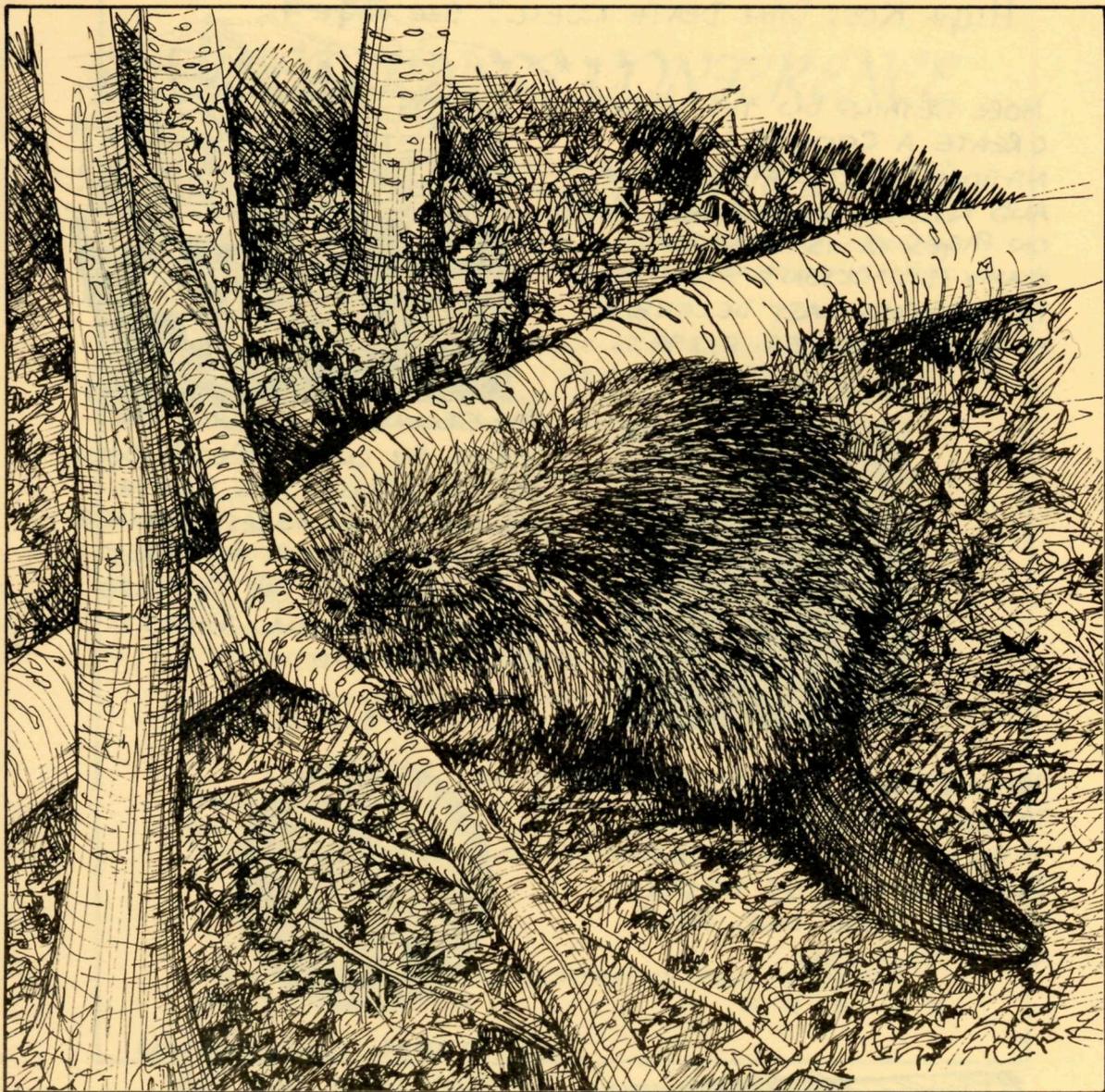


THE WILD CASCADES

December 1971 - January 1972

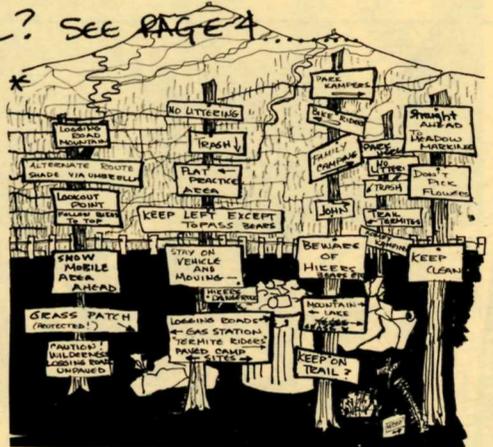


FEATURED

in this issue---

HIGH ROSS DAM DEATH KVELL? SEE PAGE 4

MORE DETAILS ON THE DRIVE TO CREATE A COUGAR LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND MT. AIX WILDERNESS. READ ON PAGES 12-15 SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON'S STATEMENT TO CONGRESS LAST DECEMBER AS HE INTRODUCES S. 2997.



THE SECOND IN A THREE PART SERIES BY OUR CORRESPONDENT AT THE FRONT. THIS MONTH WE LEARN OF FOREST SERVICE MISTREATMENT OF THE SPIRIT LAKE AREA IN THE GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST. SEE PAGES 6-11.



MONEY STILL NEEDED TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES IN THE I-90 LAWSUIT! READ ON PAGES 22 THRU 26 DETAILS OF THE CASE AND HELP US IF YOU CAN.



5th ANNUAL CONSERVATION GARDEN SALE TIME FAST APPROACHING. SEE PAGE 21 FOR DETAILS.



NORTHWEST WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9 are the dates to save for the Ninth Biennial Northwest Wilderness Conference to be held in the Eames Theater, Pacific Science Center, Seattle. The Conference, sponsored by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the North Cascades Conservation Council and other cooperating organizations, will focus primarily on problems of wilderness in Alaska and Canada.

Sigurd F. Olson, conservationist, author and wilderness devotee, is to speak at the Saturday Banquet. Congressman Mike McCormack will talk about "Energy" as well as proposals for Wilderness in the Alpine Lakes and Cougar Lakes areas, at the Saturday luncheon.

A panel of active Alaskan conservationists will include Jack Hession, Sierra Club Alaskan representative, Art Davidson of Friends of the Earth, and a spokesman for the Alaska Conservation Society. Dr. George W. Rogers of the University of Alaska will review "Alaska Today". The University of California at Santa Cruz will be represented by a group reporting its 1971 scenic and wilderness studies in Alaska's Wrangell Mts. and Dr. Richard A. Cooley discussing the Polar Bear and its Politics. A panel of officials administering Alaska's public lands and waters will also participate.

Northern Canadian conservation issues will be reviewed by Kenneth G. Farquharson of B. C. and John Lammers of the Yukon Territory.

A film festival on Friday evening April 7, will precede the formal conference which will open on Saturday, April 8 at 7:00 AM and close Sunday afternoon, April 9. Further information is available from the Conference chairman, Mrs. John (Polly) Dyer, (EM4-3933).

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM, PLEASE SEE
INSERT AT CENTERFOLD.

High Ross Dam Appears To Be Doomed

BY LARRY McCARTEN

A high Ross Dam appeared doomed yesterday.

Conservationists unveiled a campaign that promises to stop City Light from raising the level of the dam by 122 feet and pushing impounded waters of the Skagit River farther back into British Columbia.

If the campaign succeeds — and indications are that it will — it would be one of the greatest victories in the region for conservation forces.

The matter of raising the dam is expected to be brought before the council again — and this time, instead of a 6-2 vote favoring the high dam, the outcome is expected to be 5-4 against it.

The key to the campaign was election of Bruce Chapman and John Miller to the City Council last year. Both are conservation-minded and both are expected to oppose raising the dam.

They thus would join with Councilmen Tim Hill and Sam Smith and Councilwoman Phyllis Lamphere to provide a majority vote against raising the dam.

When the council on Dec. 14, 1970, approved a high dam, Hill and Mrs. Lamphere cast the only "no" votes. Smith was absent that day, but declared yesterday that he will vote a solid "no" if the matter comes up again.

Voting for raising the dam were Council members George Cooley; Liem Eng Tuai, now council president; Wayne Larkin; Jeanette Williams; Charles M. Carroll and Ted Best.

Miller replaced Carroll on Jan. 10 and Chapman replaced Ken Rogers last Nov. 29. Rogers replaced Best.

Two attorneys, Richard Aramburu and Thomas Brucker, representing the North Cascades Conservation Council, called on Cooley yesterday. Cooley was chairman of the council's Utilities Committee at the time of the 1970 dispute over raising the dam.

Cooley said the attorneys told him there had been new developments on the Ross Dam issue that the council should consider.

One of the developments mentioned, Cooley said, is the fact that John Biggs, head of the State Department of Ecology, has said he will oppose raising of the dam at the hearing before the Federal Power Commission.

Another is a critical report by the International Joint Commission, a six-member U.S.-Canadian advisory group on water-power issues.

Cooley said Aramburu suggested to him that "the Canadians probably will kill the high dam" and the council thus should reconsider the issue.

Cooley told The Post-Intelligencer:

"I would hope the two new members of the council would not take a position on this matter without being fully informed."

Chapman said he, too, has talked with conservation leaders about the dam matter and was "very impressed with their arguments." But Chapman said:

"I am not prepared at this time to state definitely how I would vote should the matter come before the council."

Miller also said he cannot say how he would vote, until making a thorough study of all the aspects. He explained:

"If they are talking of new developments, I have to take a look at these first. There are, of course, a lot of factors to be considered besides environmental damage."

But observers of Miller's and Chapman's conservation-keyed campaigns had little doubt that they would oppose the high dam.

