.	Dec.-March	MB,Sky
Icicle Outfitters & Guides Mountain Madness	Mountaineering	May-Sept.	MB,Dar
	Alpine ice course	May-Sept.	MB
NOLS	Mountaineering	June-Oct.	MB, Da
	Backpacking	June-Oct.	MB,Dar
NW Mt. School	Mountaineering	June-Sept.	Dar,Sky,Sno
	Day hiking	April-Oct.	Dar,Sky,Sno
Pierce College Reachout Exped.	Mountaineering	June	MB
	Xctry ski/s.s	Nov.-March	Dar,Sky,Sno
	Mountaineering	July-Aug.	MB
WWU	Backpacking	July-Aug.	MB,Dar
	Car camping	Dec.	MB
	Xctry ski/s.s., snow camping	Jan.-March	All
	Mountaineering	May-July	All
	Backpacking	July	All
Whatcom Cty Parks & Recreation	Xctry ski/s.s.	Dec.-March	MB
	Avalanche awareness	Jan.-Feb.	MB
	Snow camping	March	MB
	Snow climbing	May-June	MB
	Mountaineering	June-July	MB
Wilderness Ventures	Backpacking	June-Sept.	Dar

MB -Mt. Baker Ranger District; Dar - Darrington Ranger District; Sky -Skykomish Ranger District; Sno-Snoqualmie Ranger District

## Cascades ORV Litigation Chronology

KARL FORSGAARD

1972 — Washington State enacts statutes called NOVA (Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities), providing state gas-tax funding for off-road vehicle (ORV) trail construction projects on public lands, including National Forest roadless areas.

1984 — Washington Wilderness Act creates new federal Wilderness areas. Several other roadless areas had popular support but were omitted from the Act, including Entiat and Dark Divide, and ORV use continues in those areas.

1990 — Forest Plans issued for several national forests in Washington. ORV exclusion from the North Entiat is one of the few new ORV restrictions.

1992 — Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) sues the Forest Service over the ban of ORVs in North Entiat. NCCC is one of several groups intervening in the lawsuit to support the Forest Service decision. The US District Court upholds the ban, and NMA appeals.

1994 — US Court of Appeals affirms the North Entiat decision, and publishes the opinion.

1995 — Twelve non-motorized groups led by Washington Trails Association

(WTA) file lawsuit to stop NOVA-funded ORV construction projects in Dark Divide roadless area.

1996 — US District Court stops the Dark Divide ORV construction projects.

1997 — NCCC and several other groups file administrative appeal of Goose-Maverick NOVA-funded ORV construction project adjacent to Mad River portion of Entiat roadless area; Forest Service denies appeal.

1999 — NCCC and several other groups file lawsuit, and US District Court issues decision stopping the Goose-Maverick ORV project.

2001 — Conservation and recreation groups continue efforts to reform NOVA through legislative and administrative processes.

## NOVA Reform

### *Progress made on a rough trail*

PHIL COCHRAN

Excerpted from WTA's publication, *Signpost*.

WTA and other members of the Fair Trails Coalition returned to Olympia this legislative session to advocate for NOVA reform and fair trails funding.

The Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) was established to compensate outdoor recreationists who contribute to the state gas tax revenue while driving off of state-maintained roads. All trail users consume gas, whether riding motorized dirtbikes on trails or driving on Forest Service roads to hike, climb, horse ride, cross-country ski, mountain bike, hunt, fish, berry pick, etc... NOVA refunds that portion of the gas tax for trail projects, putting \$3 to \$5 million into trails annually.

Ostensibly, those who pay the tax should get a proportional benefit. Yet **80%** of NOVA funds go to motorized dirtbike and other off-road-vehicle (ORV) trail projects, leaving only **20%** for non-motorized projects. This is despite recent recreational data showing that **non-motorized trail users outnumber motorized users by a ratio of 4 to 1!**

While these numbers don't give a perfect sense of fuel-use, they definitely suggest that current allocations might very well be unfair and that a fuel-use study should be done. The results would determine what portion of the refund each user group should receive. Unfortunately, ORV proponents have advocated against a fuel-use study for years; and the NOVA agency has yet to conduct a fuel-use study of various motorized and non-motorized trail users, despite policy recommendations to do so in their own program plans.

Much has happened in the area of NOVA reform since last month's issue. HB 1653, the "NOVA reform bill," was replaced by HB 2171, the "NOVA study bill." The bill's co-sponsors felt this was the

best way to pass it out of the House Transportation Committee, which it did with strong bipartisan support and a vote of 29 to 1.

HB 2171 then went to the House Rules Committee, where it passed and was scheduled for a full floor vote. Unfortunately, the party caucuses couldn't reach an agreement on the bill and ran out of time on our bill before the vote could be cast.

However, the concept of NOVA reform is still very much alive. We are optimistic that a study can be commissioned through the budget process this year, and NOVA reform will continue to move forward.

If we succeed, the agency would complete a study of fuel usage among various trail user groups by January 2003. The results of the study would then be submitted to the legislature with the recommendation that NOVA funds be reallocated accordingly. While we steadfastly support stronger protection of the backcountry and an immediate reallocation, WTA believes the new fuel-use study bill is fair and reasonable.

Although we would have to wait a couple of years for the results, it is safe to presume that non-motorized trail users would finally get a much bigger share of the NOVA pie, and all non-motorized users—hikers, horsepackers, mountain bikers alike—would see some real improvements on the ground.

