

**THE
COUNCIL
REPORT**



Vol.3.No.2

October 1992

The Council Report is a digest of the September 26, 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. This publication does not replace The Wild Cascades which deals with issues in far more depth and is our publication of record.

Come Join the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Park

Yes, it has been 25 years since the creation of North Cascades National Park. And the members of North Cascades Conservation Council know whom to credit. No, the politicians who took most of the credit are not what we have in mind. It was you the citizens of this great Northwest and from all over the country that made it happen. True, North Cascades Conservation Council pointed the way, but it was citizen support that did the trick. Remember the House Interior Committee hearings at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Seattle. Representative Wayne Aspinall had near apoplexy when 800 people showed up for the hearings asking to testify. The ratio for the park was 3 to 1. And that does not even consider all the letters you sent.

So now it is time to reminisce and tell your war stories to your friends and listen to their stories, too.

You all received the invitations, I'm certain. But in case you misplaced this letter, you have until October 29 to make arrangements. You can call our new office at 1-206-343-2312 and talk to our Special Projects Coordinator Kevin Herrick. If he is out on a project, leave your message on the recorder, and he will return your call.

The Council has not set out to make money on the dinner. However, you will have an opportunity to make proper donations if you want copies of the Manning Sierra Club publication, The Wild Cascades, and other publications or videos we may have available. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 (about what the caterer is charging us). You should make a choice between a salmon or prime rib dinner. If you want vegetarian or require special dietary considerations, you will need to inform Kevin by telephone.

Keynote speaker - David Brower
Where: The Mountaineer
Clubrooms

300 3rd Ave. W
Seattle

Time:

6:00 P.M. No host bar

7:00 Dinner

When:

November 6, 1993 (Saturday)

See you there!

Mr. President, We Object

The North Cascades Conservation Council having worked for the protection of the entire North Cascades and seeing the failure of the Clinton Forest Plan to consider biological science and aspects of whole ecosystems, strongly object to Option 9 of the Plan.

As an illustration of its detrimental affects, we strongly protest the exclusion of three important watersheds from protected status as "Late Successional Reserves." The Council urges that federal lands in Rocky, Diobsud, and Bacon Creek drainages be placed in the system of Late Successional Reserves being established under the Clinton Forest Plan.

The weaknesses of preferred Option 9 of the plan concern us because the Skagit drainage from Rockport to the boundaries of North Cascade National Park have lands referred to in the report as "Matrix Areas." This means Rocky Creek, Diobsud Creek, and Bacon Creek watersheds are left in unprotected status. (Protected areas are called Late Successional Reserves in the report. i.e., "a forest that is mature and/or in old growth stages that is reserved under each option of this report." These are probably the same areas that were concluded to be Spotted Owl Habitat Areas.) (Matrix Areas - areas that would undoubtedly be logged.)

What is at stake is the failure to consider the science of mature forests and ecosystems containing watersheds. There are indispensable non-vertebrate species at the base of an ecological pyramid which could collapse the ecosystem if not addressed scientifically. This includes the fungi and mycorrhizae symbiotic associations. The Clinton plan is deliberately one of political expediency and not the best choice of several plans to protect this pyramid sustaining the mature forest association.

The North Cascades Conservation Council has taken a lead and worked in conjunction with the National Park Service, USFS, other federal and state agencies, tribal, and environmental interests to develop a long-term habitat plan. This entails mitigation for damage done in the past by the Seattle City Light dam projects on the upper Skagit River. This mitigation is now part of Seattle City Light's request to FERC for renewal of their license on the Skagit. This major settlement is pending with FERC.

If the USFS were to carry out here the matrix area proposals in the Clinton Forest Plan, many of the measures in this mitigation settlement would be affected by loss of habitat in the Skagit and its tributaries. What would be lost if these areas are logged? Habitats for endangered owls, wolves, bald eagles, and grizzly bears as well as other species like the fisher dependent on old, undisturbed forest ecosystems. Logging would further degrade the habitat for declining runs of coho, chinook, and steelhead in these creeks and in the Skagit River as well.

The internationally renowned Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area could be adversely affected. This is the center piece for the Skagit River dams mitigation and its cooperative, innovative effort.

A verbal promise outside the written proposal to spare these areas by any present Forest Supervisor would likely be meaningless to future supervisors. The USFS itself is manager of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Skagit. Its own efforts to protect wildlife habitat and provide for outdoor recreation would be obviated by destruction of upstream watersheds.

Grizzly Bear Decision Time

The Grizzly Bear plan is to be published in November of 1993. The position of North Cascades Conservation Council up to this point has been to wait to see if there was to be a plan. President Fluharty says that there definitely will be a recovery plan and it is also clear bears are in the Cascades. Fluharty says that he has been receiving telephone calls about our Council's position on grizzly recovery. Therefore, he feels the time has come to expand our position one way or another.

Since grizzly bears are an integral part of the North Cascades Ecosystem, the North Cascades Conservation Council resolved that a management program should be adopted that will ensure the successful recovery of a viable population.

The Council is not giving prior approval to a management plan, but stating its own position as to management. Special Project Coordinator Herrick has had discussion with the grizzly bear recovery team.

It is his understanding that the plan may call for the addition of one bear per ten years. Swaps for grizzlies elsewhere may be made to keep the genetic strain viable. As far as closures are concerned, the only closures will likely be road closures. He further noted that this may be to our advantage in closing roads that bring sheep and cows into wilderness areas. Herrick pointed out that the closures that have been used elsewhere have not involved hikers, but have included mostly road closures and other undesirable elements. What will be done is mostly seasonal anyway, and hikers should be only slightly involved.

Change Is Coming

President Fluharty announced that he would be stepping down as president as of the annual meeting in March 1994.

There was a general realization that we had no one willing to spend the time and energy to do the kind of job he has done over the years. All recognize and understand that Fluharty has a responsibility to get on with his career in a professional academic situation. He has made considerable sacrifice to do what he has been doing.

This led to discussion on how the organization should be structured to meet the change that must come.

Mitch Friedman, Ken Wilcox, Conrad Leovy, Betty Manning, and Laura Zalesky were appointed as a committee to lay out a plan to re-structure the operation of the Board of Directors and the organization.

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

North Cascades Conservation Council
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Seattle, WA 98145-1980

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

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