Mayor Wes Uhlman also opposed raising the dam and instructed then-City Light Supt. John Nelson not to file the application with the FPC. However, the council, by the 6-2 vote, overrode Uhlman's order and the application was filed.

Uhlman last week nominated Richard D. Ford, Port of Seattle legal officer, to succeed the retired Nelson as boss of City Light. Ford faces a fight for confirmation by the council, because several council members question his lack of utility management experience.

Uhlman, when he nominated Ford for the post, remarked that he expects the philosophies of the leadership of City Light and the mayor's office to be the same in the immediate future.

Raising Ross Dam by 122 feet would provide 38,000 more kilowatts of base power and 140,000 kilowatts of peaking power, Cooley said. He declared the city needs the power and warned of future shortages. The hearing before the FPC has not been scheduled and only preliminary planning can be done before the hearing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 9:00 A. M., EAMES THEATER, SEATTLE

LA BOHN GAP LAWSUIT ENDS

The La Bohn Gap case is now closed and we hope it can so remain. On the 27th of December, 1971 the United States District Court ordered "that plaintiffs' complaint and intervenors' counterclaim are hereby dismissed without prejudice and without costs".

The case opened on April 14, 1970 when the plaintiffs - Alpine Lakes Protection Society, North Cascades Conservation Council and Sierra Club - filed suit against the defendants - Clifford Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture, Edward P. Cliff, Chief U. S. Forest Service, Charles A. Connaughton, Regional Forester - Region Six, and L. O. Barrett, Supervisor Snoqualmie National Forest - to prevent construction of a "super-trail" that would facilitate mining at La Bohn Gap by Cougar Development Corp. On the 13th of July 1970 this mining corporation entered the case as intervenor with a counterclaim against the plaintiffs for "wrongful and officious intermeddling".

Abandonment of the "super-trail" project occurred on September 28th when the Snoqualmie National Forest agreed to terminate its Cooperative Agreement (dated August 26, 1969) with Cougar Development Corporation and to refund the \$39,215.35 deposited by this corporation. As a consequence of the issues in the case thus becoming moot, plaintiffs, defendants and intervenor agreed to the dismissal of the case.

This is not to say that the question of mining at La Bohn Gap has been permanently resolved. At some future date Cougar Development Corporation may apply to the U. S. Forest Service for access to the mine site again. However, the issues which would be involved at such time may very well be different from those raised in this case. Cougar Development's threat to the Alpine Lakes wilderness still remains and we will have to watch continuously for any signs of renewed activity.

We are indebted to David G. Knibb for the very fine work he did on this case and to his firm Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, and Tausend for the very modest nature of the fees charged for services. We are also grateful to The Mountaineers (Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett), the Sierra Club (National, Pacific Northwest Chapter, and Puget Sound Group), and the Alpine Lakes Protection Society for their generosity in sharing with us the plaintiffs expenses of \$1400.



Gyro-carrier.

WHY WE NEED A MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL MONUMENT PART II

(Editor's Note: The following is Part II of a three part series. Part I appeared in the August-September 1971 issue of THE WILD CASCADES. Part III will appear in a subsequent issue.

(Author's Note: Part One dealt with Forest Service mistreatment of the fragile pumice soils in the region north of Spirit Lake. Part Two is concerned with its mismanagement of the scenic and recreational resources of the Mt. St. Helens area, and with the threats posed by private holdings and mining claims.)

THE SPIRIT LAKE BACKCOUNTRY

The South Cascades of Washington are, for the most part, gentler than the ranges to the north. There is less evidence of glaciation; the valleys are not so deep and steep-sided and the ridges not so sharp; cirque lakes are fewer. The exception that proves the rule, however, is a nugget of spectacular beauty which we call the Spirit Lake Backcountry, just north of Mt. St. Helens. The heart of this backcountry is the deep and narrow valley of the Green River, a tributary of the Toutle. High up on both sides of the Green some 20 lakes lie in glacier-carved basins hidden in the forested mountainside, lakes with names like Island, Tradedollar, Deadman's, Ghost, Obscurity. The trail along the river itself is one of the very few remaining low elevation (2500 ft.) forest trails in the South Cascades.

The superb Spirit Lake Backcountry is a national treasure and deserves better treatment than that which has overtaken most of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. As things seem to be going, it is likely to suffer the same fate, or worse.

Logging Roads and Clearcuts

Already a mangle of clearcuts has broken out at one point of the Green River Valley where the Forest Service and owners of some private inholdings are hastening to convert the entire valley to a logging show before the people find out - too late - what has happened to their land. The Action Plan for the Green is typical: to construct a logging road right along the river for its entire length from its source near Meta Lake down to Miner's Creek, and to pay for this road from timber receipts. Of course, the Green River Valley is not tree farm country. The relatively infertile valley bottom is narrow, only 1/8 to 1/2 mile wide. The steep sides of the valley are entirely unsuited for so-called intensive forest management, and for the most part are unsuited to any logging at all with the possible exception of helicopter or balloon logging. But the timber in this valley has for years been included in the allowable cut calculations for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. If the Green River Valley were withdrawn from timber mining, it would mean a drop of a few percent in the allowable cut for the forest as a whole. Bear in mind that few things are a greater source of pride to many a Forest Service administrator than his ability to get out the allowable cut, and maybe a little extra. Thus there is no reason to expect the Forest Service to voluntarily amend its plans to road and log the valley. The intentions of private owners such as Burlington Northern Railroad (formerly Northern Pacific Railroad - the name is new but the product is the same) to clearcut their scattered holdings in the valley neatly fit in with Forest Service plans. The Forest Service and industry can happily "share costs".

The Great Land Exchange

Both the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company have agreed on the terms of an exchange of lands to block up their respective holdings in this area. The terms of this agreement are not available to the public, naturally. We'll find out after the deal is consummated. But a general idea of the exchange is known, and the picture isn't too pleasant. To those of us who are learning about the road-building and timber harvest practices on Weyerhaeuser lands, the proposal to exchange is not attractive. For sheer rapacity, this outfit equals any in the business. Take some examples:

- (1) The Fawn Lake Fire of 1970. This fire, on Weyerhaeuser lands just west of



Mt. St. Helens looms over Spirit Lake

Forest Service photo

the National Forest boundary, resulted from careless slash-burning in the summertime. After the dry east wind finally died down the toll was about 5000 acres, most of it green timber. The Forest Service apparently failed to learn a lesson from this bad example since they tried the same trick in summer, 1971, again with unfortunate results.

(2) Logging literally to the water on Oregon's Mollalla River (authenticated by photograph on file). Many small trees were dropped into the river and left there.

(3) Enormous clearcuts, reported as great as 2000 acres, with the expected effects on the soils, streams, runoff, fisheries, and wildlife, and, of course, the timber resource itself. The Company is currently being sued for flood damage resulting from their overcutting of the Toutle watershed.

(4) Continued heavy-handed use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, and tree poisons.

(5) Clearing a stream near Coos Bay, Oregon of logging debris by running a bulldozer in the stream bed (authenticated by photograph on file.) It is shocking enough that debris was permitted to get into the stream in the first place.

(6) Clearing a stream (Dollar Creek, a tributary of the Toutle) again by running a bulldozer in the stream bed. For this "common practice" Weyerhaeuser paid a small fine in court.

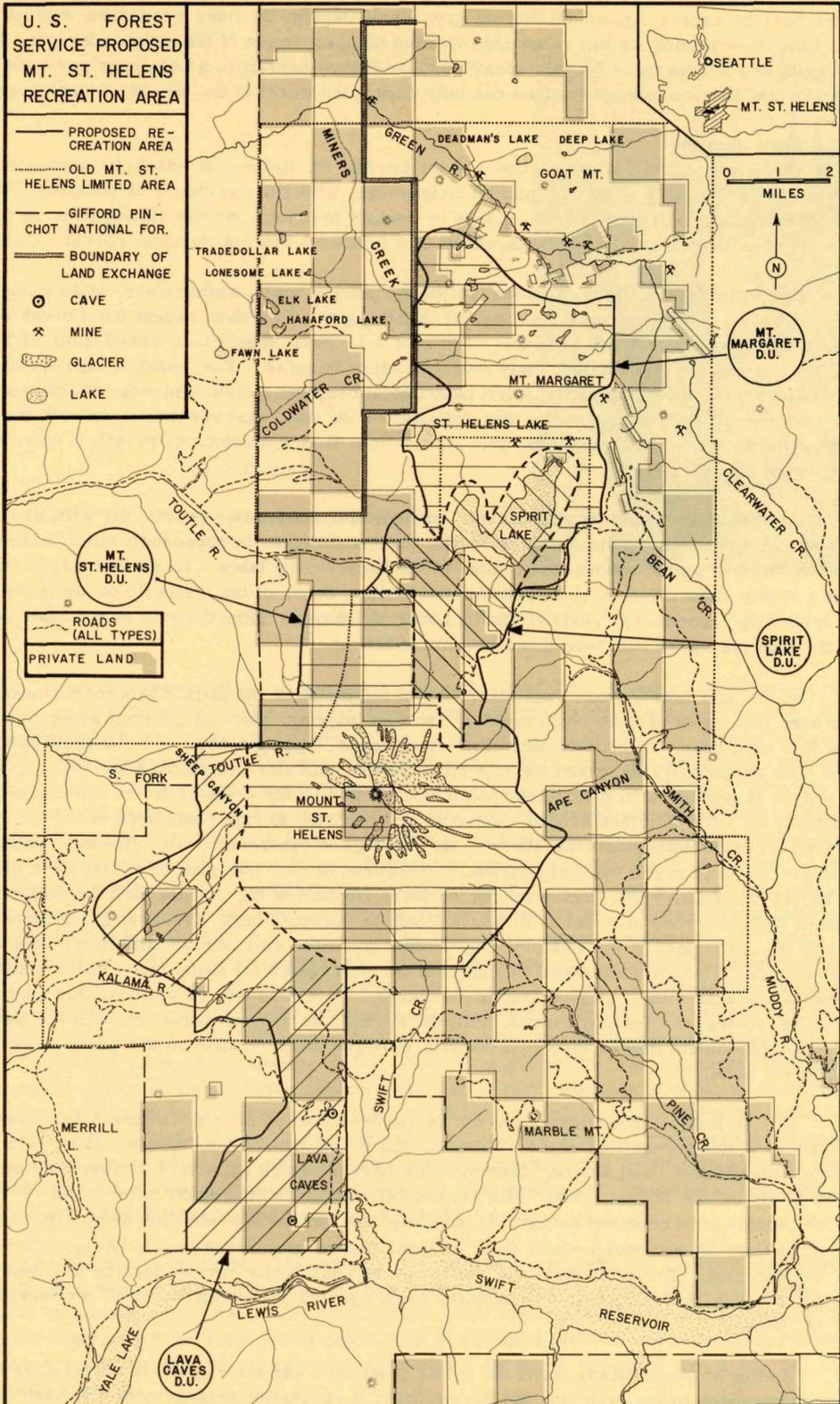
A landowner has a responsibility to use his land in such a way that its future productivity will not be damaged. but Weyerhaeuser Company apparently has not indicated that it recognizes this responsibility. It is therefore intolerable that public lands should be turned over to Weyerhaeuser to be subjected to the brutal exploitation commonly visited upon its own lands. One can predict, for example, that a result of the proposed exchange would be the conversion of lovely Miner's Creek valley to a giant clearcut a la Weyerhaeuser. As an incidental feature of the exchange, lakes such as Lonesome and Tradedollar would become, in effect, private lakes, their use by the public (You, my friend) limited, and completely subject to the whim of Weyerhaeuser, as is the case with Elk, Hanaford, and Fawn Lakes just to the south.

