

**THE
COUNCIL
REPORT**



Vol.2, No.1

Spring 1993

The Council Report is a digest of the March 28, 1993 board of directors meeting. In order to inform you of the work being done by your officers and board of directors, the secretary has condensed the minutes of that meeting. We encourage your response to The Report. This publication will not replace The Wild Cascades which deals with issues in far more depth and is our publication of record.

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Environmental Impact Statement Delay Requested

Frustrated over the inadequacy of the National Park Service planning in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, the Board of Directors of the *North Cascades Conservation Council* in 1988 authorized a legal suit to ensure good management practices. In 1991 the National Park Service settled out of court and agreed to a consent decree establishing an Environmental Impact Statement for the area.

The National Park Service has now indicated that they will be unable to complete the E.I.S. in the time set by the consent decree under North Cascades Conservation Council v. Lujan. The consent decree stated that NPS would be required to finish this by October 1993; they are now asking for an extension until March 1995.

The chief reasons given for being unable to complete by this date include: 1) unanticipated volume and complexity of data to collect and properly document; 2) several changes in key management and staff positions on the western team of NPS Denver Service Center and at park headquarters in Sedro Woolley and loss of time as new individuals become familiar with the project; 3) and NPS recognition of the benefits of increasing the amount of public involvement beyond that required under NEPA.

The new deadlines that the NPS would pursue if we agree to extend the date would be March 1994, release of the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement; February 1995, release the Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement; and March 1995, issuance of Record of Decision.

Our Response to the Request

President David Fluharty of the *North Cascades Conservation Council* spoke to Stephan Volker of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, who had prepared this case for us. Even though President Fluharty and Volker feel that we have given NPS plenty of time to complete the E.I.S. project, we could

lose in the quality of the E.I.S. if we turned down the request. Fluharty's and Volcker's reply to the Superintendent Bill Palek said in part:

"In particular, we are concerned that significant resource allocation decisions might be made by the Park Service during this interim period, prejudicing your final decision on the General Management Plan and Final E.I.S. Therefore, we ask that you kindly furnish us with a list of the significant resource allocations and management decisions affecting public lands and waters within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area you expect to make prior to your projected completion of the General Management Plan and Final E.I.S. in March 1995."

In addition, the *North Cascades Conservation Council* proposed that the National Park Service complete the public/private properties in the Stehekin Valley. *North Cascades Conservation Council* observed that "Boundary uncertainties will continue to contaminate and frustrate good land planning and management practices in the area."

NCCC needs to be convinced that all issues in the consent decree are considered in the new plans and the E.I.S. such as issuance of permits to extend, expand and renew the water line being. Another would be the non-conforming airstrip special use permit which comes up for renewal for 1994. Will the National Park Service issue a five year permit or will it limit the duration to a shorter time so that a full review of impacts can be made in 1995. this non-conforming use be reviewed as part of the E.I.S.? Just what will be up for review?

The NPS has indicated that it is very much interested in doing the property and

boundary survey, but they do not feel they can obtain funding to complete it by the deadline.

The following resolution was passed by the Board of Directors in pursuance of our goals:

"The *North Cascades Conservation Council* agrees to a National Park Service request to extend the date of completion to March 1995 for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Environmental Impact Statement from the date demanded under the judicial consent decree if the National Park Service agrees to meet our concerns that resource allocation decisions not be made during this interim period that would prejudice the final outcome of the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement."

"Understanding Forests and Preserving Timber Jobs"

Spurred on by the Forest Conference in Portland, Director Bruce Barnbaum presented his paper on "Understanding Forests and Preserving Timber Jobs." He pointed out that his research concludes and his paper demonstrates that today's primary forestry method, clear cutting, is not viable for sustainable forestry or protection of wildlife and other resources. The outmoded system must be abolished. "Clear cutting is contradictory to the cycles of nature, and cannot be sustained for more than several cutting and replanting cycles. In the long run it will prove to be disastrous. In the short run it is equally disastrous, because of the accelerated erosion it creates, its fragmentation of the ecosystem, and its devastating effect on jobs of timber workers."

His research has shown him that there are other profitable methods of forestry that have been practiced for nearly half a century by John Wilkinson of B.C. who logs in a way to replicate conditions of old growth forests. Others, also, have experience for over a century that can serve as a model for sustainable forestry into the foreseeable future.

These newer methods, he believes, must be adopted in the United States and worldwide if we are to maintain the world's forests and with them all life on earth.

Plans for an International Park

Fluharty stated that *North Cascades Conservation Council* is recruiting a group of environmental/conservation organizations for an effort to create an international park. This park would involve lands within British Columbia and join with North Cascades National Park and other wilderness areas. The suggestion has received some attention on B.C. T.V. In an effort to more fully publicize the project, Mitch Friedman has been working on a video to be shown in Canada and the U.S.

A conference on the international park concept is in the development stage. The conference should occur sometime this year or early next year. Canadian groups, also, are organizing for an international rally in June to bring attention to this joint endeavor. They will be inviting all of us to come up to B.C. and join in.

Del Crane, National Parks and Conservation Association, and David Fluharty will be making a presentation to the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission April 14 in an attempt elicit funds to brief the Commission.

North Cascades National Park 1968 -1993: 25th Anniversary

The Board of Directors agreed to pursue the possibility of a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the North Cascades National Park and Complex. The Mountaineer Clubrooms will be sought as a location for the celebration dinner. If the room is available, the caterer at The Mountaineer building would be used. Expect to receive your invitation in early fall 1993.

Results of Annual Elections

The following people were re-elected to the Board of Directors for three year terms:

Thomas Brucker
Mitch Friedman
Peter Hurley
Conway Leovy
Grant McConnell
Jim McConnell
Ken Wilcox

The following were elected as officers

Chair of the Board - Patrick Goldsworthy
President - David Fluharty
Vice-president - Jim McConnell
Secretary - Phil Zalesky
Treasurer - Joe Miller
Executive Committee at-large:
Marc Bardsley
Charles Ehlert

The North Cascades Conservation Council was founded in 1957 for the purposes of protecting and preserving the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values from the Columbia River to the U.S.-Canadian border.

The Council Report is published by The North Cascades Conservation Council. The Council may be reached by writing to the organization at P.O. Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-1980

OFFICERS

Board Chairman	Patrick D. Goldsworthy
President	David Fluharty
Vice-president	Jim McConnell
Secretary	Philip Zalesky
Treasurer	Joseph Miller

Yes, I would like to recommend that the following be contacted in order that they may have an opportunity to join the North Cascades Conservation Council.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Membership

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Low income/student	\$10

North Cascades Conservation Council

P.O. Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, WA 98145-1980

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit #8602**