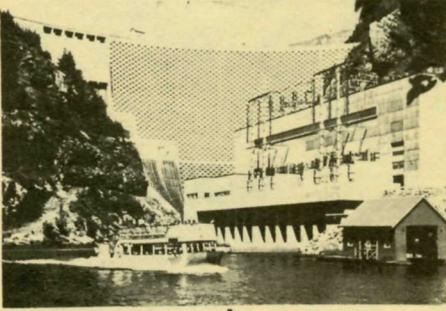


# THE WILD CASCADES

December 1973-January 1974



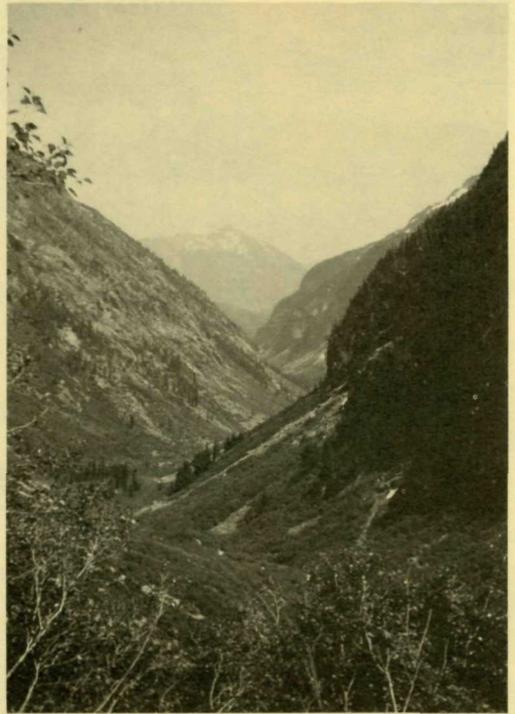
# IN THIS ISSUE...



AFTER FIVE YEARS STOCK IS TAKEN ON PAGE 9 OF WASHINGTON'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK, WHILE FOUR MAJOR THREATS TO THE AREA, UNDER U. S. FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT, WERE ELIMINATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK, THREATS OF A NEWER KIND BEGAN TO APPEAR.



AFTER FIVE YEARS THE FIGHT TO STOP HIGH ROSS DAM STILL IS GOING, ON PAGE 3. CITY LIGHT SUBMITS TESTIMONY TO F.P.C. AND VICKERY, WHO IS VERY DISTURBED BY BIGGS AND ACCUSES CANADIANS OF "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE", DEFILES CANADIANS TO PREVENT SEATTLE FROM FLOODING CANADA. HOWEVER, B. C. MEETS THE CHALLENGE BY THEN THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET OF A SKAGIT VALLEY RECREATION AREA IN THE PATH OF THE FLOOD, OTTOWA'S HOUSE OF COMMONS UNANIMOUSLY STATES OPOSITION TO THE FLOODING, AND WASHINGTON'S DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY DEFENDS BIG BEAVER VALLEY, AS WELL AS THE CANADIAN SKAGIT VALLEY, AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT.



MANY ARE MINER-DOM'S HORROR STORIES TOLD ON PAGE 15. THERE ARE IDIOTS, CROOKS, GIANTS, AND EVEN FOREIGNERS ALL INTENT UPON GOUGING THE VERY HEART OUT OF OUR OWN DEAREST AND VERY WILDEST CASCADES SO THAT THEY CAN LINE THEIR POCKETS WITH CASH AND LEAVE US WITH HOLES, STUMPS, TRASH AND TAILING PILES.



# ROSS DAM REVIEW by the kaopectate kid

(Editor's Note: Because of the Arabian embargo and the shortage of you know what, our sometime Ross Dam correspondent, Old K. K., has changed his nom de guerre from Kerosene Kid to the above (ugh!) soubriquet).

It has been more than a year since we furnished our readers a progress report on High Ross Dam, and some of them may wonder if the battle has been won at last, enabling the North Cascades Conservation Council to move on to fresher fields. Such, we regret to report, is not yet the case. For an obviously terminal patient, Ole Hi Ross still shows surprising signs of life. And like all dying patients who are being kept alive by heroic measures, Ole Hi is a crushing financial burden on his family (the City of Seattle) as well as on those who are trying the hardest to give him a decent burial (us).

Many things have happened in this fifth year of the Ross Dam controversy, but we have space here for only a few of those that will prove most titillating to political scientists and other students of public folly. We'll tackle them chronologically:

January 29, 1973. Seattle City Light submitted its testimony to the Federal Power

Commission. The direct testimony and exhibits consisted of four Sears catalogue-sized books, containing considerable material not particularly pertinent to the issue. For example, Professor Grant (Cedar Tree) Sharpe's section contained 194 half-page photographs reproduced from his famous slide show. The most artistically composed shots were four pictures of outdoor latrines.

March 6, 1973. The ROSS Committee advised the B. C. government that, in view of Canadian reassurances that Ross Dam would not be raised, the Committee was withdrawing from the Federal Power Commission hearings as an intervenor.

March 5, 1973. Chief Vickery to John Biggs, Director, Department of Ecology: "My letter of February 9, 1973, requested that you advise me specifically of the 'substantial and serious environmental disruptions' which will result from raising Ross Dam. Your lack of response to date is very disturbing, and is hindering discharge of my responsibility, as Superintendent of City Light, for an adequate and environmentally acceptable power supply".