Both parties to the Great Land Exchange are using it primarily to enable them to manage (liquidate) the timber in the Upper Green River drainage. The Forest Service may be forced to be somewhat restrained in this objective by the difficult soil problems, but will Weyerhaeuser be inhibited by any such concerns? We seriously doubt it.

Mining

In the northeast quarter of the Spirit Lake Backcountry looms a threat of mining operations, especially the open-pit variety. Many years ago the entire area was prospected, resulting in a large number of patented claims, most of which are now owned by timber companies and thus are being mined for their timber. There are a good many tunnels and shafts and still a few old cabins standing, but there has been no actual mining for many years. The Black Prince Mine and Last Hope Mine would have no hope at all of being revived were it not for the arrival of Forest Service logging roads which might make profitable the open-pit mining of low-grade copper ores. Newly-staked claims cover Goat Mountain, the area of Deep and Deadman's Lake and several miles of the valley bottom.

Though an open-pit mine in this place would be the ultimate desecration of the land and the water, it is predicted that the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will refuse to stand up resolutely against this development, protesting its legal inability to act. A prime motivation for such a stand would be that this National Forest has a lot in common with mining interests. Here the



Forest Service cannot oppose mining on grounds of damage to other resources without at the same time undermining its own vulnerable position of management of the nation's forests. Mining and logging are both forms of "development", and the Forest Service is a Developer par excellence. Under Forest Service management we can only expect the worst in the Mt. St. Helens region.

Recreational Anarchy

At the present time, recreation use in the Mt. St. Helens, Spirit Lake Area and in the Spirit Lake Backcountry is an unregulated hodgepodge, with little evidence of planning. Without even considering problems which the future is certain to bring, one can simply point to present headaches resulting from the un-management of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Examples:

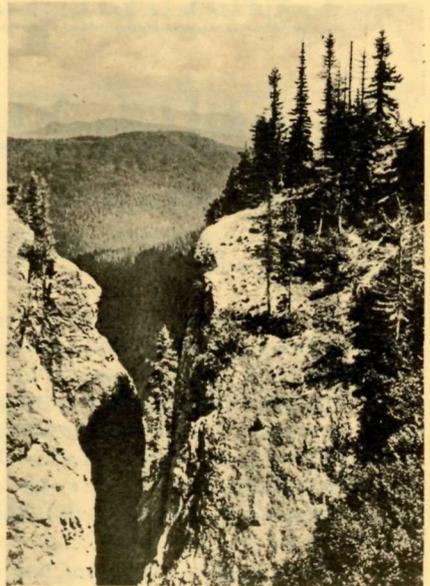
(1) Swimmers, rafters, canoers, sailboats, fishing boats, waterskiers, and racing boats, all in unlimited numbers, have free run of Spirit Lake. Everyone except the Forest Service realizes that restrictions are in order. First of all, there should be a speed limit of 10 mph. While this is primarily for safety there would be other benefits. The sound of high speed power boats reverberates over the entire Spirit Lake Basin, creating a disturbance far out of proportion to the number of people engaged in this activity. With truly vast reservoirs on both the Lewis and Cowlitz Rivers ideally suited for this type of use, it is ridiculous to permit it on relatively small Spirit Lake.

(2) Trails are open to all - hikers, horses, and machines - practically without restriction, leading to unpleasant situations on trails, discordant noise in supposedly quiet backcountry, and often badly crowded conditions at some of the backcountry lakes. Gross overuse is bringing about a steady deterioration of campsites and trails. Some of the trails lie on soils for which soil scientists recommend "restrict use by horse and scooter", but there is no evidence thus far that the land managers will heed these recommendations.

In the past twenty years, well over half of the trails on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest have been lost, most of them obliterated by roads and logging. More of the trail system continues to be lost each year. These hundreds of miles of roads, logging spurs, and clearcuts have at the same time enormously increased the opportunities for vehicular use through the Forest. Much of the Forest is now covered with a network of roads suitable for 4-wheel drive, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. The firelines around clearcuts are reported to make excellent challenge courses for 4-wheel drive enthusiasts and there is no shortage of clearcuts. But especially suitable for vehicular recreation are two very extensive networks of old, low standard, fire control roads, the Burley Mountain-Pinto Rock road net on the north half of the Forest, and the Sedum Point-Lookout Mountain road net (Sunset-Hemlock Road) on the south half. Traversing old burns dating back to the early part of the century, these offer the most spectacular panoramic views in the South Cascades, where motorcyclists can ride the high ridges for many many miles without fear of encounter with either logging trucks or hikers. Nevertheless, in spite of this plethora of vehicular routes, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, for its own reasons, will not recognize the basic incompatibility of motorcycles with foot and horse traffic on the overcrowded trails near Spirit Lake.

(3) Failure to zone winter uses on the lower slopes of Mt. St. Helens. Here again, the problem is a non-recognition of the incompatibility of machines, i. e. snowmobiles, with snowshoers, tobogganners, and skiers. Snowmobiles have unrestricted use of virtually all the snow-bound roads on the Forest. Four long snowmobile trails in the region between Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams have received nationwide publicity, and yet the snowmobiles seem also to require the areas used by non-mechanized folk. It's not that snowmobilers want to barge in where they are not welcome. The problem is the deliberate refusal of the Forest Service to eliminate the conflict of uses by restricting snowmobiles to designated routes on the south and west sides of Mt. St. Helens.

Zoning of recreational activities in our municipal and state parks is accepted as the only rational approach to the problem, but Forest Service recreation management just hasn't evolved to this stage yet.



Ape Canyon

Forest Service photo

THE FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL

It is not news that timber is the basic determinant of Forest Service land use policies. But it goes even beyond that. One Forest Supervisor sneeringly contrasts the "playing" forest with the "working" forest, and it is this attitude which inspired the Mt. St. Helens Recreation Area proposal which the Forest Service revealed last spring. Esthetics, recreation, and watershed, are to get the leftovers, some of them already badly mauled by logging. This proposal fails to come to grips with any of the problems we have discussed above. It dallies with the concept of zoning of uses, but only in the faintest way. Even commercial logging is not expressly excluded from the presently roaded areas. The southernmost segment, the Lava Caves "Development" Unit, is the tattered remains of once beautiful land. Unless one wanted to include more cutover land, there would be no point in making this segment larger. An obvious omission from the original plan for the Mt. St. Helens unit is that of the Sheep Canyon, Toutle Wash area. Ironically this is the location of perhaps the wildest and most spectacular portion of the immediate Mt. St. Helens Area. Fortunately the Forest Service has now recognized these values and no longer intends to take the timber off these old moraines. The balance of this unit and the Spirit Lake Unit is pretty well delimited by logged-over areas and by the infamous Road 100. (THE WILD CASCADES, August-September 1971). Lastly, there is the Mt. Margaret Development Unit, a practical joke which the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, together with the timber industry, is playing on the citizens. Only it isn't a joke and it isn't practical. The omission of the Green River Valley, of the high country to the north and east, and of Miner's Creek cannot be justified. When every other low elevation valley on the Gifford Pinchot Forest is exploited for its timber, they just can't leave this last one alone. After all, its timber has always been included in the allowable cut. The Forest Service can't change now.

And that's just the point. This agency is frozen into a pattern and couldn't break out of it even if it wanted to. We cannot look to the Forest Service for an adequate proposal for the future of the Mt. St. Helens Area. The job of administering this area should be turned over to an agency with more concern for the land, more experience in managed esthetic and recreation resources, and less orientation toward commodity production. Hence a proposal for a Mt. St. Helens National Monument.

COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS

BILL FINALLY MOVING

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON BEFORE THE

92nd CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION ON DECEMBER 11, 1971

Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference a bill to establish a Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area of some 267,000 acres in the North Cascades region of Washington State.