Prior to the legislative session, ORV proponents claimed to be supportive of a study. But when it came time to actually help pass the study bill, they fought us once again. They objected to using dedicated NOVA funds for the study, saying that it should come from the General Fund. In light of the current budget crisis, this is clearly an unrealistic demand. Furthermore, both the snowmobile and recreational boating accounts, which are periodically required to conduct studies of their own fuel usage, use their own funds for the

studies rather than using General Fund money.

ORV proponents also complained that this is simply a matter of WTA trying to steal their trail money. What they refuse to acknowledge is that it never was their money in the first place. If HB 2171 were to pass, an independent study would finally determine what the proper fund allocation should be and the issue of whose money it really is would finally be laid to rest.

Looking back to where we were a year ago in our efforts on NOVA reform, we should all feel proud of the progress we have made. But there is still much work to be done. Passage of a NOVA study bill would be step in the right direction on a trail badly in need of repair.

## KUDOS AND THANK YOU

Many thanks to Representatives Mitchell (R-30), Cooper (D-21), Fisher (D-27), Ericksen (R-42), and Haigh (D-35) for co-sponsoring HB 2171. Kudos to Representative Cooper, who has championed NOVA reform from the beginning. Special thanks to Representative Mitchell, who stuck her neck out on a difficult issue and fought very hard on our behalf.

Thanks as well to the more than thirty conservation and recreation groups, outfitters and other businesses and organizations who have signed on so far in support of NOVA reform. You help us make the case that our support truly is statewide and diverse.

## WALT WOODWARD 1910-2001

When Walt Woodward died, March 13, he was widely honored in the press. Rightly so. Not Congress, not the president of the United States, not the Supreme Court took action to prevent the Nazi-like uprooting of citizens from their homes and deportation to concentration camps. The press, too, was dumbed to silence by the Army generals who could not keep their aircraft from being destroyed — on the ground! — in Hawaii and the Philippines but could take revenge on Americans of Japanese ancestry. There was a voice, though. The editor-publisher of the Bainbridge Review, Walt Woodward. On March 20, 1942, 274 friends and neighbors of Walt and his wife, Millie, were the first victims of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. The weekly newspaper on Bainbridge Island did not let this shameful episode in the nation's history go unprotested. Years later, Walt served as the inspiration for a character in David Guterson's bestselling novel (and movie) *Snow Falling on Cedars*. We met Walt as the battle was heating up for a North Cascades National Park. We'd been barraging the press for some years

with essays on the issue. To good effect on the New York Times, but none visible locally. Then came Walt. He informed us that the editorial page director of the Seattle Times, Ross Cunningham, had hired him as a roving columnist. "Ross told me," to quote Walt, "What you write about is up to you. No interference. But if you wouldn't mind, I'd appreciate your taking on the North Cascades. I've been following the situation a long while and my personal conclusion is that the answer is a national park." Walt went at it with a will. He interviewed us, he interviewed our opponents, objectively all the way, letting each side speak its own piece. Needless to say, our opponents damned themselves with their own words and we came up smelling like roses. We happily matched his objectivity by reprinting the entire series, a dozen and more columns, in a special issue of our *Wild Cascades*. While the tributes pour in from far and wide for "How the Woodwards Fought a War," the headline of Gordy Holt's article in the March 15, 2001 Seattle Post-Intelligencer, tack on this footnote of ours. Thank you, Walter and Millie.

# The Homework List:

Excerpted from Ron C. Judd's column, Seattle Times, April 1, 2001 (Ron Judd, Seattle Times (206-464-8280, e-mail rjudd@seattletimes.com))

E-mail or phone your congressional representatives. And don't just whine about user fees. Make sure the representative you're writing also knows that you demand

a permanent level of funding for recreation on federal lands sufficient to prevent this kind of nonsense well into the future.

# The Contact List

*(Clip and save for future D.C. atrocities):*

- Senator Patty Murray (D); 202-224-2621, 206-553-5545; senator—murray@murray.senate.gov
- Senator Maria Cantwell (D); 202-224-3441, 206-220-6400; http://cantwell.senate.gov/mailform.html

- Representatives, see: http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW.html
- To use the Forest Service official fee-demo comment form, go to: http://www.fs/fed/us/recreation/fee—demo/comment-form.html

Ask vendors to stop selling Northwest Forest Pass and other passes. Or, if you dare, commit civil disobedience and refuse to pay the fee. You risk being fined \$50 if you park in a Northwest Forest Pass lot without displaying a permit.

***Remember: Whatever you do to protest walking across land you already own, do it with the knowledge that you're not alone,***

# Membership Application

Be part of the North Cascades Conservation Council's Advocacy of the North Cascades. Join the NCCC. Support the North Cascades Foundation. Help us help protect North Cascades wilderness from overuse and development.

NCCC membership dues (one year): \$10 low income/student; \$20 regular; \$25 family; \$50 Contributing; \$100 patron; \$1,000 sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with NCCC membership.

*Please check the appropriate box(es):*

**I wish membership in NCCC**

**The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC)**, formed in 1957, works through legislative, legal and public channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife of the North Cascades ecosystem. Non-tax-deductible, it is supported by dues and donations. A 501(c)4 organization.

**I wish to support NCF**

**The North Cascades Foundation (NCF)** supports the NCCC's non-political legal and educational efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization.

This is a  **NCCC Membership**  **NCCC Renewal Membership**  **Gift** NCCC \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  **Donation to NCF** NCF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please cut, enclose check and mail form and check to:

**NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

**Membership Chair L. Zalesky**

**2433 Del Campo Drive ▲ Everett, WA 98208**

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(WITH CREDIT TO: RON C. JUDD, SEATTLE TIMES, APRIL 15, 2001)

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