The area encompassed in the proposal is immediately east of the Mount Rainier National Park. It extends south to and including White Pass and Rimrock Lake, easterly almost to Tieton and northerly to the Mather Memorial Parkway, including some 37,000 acres north of the highway. The entire area is now under the administration of the U. S. Forest Service, except for some 350 acres of privately owned land which was patented for mining purposes many years ago.

Because of its beauty and immense natural resource values, the North Cascades have been the subject of many books, reports and travelogues almost since the first Federal Forest Reserves were established in the 1890s. Because of the early and continuing controversy over whether a North Cascades National Park should be established, together with associated problems of resource balance between competing users, a North Cascades Study Team was appointed in 1963 to "explore in an objective manner all resource potentials of the area and the management and administration that appears to be in the public interest." This multi-agency team spent 2 1/2 years studying more than 6 million acres of Federal land in the North Cascades before publishing their comprehensive report in October 1965. I should emphasize that the North Cascades Study Team engaged in one of the most complete public airings of regional land use policy that this country has ever witnessed.

Mr. President, in 1967 and 1968, I devoted considerable time on legislation encompassing much of the North Cascades region, time which culminated in the establishment of a 505,000 acre North Cascades National Park. Another 700,000 acres of dramatic alpine scenery, active glaciers, and mountain lakes in Northern Washington were placed in a special status, including the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan Recreation areas, the Pasayten Wilderness, and additions to the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Because of the sheer magnitude of undertaking long-range land use patterns for the entire North Cascades area, only those study team recommendations dealing with land north of the Stevens Pass Highway were the subject of legislation in 1967 and 1968. The measure I am introducing today represents one more step toward total Congressional consideration of the study team's recommendations.

Nation-wide interest has been focused on the entire Cougar Lakes area as a result of the establishment of the North Cascades National Park and related land areas. Conservationists for many years have expressed their concern about the protection, management and development of the lands involved in this measure. Because of the public's concern for protection for the outstanding natural beauty and grandeur, most of the Cougar Lakes area is being managed for its exceptional scenic, wilderness, and recreation values. This can be demonstrated by the following:

1. In 1946, the Forest Service established the 90,000 acre Cougar Lakes Limited Area. This land has been removed from the allowable cut calculations, and from other types of commercial development, and today remains in a primitive state.

2. In 1965, the North Cascades Study Team recommended establishment of a 45,000 acre Mt. Aix Wilderness. This isolated group of rugged ridges and clustered mountain peaks has been excluded from the allowable cut base and will remain in a protected status until Congress completes consideration of it for wilderness.

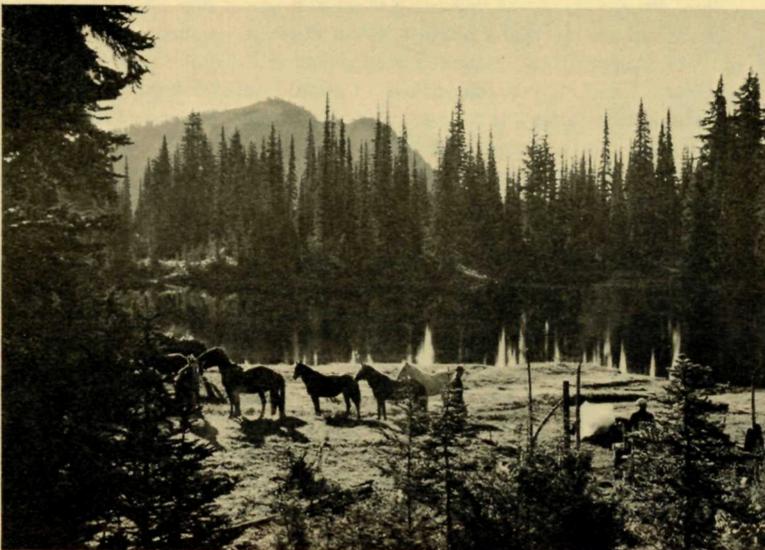
3. In 1931, the Secretary of Agriculture, by a land classification order, established the Mather Memorial Parkway of some 24,300 acres "for the use and enjoyment of the general public for scenic and recreational purposes". As a result of this land use classification, natural resource developments have been reduced.

4. In 1966, the Forest Service classified the 37,000 acre area north of the Mather Memorial Parkway as a "back country roadless wilderness area", a classification which precludes any extensive land development.

The majority of the remaining 70,000 acres of land within the proposed Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area has already been classified, by the Forest Service, as "Landscape Management Areas", where esthetics and recreation are recognized as key values with all other resources and activities managed to maintain or enhance recreation values".

The Cougar Lakes area is not as rugged as most of the balance of the Washington Cascades. Glaciers and hanging Alpine valleys are not apparent. However, the area has its own unique charm and scenic beauty. The area has variety that includes some islands of very rough rock-park attractions such as Mt. Aix and Fifes Peak areas, but I think much of its charm comes from its openness, punctuated as it is with many meadow areas. Trees and shrubs occur in great variety, and much of it is relatively open to travel and view opportunity for people to disperse and have the solitude of wilderness experience. Wildlife and wildflowers are abundant. Access and movement within the area is relatively easy; and much of the scenic beauty is set off by the backdrop of Mt. Rainier to the west and the Goat Rocks and Mt. Adams to the south.

This bill contains provisions for a Mt. Aix Wilderness Study Unit of 152,000 acres within the core of the Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area. This study unit is composed mostly of acreage already in a protected status, including the majority of the 90,000 acre Cougar Lakes Limited Area, all of the 45,000 acre Mt. Aix area proposed for wilderness by the study team, and several thousand acres of adjacent land.



Pond along trail in proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness

John Warth Photo

The bill also requires the Forest Service to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the suitability or unsuitability for wilderness of the entire study area. This study must be completed within two years from the date of enactment of this measure, with the recommendations to be forwarded to Congress for further consideration. The concept of a wilderness study area patterned after language contained in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area Act will also allow all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the future type of management of this area. I anticipate that public hearings will be conducted by the Forest Service to receive testimony from representatives of the forest products industry, water users, conservation organizations, interested individuals, and public officials from Federal, State and local governments. It is essential that Congress have the full benefit of those recommendations before acting on the area in question. An Act of Congress will be required to officially designate any area within the proposed national recreation area as a part of the National Wilderness Area System.

I consider a major portion of the Mt. Aix Wilderness Study Unit to be unique relative to the rest of the Washington Cascades and should be managed for primitive recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical values and opportunities to the extent consistent with the preservation and restoration of the wilderness resources of the land. In general, a large part of this scenic area is more open and accessible to people and horses. It is of lower elevation and less rugged. This does not make it less suitable for its wilderness value, but the area does naturally invite moderate use by people and horses. It is for this reason that detailed studies are needed before a decision can be made concerning its classification as wilderness. In particular, the questions of density of public use, level of wildlife population, and coordination with adjacent Mt. Rainier Park management require careful studies.

The approximately 115,000 acre area outside the wilderness study area, will be managed to protect its scenic values and to improve its recreational potential as soon as this measure becomes public law. This could include campgrounds, picnic facilities, winter sports, organization camps, resorts, recreation residences, visitor information services, and boating facilities. Management of these areas should provide for a greater latitude in developing the area to accommodate larger numbers of people than would be possible in wilderness areas. In addition, timber harvesting activities will be allowed to continue in this area under the management guidelines provided for in the Forest Service landscape management policy, and in conformance with language contained in section 2 of this measure.

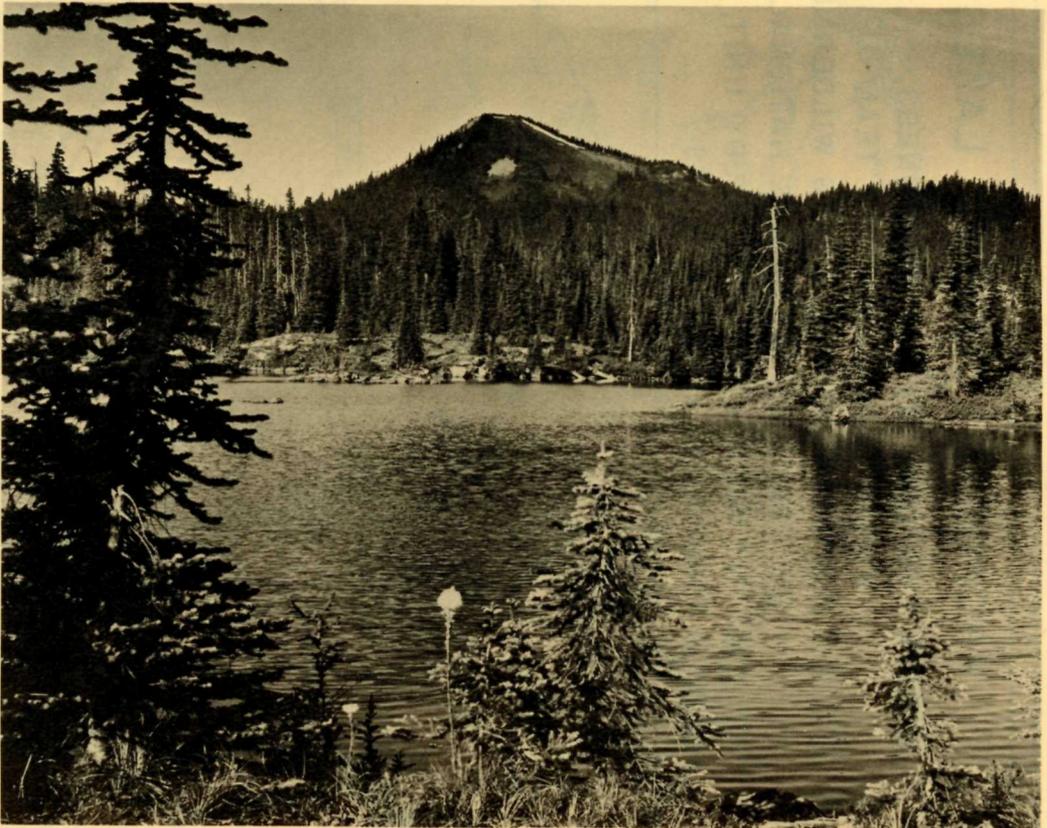
At a time when wood fiber is so urgently needed to meet our nation's growing demand for wood products, it is my contention that a portion of the national recreation area could be managed to demonstrate that wood production activities could continue to take place while still protecting the area's dominant visual and recreation values. I should point out that the southern part of the proposed national recreation area, ie., that region around Rimrock Lake has already been extensively logged but still has national recreation area qualities. As a result, an opportunity has arisen to demonstrate that timber harvesting activities and intensive outdoor recreation activities can be compatible if well planned and properly carried out.

Preliminary estimates show that this proposed National Recreation Area contains approximately 3.75 billion board feet of standing timber. Much of this timber is not included in the allowable cut base due to being reserved from harvest through earlier action by the Forest Service. About 1.4 billion feet of the standing timber inventory will be available to controlled harvesting activity.

In addition to timber, this area contains pronounced wildlife and water values. All of the area is a part of the Yakima Valley drainage and serves a most significant proportion of the domestic and irrigation water requirements of the intensive agriculture of the Yakima Valley. The Clear Lake, Rimrock Lake and Bumping Lake impoundments are a part of this water supply system. The Bumping Lake impoundment is currently under consideration for enlargement, and nothing in this legislation will affect the operation, management or maintenance of that facility.

Mr. President, in the formation of this measure I have worked closely with various special-interest groups and Federal agencies which have an interest in the area. There is wide support for the measure. I want to emphasize that I regard this bill as a working draft, which will serve as a means of soliciting further public views when hearings are held.

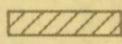
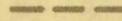
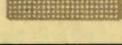
The combination of sunshine, scenic beauty and ease of public access and travel through the Cougar Lakes area makes it unusually attractive to the large population of the Puget Sound region. Current public use is reaching beyond the capacity of regular National Forest programs to cope with it and protect the resources. This agency has placed much of the area in a moratorium status against further development until the question of land classification and long-term management policy is decided. This legislation provides a mechanism whereby these decisions can be made.

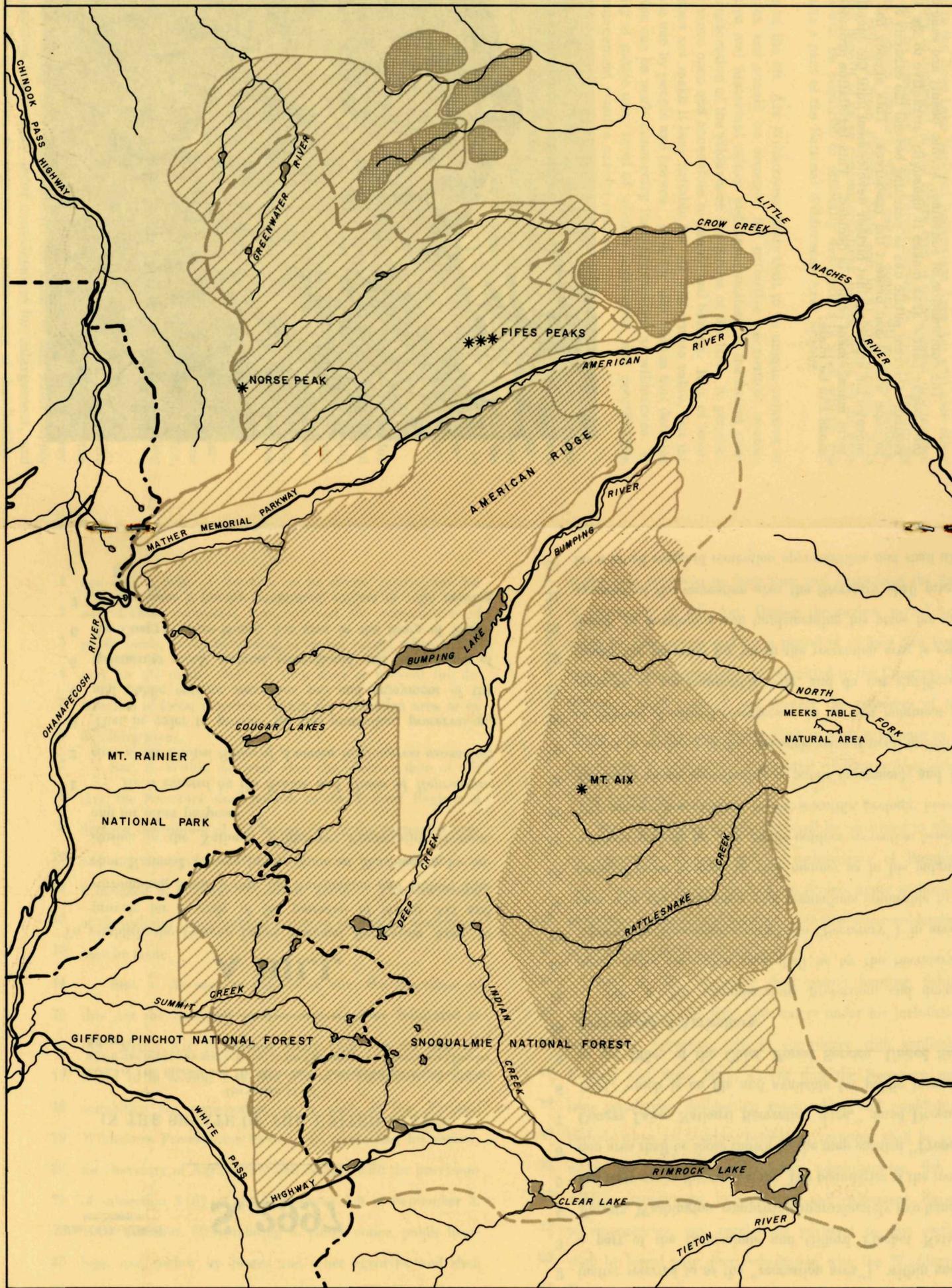
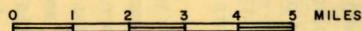


Blankenship Lake and Tumac Mountain

Photo by Bob and Ira Spring

PROPOSED COUGAR LAKES LEGISLATION

-  PROPOSED MT. AIX WILDERNESS,
NORTH CASCADES STUDY TEAM—U.S. FOREST SERVICE, 1965
-  H.B. 19784 COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS, 1972
-  S.B. 2997 COUGAR LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA,
-  MT. AIX WILDERNESS STUDY UNIT, 1972
-  PROPOSED LOGGING UNITS



S. 2997

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 1971

Mr. JACKSON (for himself and Mr. MAGNUSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area, to provide for a study of the potential of Mount Aix and surrounding lands within the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests in the State of Washington for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That in order to provide for the protection, preservation,
4 and public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the
5 spectacular scenic, natural, recreational, and other values of
6 the Congar Lakes-Mount Aix area in the State of Wash-
7 ington, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing

1 rights, the Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area (here-
2 inafter referred to as the "recreation area"), within and as
3 a part of the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National
4 Forests, Washington, comprising approximately two hundred
5 and sixty-seven thousand acres. The boundaries of the recrea-
6 tion area shall be those shown on the map entitled "Proposed
7 Cougar Lakes National Recreation Area," dated December
8 1971, which is on file and available for public inspection
9 in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, United States
10 Department of Agriculture.

11 SEC. 2. The administration, protection, and develop-
12 ment of the recreation area shall be by the Secretary of
13 Agriculture (hereinafter called the "Secretary") in accord-
14 ance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the
15 national forest system, in such manner as in his judgment
16 will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits;
17 (2) conservation of biotic, scenic, scientific, geologic, historic,
18 and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3)
19 subject to section 4 of this Act such management, utilization,
20 or disposal of natural resources as in his best judgment will
21 promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly
22 impair the purposes for which the recreation area is estab-
23 lished. In developing and implementing his plans for man-
24 agement of the recreation area the Secretary shall provide
25 for a broad range of recreation opportunities, and shall man-

1 age such portion of the area as he deems appropriate for
 2 nonvehicular recreation uses, without the construction of
 3 public roads, or the harvesting of timber except when neces-
 4 sary for the public safety or to protect or prevent the de-
 5 struction of forest resources within the recreation area or on
 6 adjoining areas.

7 SEC. 3. Within one year after the effective date of this
 8 Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a
 9 detailed description of the boundaries of the recreation area
 10 and such description shall have the same force and effect as
 11 if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction
 12 of clerical and typographical errors in such legal description
 13 may be made.

14 SEC. 4. As soon as practicable after the enactment of
 15 this Act the Secretary shall review the area delineated as
 16 the "Mount Aix Wilderness Study Unit" on the map re-
 17 ferred to in section 1 of this Act as to suitability or non-
 18 suitability for preservation as a part of the National
 19 Wilderness Preservation System. In conducting his review,
 20 the Secretary of Agriculture shall comply with the provisions
 21 of subsection 3 (d) of the Wilderness Act of September 3,
 22 1934 (78 Stat. 892) relating to public notice, public hear-
 23 ings, and review by States and other agencies, and shall
 24 advise the Senate and House of Representatives of his rec-
 25 ommendations with respect to the designation as wilderness

1 of the area reviewed no later than two years from the date
 2 of enactment of this Act. During the review period pro-
 3 vided by this section and for a period of at least five years
 4 after his recommendations are submitted to the Congress the
 5 Secretary shall manage and protect the resources of the
 6 Mount Aix Wilderness Study Unit in such a manner as to
 7 assure that its suitability for potential wilderness designation
 8 is not impaired.

9 SEC. 5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect
 10 the operation, management, or maintenance of Bumping
 11 Lake Dam and Reservoir, Yakima project under authorities
 12 heretofore or hereinafter enacted, or to preclude consideration
 13 of future modification of said project.

14 SEC. 6. The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing
 15 and trapping on the land and waters under his jurisdiction
 16 within the recreation area in accordance with applicable
 17 Federal and State laws; except that the Secretary may
 18 issue regulations designating zones where and establishing
 19 periods when no hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be per-
 20 mitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or
 21 wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except
 22 in emergencies, any regulations pursuant to this section
 23 shall be issued only after consultation with the Washington
 24 Department of Game.

25 SEC. 7. The lands within the recreation area, subject to

1 valid existing rights, are hereby withdrawn from location,
 2 entry, and patent under the United States mining laws. The
 3 Secretary of the Interior, under such regulations as he deems
 4 appropriate, may issue permits or leases for the removal of
 5 the nonleasable minerals from lands or interests in lands
 6 within the recreation area, and he may permit the removal
 7 of leasable minerals from lands or interests in lands within
 8 the recreation area in accordance with the Mineral Leasing
 9 Act of February 24, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et
 10 seq.), or the Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of
 11 August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), if the Secretary
 12 of Agriculture finds that such disposition would not have
 13 significant adverse effects on the administration of the recre-
 14 ation area: *Provided*, That any lease respecting such minerals
 15 in the recreation area shall be issued only with the consent
 16 of the Secretary of Agriculture and subject to such condi-
 17 tions, as he may prescribe. All receipts derived from per-
 18 mits and leases issued under the authority of this section
 19 for removal of nonleaseable minerals shall be paid into the
 20 same funds or accounts in the Treasury of the United States
 21 and shall be distributed in the same manner as provided for
 22 receipts from national forests. Any receipts derived from
 23 permits or leases issued on lands within the recreation area
 24 under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1947, shall
 25 be disposed of as provided in the Act.

1 SEC. 8. The jurisdiction of the State of Washington and
 2 the United States over waters or any stream included in the
 3 recreation area shall be determined by established principles
 4 of law. Under the provisions of this Act, any taking by the
 5 United States of water rights which are vested under either
 6 State or Federal law at the time of enactment of this Act
 7 shall entitle the owner thereof to just compensation. Nothing
 8 in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or
 9 denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption
 10 from State water laws.

11 SEC. 9. The Secretary shall cooperate with the State of
 12 Washington or any political subdivision thereof in the ad-
 13 ministration of the recreation area and in the administration
 14 and protection of lands within or adjacent to the recreation
 15 area owned or controlled by the State or political subdivisions
 16 thereof. Nothing in this Act shall deprive the State of Wash-
 17 ington or any political subdivision thereof of its rights to
 18 exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction within the recreation
 19 area, or of its right to tax persons, corporations, franchises,
 20 or other non-Federal property, including mineral or other
 21 interests, in or on lands or waters within the recreation area.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONSERVATION GARDEN SALE



Joe and Margaret Miller's annual garden sales have become an important source of revenue for the North Cascades Conservation Council. What more painless way to fight High Ross Dam than to select a bunch of attractive plants (at bargain prices) and know that the full amount of your purchase goes to the N3C treasury!

As in past years, the Millers will have a large number of unusual species and hybrid rhododendrons, particularly the more dwarf varieties. They will also present a good selection of evergreen azaleas. They promise to have a better supply of their popular scented geraniums, which sold out last year in the first two hours. Some of their varieties of these interesting plants, also delectable in cooking, are Staghorn Peppermint, Rober's Lemon Rose, Shrubland Rose, Dark Lady, Giant Oak.

To accommodate the increasing interest in container gardening, Joe and Margaret will offer a good supply of handmade ceramic and split cedar containers, together with many kinds of suitable succulents and other plants to grow in them. Other goodies include some nice 5-year old bristlecone pines for bonsai, many kinds of houseplants, and several desirable varieties of rockery plants.

The section of native plants, trees, and shrubs will constitute the largest part of the Millers' collection. A few examples are trilliums, Viola sempervirens, western larch, Menzie's penstemon, Leutkea pectinata, native dogwood, kinnikinnick, Ceanothus gloriosus, shasta redfir, native rhododendron, several native ferns, and on and on and on.

The sale will again be held in the Millers' Lake Hills garden, 15405 SE 9th, Bellevue. Turn off I-90 at the Bellevue airport and drive north on 156th SE. Call SH6-2257 for directions or information about plants. N3C members with green thumbs are urged to pot up and contribute surplus plant material to the sale.

Mark your calendar with the dates -- May 6 and 7 -- and help us.

FIGHT HIGH ROSS DAM WITH FLOWER POWER!

MONEY STILL needed in I-90 Lawsuit

Editor's note: The following lawsuit was started and is continuing to try to preserve the scenery of a portion of what is hoped will be some day one of the nation's most scenic passes (see THE WILD CASCADES, August - September 1971 - U. S. Forest Service Plan for Snoqualmie Pass). To date the plaintiffs have raised \$3,700 toward payment of expenses totaling \$5,200. The remaining \$1,500 has yet to be paid. If, after reading these excerpts from the brief for the case you wish to help pay off this debt, the NORTH CASCADES FOUNDATION (P.O.Box 156, University Station, Seattle, Washington 98105) would be pleased to receive a check for the I-90 Appeal Fund. Please help if you can.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

RICHARD J. BROOKS, a citizen,
PATRICK D. GOLDSWORTHY, a citizen;
ALPINE LAKES PROTECTION SOCIETY, a Washington corporation;
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL, a Washington corporation;
FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS,
and all others similarly situated;

Plaintiffs - Appellants

vs.

JOHN A VOLPE, as Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation;
RALPH M. WILLIAMS, as Regional Federal Highway Administrator for
Region X, United States Department of Transportation;
CLIFFORD M. HARDIN, as Secretary of Agriculture for the United States;
DONALD R. CAMPBELL, as Supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest;
WASHINGTON STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION;
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS;
GEORGE D. ZAHN, as Chairman of the Washington State Highway Commission;
G. H. ANDREWS, as Director of the Washington State Department of Highways;

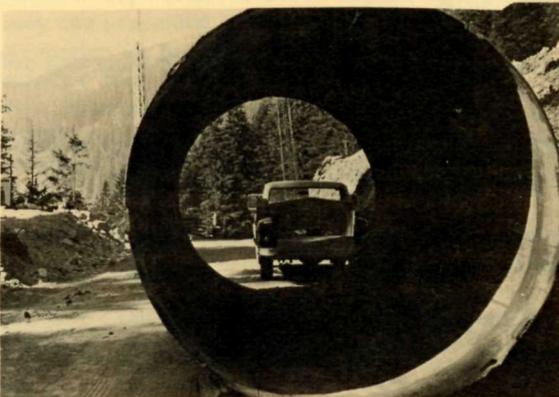
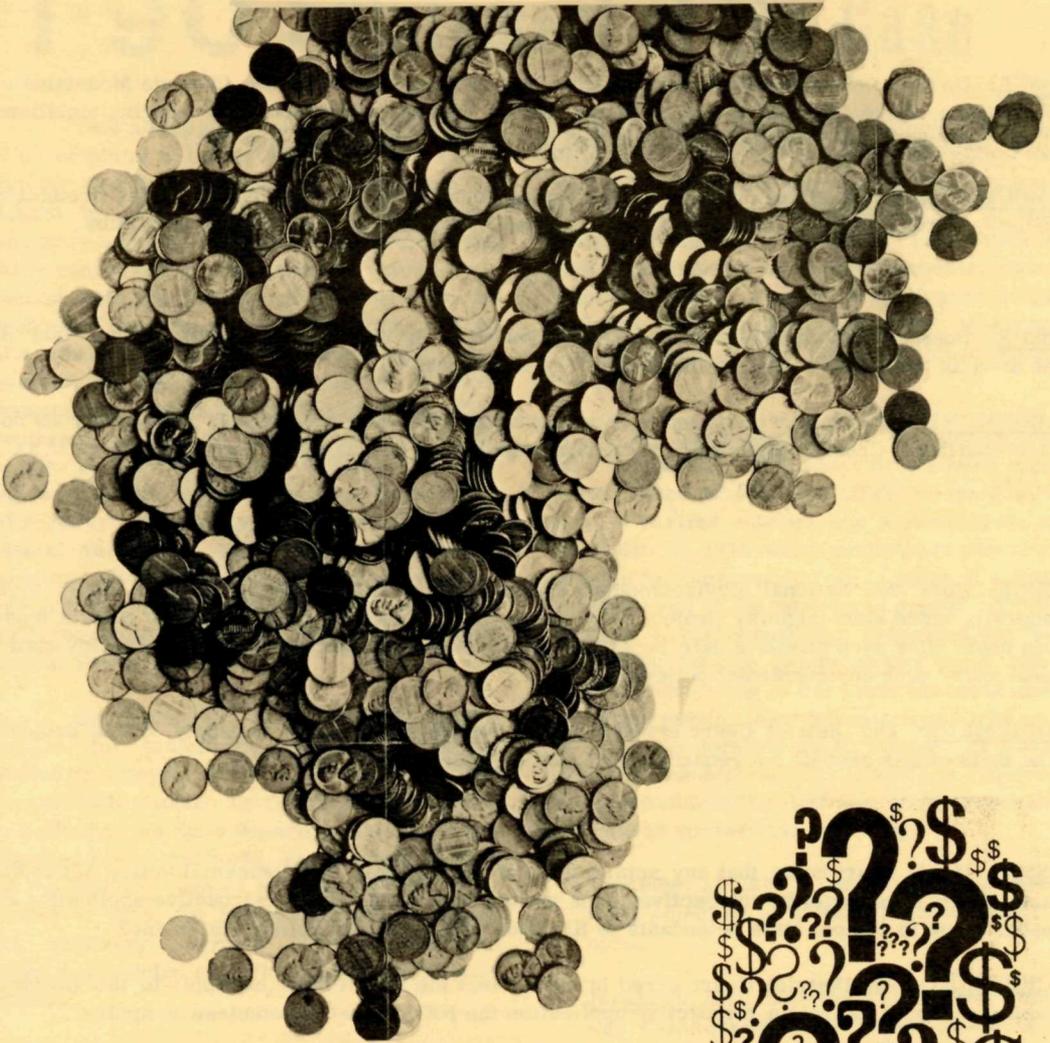
Defendants - Appellees

APPELLANTS' BRIEF

APPEAL FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, AT SEATTLE
HONORABLE WILLIAM T. BEEKS, TRIAL JUDGE
November 17, 1971

IRVING M. CLARK, JR.,
J. RICHARD ARAMBURU
209 College Club Building
Seattle, Washington 98104

Attorneys for Appellants



Where
Will the
Money
Come From

THE ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS

-I-

ISSUE: Do three conservation organizations - two of them "local" to the Cascade Mountains of Washington - have standing to sue state and federal highway administrations alleging violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Aid to Highways Act?

ARGUMENT: The District Court erred in denying standing to plaintiffs Alpine Lakes Protection Society, North Cascades Conservation Council and Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

-II-

ISSUE: Does encirclement of park and recreation areas by highway alignments involve "use" of the area as that word is used in the federal Aid to Highways Act?

ARGUMENT: The District Court erred in declaring that the proposed highway alignment does not "use" the Denny Creek Campground under the terms of the Federal Aid to Highways Act, 23 U.S.C. S 138

-III-

ISSUE: Does the National Environmental Policy Act, enacted January 1, 1970, apply to a federally-aided state highway project as to which the irrevocable commitment of federal funds was made after such effective date, so as to require the making of an environmental policy statement under such environmental policy act?

ARGUMENT: The District Court erred in ruling that the NEPA does not apply to this project. The facts of this case do not require a retroactive application of the NEPA

-IV-

ISSUE: If this court holds that any applications of the National Environmental Policy Act to the facts of this case would be retroactive, does the law require that such retroactive application be made, so as to compel state defendants to file such environmental policy statement?

ARGUMENT: The District Court erred in ruling that the NEPA does not apply to this project. Even if the facts indicate a retroactive application the NEPA must nonetheless be applied

CONCLUSION

In summary, appellants contend three things, which perhaps can be put in ascending order of importance:

First, that the organizational plaintiffs have standing both because of differences between this case and Alameda, supra and because of the concepts clearly manifested by the NEPA;

Second, that the surrounding of recreational and parklands by interstate highway construction constitutes a "use" of such parklands, to the damage thereof;

Third, that the most fundamental requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act - the making of an environmental impact statement - must be met by respondents, whether the NEPA is applied retroactively or no.

I-90 : Statement of the Case

This action was commenced by the filing of a Complaint in United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on August 18, 1970. Plaintiffs - two individuals who were and are prominent outdoorsmen and three conservation organizations - were concerned with the routing of what will be the westbound segment of Interstate Highway I-90 at a point immediately west of Snoqualmie Pass Summit, the high point of the highway between Spokane and Seattle, approximately fifty miles southeast of Seattle. The gravamen of the action, in non-legal terms, was that the route followed by the Washington State Department of Highways was heavily destructive of environmental values and recreation areas, that a practical alternative to the chosen route existed, and that the defendants failed to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

On August 18, 1970, plaintiffs filed a motion for temporary restraining order. Plaintiffs alleged, in sum, irreparable and irreversible damage by reason of the ongoing activities of the State Department of Highways, financed by federal funds, and the construction of the Highway project in question. On September 4, 1970, the federal defendants moved for summary judgment. The learned trial judge never ruled specifically upon this latter motion.

On September 4, 1970, limited testimony was presented by plaintiffs in support of their motion for temporary restraining order. Testimony was taken of plaintiff Brooks and others, generally establishing the standing of plaintiffs, their interest in the area in question, the nature of the area in question and the impact upon that area of the highway construction.

Thereafter, on September 25, 1970, Judge Beeks ruled on plaintiffs' motion, making assumptions for this purpose in favor of plaintiffs about the questions of jurisdiction, standing, stating a cause of action and requirement of an environmental policy statement. In making substantive rulings, Judge Beeks essentially held two things: First, that the defendants were not making a "use" of the

recreation area in question as that word is used in 23 U. S. C. 138, the applicable section of the Federal Highway Act and, second, that because the administrative determination as to this particular highway location had been made in 1967, requirement of an environmental statement would give retroactive application to the National Environmental Policy Act, whereas, said the Court, the Act operates only prospectively.

No full scale trial on the merits was held thereafter. Additional briefs were submitted, some exhibits and affidavits were filed and the parties entered into a stipulation, on December 17, 1970, which established a number of facts for the purpose both of entry of a final judgment and of the subsequent appeal. A recitation of the chronology evidenced by the stipulation may be helpful at this point, particularly indicating to the Court the basis upon which the parties take opposite views with respect to the question as to whether or not a retroactive application of the NEPA is required to accord plaintiffs relief they seek. From the stipulation appears the following:

November 14, 1967 - Federal approval of the route selection by the State Highway Department.

January 9, 1970 - Approval by the State Highway Commission of the design and access plan.

February 19, 1970 - Federal approval of the design and access plan.

May 11, 1970 - Federal approval of the plans, specification and estimates for the construction of the project I-90 - 1(59) 48, which is the so-called Franklin Falls Bridge project, critical in this case.

June 25, 1970 - Award of the construction contract itself.

After the filing of additional briefs, Judge Beeks handed down a written opinion on April 6, 1971, in which he began by ruling that

the action was not barred by the doctrine of sovereign immunity. Thereafter Judge Beeks ruled in favor of the individual plaintiffs on the question of standing, but against the three organization plaintiffs. He concluded by saying briefly that the plaintiffs' attack of the propriety of procedures followed by the defendants must be resolved against them for the reasons stated in his earlier opinion denying motion for temporary restraining order.

Accordingly, he dismissed the action, and entered a brief judgment to that effect on April 23, 1971.

Plaintiffs then did move for temporary injunction pending appeal. This motion was denied by Judge Beeks, after argument, on August 13, 1971. Thereafter plaintiffs' motion in the U. S. District Court for injunction pending appeal was denied on November 5, 1971, and the matter then reached the U. S. Court of Appeals Court on the merits.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

District Judge Beeks wrongly dismissed three conservation organizations as plaintiffs in this action. Two of them, the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, are specifically focused on the area in question, being a portion of the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington, and therefore do not come within strictures against national conservation organizations as plaintiffs in particular environmental actions. And the third organizational plaintiff - Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs - should not come within the prohibitions found in Alameda Conservation Association v. California, a decision of this Circuit this year, because the National Environmental Policy Act, under which this action is brought, offers certain standing to plaintiffs to seek protection of recreational values which is not found in the Alameda case. Further, this is a class action to the nature of which no objections have been made, which distinguishes the situation of organizational plaintiffs here from that of such plaintiffs in Alameda.

Judge Beeks found that the alleged damage by highway construction to certain parklands and campgrounds near Snoqualmie Pass in the state of Washington did not constitute "use" of such areas as that word is used

in the Federal Aid to Highways Act. Judge Beeks was wrong in so holding, because his concept of use was too narrow, being, in his mind, synonymous with "taking". Plaintiffs will argue that reducing such recreational areas to a median strip between two segments of a major interstate highway amounts, in a common-sense use of the word, to a "use" of such area, such that appropriate provisions of the federal statute must apply.

The National Environmental Policy Act which became effective January 1, 1970, requires the making of an environmental impact statement by certain public agencies under statutes. Judge Beeks wrongly held that the Act does not apply to the case at bar because any application would be retroactive, an application which is not justified by the statutes, in the opinion of the District Judge. Judge Beeks was wrong in this respect, because of the federal aid, without which the highway could not and cannot be built, was not irrevocably committed by the federal government to the state of Washington's Highway Department until a particular event (approval of plans, specifications and estimates as provided in 23 U. S. C. Section 106) occurred, and in this case, such commitment was made four and one-half months after the effective date of the NEPA (January 1, 1970).

However, should this court rule that any applications of the NEPA in this case would be retroactive, nevertheless such application should be made because the manifest intent of Congress was to have retroactive application where such was appropriate. This is manifested by the committee reports, by some of case law and particularly by the growing body of literature dealing with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Alpine Lakes

De Facto Wilderness



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OLYMPIA

DANIEL J. EVANS
GOVERNOR

November 19, 1971

Mr. Edward P. Cliff, Chief
United States Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chief Cliff:

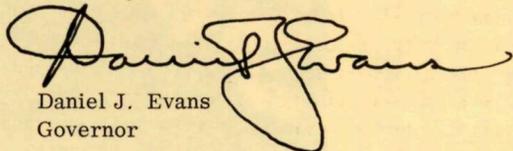
As you know, we in Washington State are quite concerned with the preservation of the Alpine Lakes region in our Cascade range. A letter to you dated September 21 from our entire congressional delegation demonstrates the broad concern there is for this region.

Although that same letter also indicates that Congress is taking a hard look at how to preserve the area, there remains some danger in my mind that we could have a de facto elimination of potential wilderness to logging operations before Congress has a chance to make its decision on the question.

I therefore urge that you use great care in the sale of timber within the proposed Alpine Lakes region. I would be particularly interested in what timber sales have taken place and are scheduled to take place in the boundaries of any of the bills now before Congress including those bills sponsored by environmental groups. I request that no timber sales be scheduled which would effectively eliminate any of the proposed areas from wilderness consideration until Congress has acted.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Evans
Governor

DJE:ry

AIR CLOSURE IN *alpine lakes* AREA

The Snoqualmie National Forest, on May 20, 1971, invited the attention and comments of interested organizations to its plan to close the Alpine Lakes region to airdrops and air landings, as follows:

"The Alpine Lakes region, located easterly from Seattle, has been under consideration as to its suitability for wilderness for several years. At present the Forest Service is committed to meeting the statutory requirement of the Wilderness Act for study of National Forest Primitive Areas. By 1974, the schedule will be open for study at new areas, such as the Alpine Lakes area, under provisions of the Act. In the meantime, the Alpine Lakes area is being managed to protect it from uses which may preclude its eventual classification as wilderness.

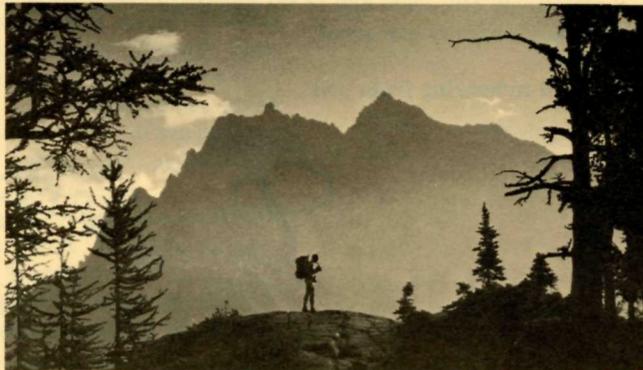
"Our management objectives for Alpine Lakes have been and continue to be to manage the area so as to prevent or minimize uses of the area that tend to destroy the fragile, natural environment. For example, the trails in the area have been closed to machines for several years. The management plan for the area explains the management objectives for the area in detail and is available for review by anyone.

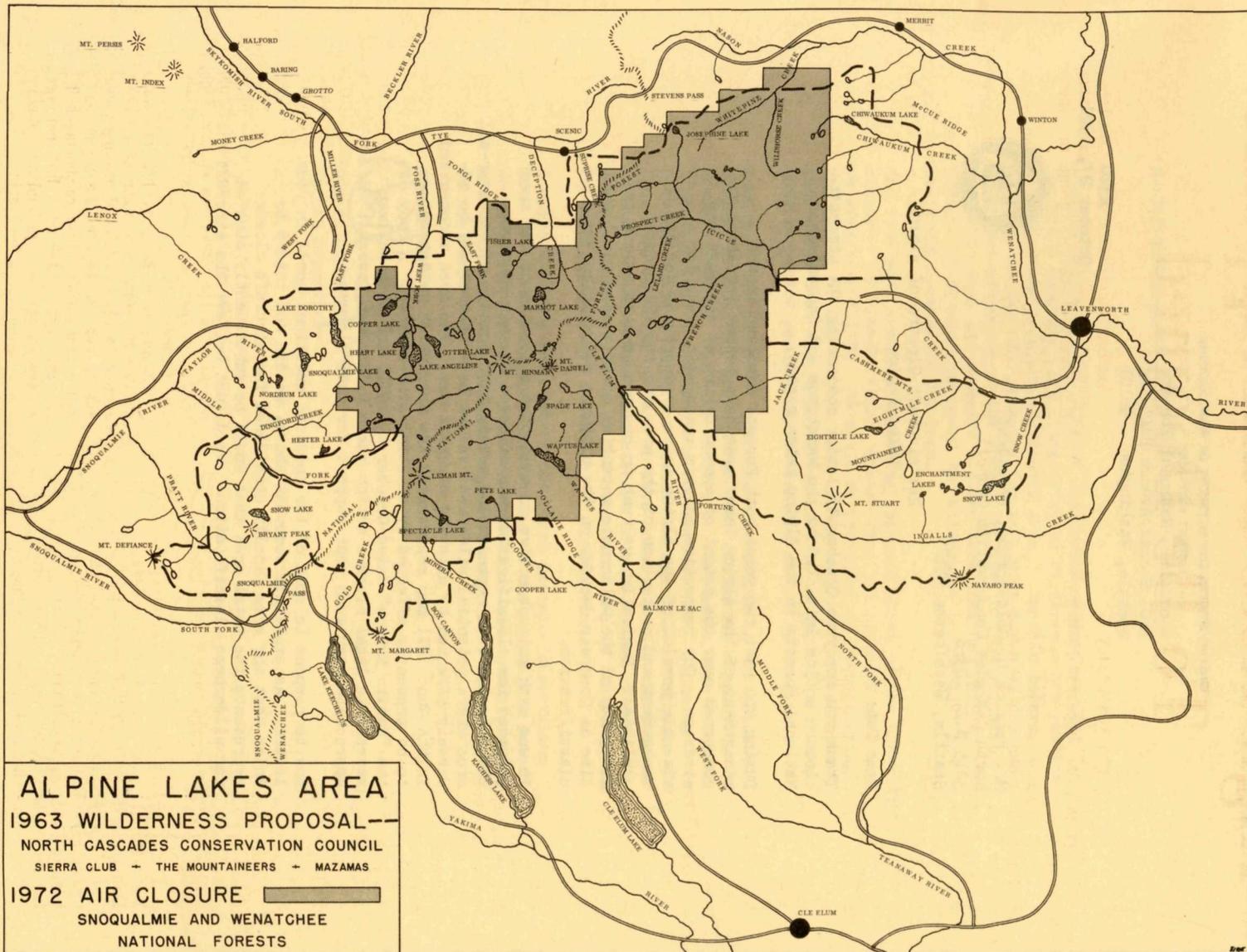
"Until the recent publicity on Alpine Lakes area, we have not been aware of much of a problem from the use of aircraft in the area. Under the increasing public interest and use of this area, we feel it is necessary to establish a formal closure of the area to aircraft."

The North Cascades Conservation Council, in an October 15, 1971 letter to Supervisor Campbell of the Snoqualmie Forest, reacted favorably to this closure to be administered by the Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests by noting:

"You have on file our recommendation for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area submitted to Supervisors Blair and Barrett in 1963. Obviously one of our objectives in making the 1963 recommendation was to have motorized use, including aircraft, eliminated from the area. We recognize that aircraft are mechanically incompatible with the Wilderness Act, and that they accelerate and magnify the impact of man and his artifacts upon fragile alpine areas that need more sensitive human use.

"Therefore we strongly support your management objectives for administering the "Alpine Lakes region" consistent with its possible eventual classification by Congress as a Wilderness Area. We also support your proposed air closure to this "region" as being a desirable and long overdue administrative decision."





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 Snoqualmie National Forest
 1601 Second Avenue Building
 Seattle, Washington 98101

2320
 October 27, 1971



Mr. Patrick D. Goldsworthy, President
 North Cascades Conservation Council
 3215 N.E. 103rd
 Seattle, Washington 98125

Re: Aircraft Closure of Alpine
 Lakes Region

Dear Pat:

Thank you for your October 15 letter concerning the aircraft closure action initiated by the Wenatchee and Snoqualmie National Forests in the Alpine Lakes region.

During the past two years both Forests involved in the management of the Alpine Lakes area have become increasingly concerned over the extent of expanding use of aircraft and airdrops. Our respective interim management plans for a sizeable portion of the Alpine Lakes area provide for the management and protection of the area for its wilderness qualities. Basically, we want to protect as best we can the integrity of the wilderness potential of this area until such time as Congress decides on the ultimate delineation and classification.

It was with this objective in mind that a portion of the area proposed for classification was selected for air closure--the selected area representing merely that portion of the over-all area where potential wilderness values have been or may be adversely affected by existing aircraft use. The area encompassed in the June 1971 map represented the area which we determined to be presently affected by existing aircraft use. A copy of the "Public Notice" dated October 1, 1971, and attached map represents legal closure action taken by the two Forests. We appreciate very much your support for this closure.

Now to respond to some of the specific questions posed in your letter. As explained somewhat above, we did not intend to infer that the area finally considered for aircraft closure represents the total area that would be subsequently studied for wilderness classification. We do not believe the aircraft

2--P.D.Goldsworthy, 2320, 10/27/71

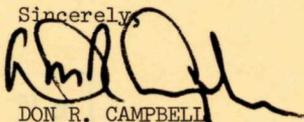
closure action and our current management objectives will "preclude Congress from classifying as Wilderness any portion of a formally proposed Wilderness Area." In this regard, I am aware of the NCCC proposal for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness which was presented to the Forest Service in 1963. I also recognize that the aircraft closure area includes only a portion of the area proposed for Wilderness by the ALPS and the North Cascades Study Team.

You also made inquiry concerning implementation of the aircraft closure. The Public Notice states that the aircraft closure is effective 1/1/72. We would be receptive to reconsidering the extent of the closure area should evidence be presented indicating that additional areas need to be protected in the interim period pending classification action by Congress.

Regarding the nature of response we received on the proposed closure action, the preponderance of statements supported closure action. Over 125 letters or statements were received from individuals and/or group representatives. Since we received quite a number of statements opposing the closure (47), I believe it would be best to have someone review the letters in this office rather than attempt to make copies of each letter. Moreover, some of the statements are in the Wenatchee Forest files and not available for duplication.

I appreciate the interest of the North Cascade Conservation Council in the management activities on the Snoqualmie Forest. We would be pleased to receive suggestions and comments which aid us in achieving balanced and more responsive management of the Forest.

Sincerely,



DON R. CAMPBELL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures



THE WILD CASCADES

December 1971 - January 1972

North Cascades Conservation Council
3215 Northeast 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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NW WILDERNESS CONFERENCE!

SEE PAGE 3 and INSERT