March 9, 1973. John Biggs to Gordon Vickery: "You indicate an interest in undertaking immediate commencement of work on corrective measures to mitigate the environmental disruptions anticipated. To the best of my knowledge, the best and only way to mitigate these disruptions would be to terminate your proposal to raise the Ross Dam and to seek other more environmentally acceptable sources of energy.

"... I urge that you carefully read the record of hearings held by the State Ecological Commission on this matter. This record will demonstrate to you that at these hearings a substantial preponderance of people ... strongly urged that the project be terminated. This record is replete with graphic testimony delivered by not only members of the scientific community but people generally, expressing their concern as to the need for this project as contrasted with the obvious environmental degradation which would occur ..."

April 3-5, 1973. A big flap occurred when Environmental Minister Jack Davis was quoted as having said in the House of Commons in Ottawa that the U.S. and Canadian federal

governments had agreed to scuttle Seattle's plan for High Ross Dam. Clarification of Davis' remarks showed he had stated that the governments had agreed in principle to a series of meetings to renegotiate the contract between B. C. and Seattle. A spokesman for Foggy Bottom would only say that things had not progressed as far as Davis said they had. Chief Vickery accused the Canadians of waging "psychological warfare".

June 9, 1973. Federal Environmental Minister Jack Davis and B. C. Lands, Forest



October 25, 1973. The Federal Power Commission released its draft Environmental Impact Statement on High Ross. Not a particularly profound document, it appeared to have been based chiefly on data furnished by City Light. The most serious deficiency was its failure to consider at all the environmental impact in Canada. It failed to assess the total impact on the pristine ecosystem of Big Beaver Valley. It did not discuss the logical sequence of events that would occur if High Ross is denied, and it failed to study the environmental consequences of alternative courses of action. All

Ross Lake from Lightning Creek Trail  
(Harvey Manning Photo)

and Water Resources Minister Bob Williams met and "buried the Skagit hatchet". The two ministers reportedly agreed on a joint strategy to prevent the flooding of the Canadian Skagit Valley.

September 21, 1973. The B. C. government set aside 81,000 acres as the Skagit Valley Recreation Area and 15,000 acres as a special Forest Service recreation corridor along the Hope-Silver Skagit Road. The new recreation area was jointly developed by the Parks Branch and the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the British Columbia Forest Service and was agreed to by the B. C. Environmental and Land Use Committee. The recreation area adjoins Manning Provincial Park on the east and on the south abuts North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Pasayten Wilderness. While the establishment of this dedicated area may have been triggered by the B. C. government's desire to emphasize its opposition to flooding of the Skagit Valley by City Light, rapidly increasing use of the area by lower mainland residents has necessitated the provision of recreational facilities and restrictions to protect the environment.

RIGHT ON, B. C. ! MAPLE LEAF FOREVER!

in all, it was pretty much project justification. N3C was by no means the only organization or agency to submit sharply critical comment to the F. P. C.

November 1, 1973. As Seattle's municipal elections approached, the Seattle Times linked the current water shortage and hydroelectric power deficiency with their long-time advocacy of High Ross. In a series of editorials and letters to the editor they hammered away at the theme that had it not been for those misguided and over-zealous environmentalists, High Ross Dam would have solved all our power problems. The purpose of the barrage of misinformation was obvious -- to support the mayoral candidacy of Liem Tuai, City Light's warm friend.

N3C president Pat Goldsworthy attempted, without success, to get the paper to print the truth about the project's relation to the energy crisis. Fact: It would not have been possible for High Ross Dam to have been completed in time to help with the power shortage of 1973. Fact: During construction, Ross Reservoir would have to be drawn down twice, severely reducing its generating capabilities. Fact: Assuming F. P. C. permission is granted, mini-

imum construction time would be two years, and assuming normal stream flows in the Skagit, it would take another three years to fill the reservoir. Fact: Had no one objected to City Light's plans to construct High Ross, the reservoir would have been partially empty during the 1973 drought-caused energy crunch, and Seattle would have been in a helluva mess.

November 2, 1973. The Canadian House of Commons adopted the following resolution under its unanimous consent procedure:

"That the House of Commons of Canada is unalterably and unanimously opposed to the flooding of the Canadian Skagit Valley which will result from the proposed City of Seattle project to raise the height of the present Ross Dam situated in the State of Washington and downstream from the Canada-United States border; and

That this House further resolves that the Government of Canada deliver the text of this resolution forthwith to the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the State of Washington, and the Council of the City of Seattle'.

November 6, 1973. The N3C sent its researchers into the City Comptroller's vault to check again on how much of the public's money "Our City Light" was shovelling out on the High Ross project. For the year 1973 to date, these expenditures amounted to a trifling \$414,657. Major recipients were our Canadian friends, F. F. Slaney & Co., \$122,950.00, for their unsurpassed blend of scientific research and public relations, and City Light's Washington, D. C. lawyers, McCarty & Noone, \$97,623, for breathing down the necks of the F. P. C. Messrs. M and N, shared \$43,007 of this legal bonanza with their Seattle counsel, Helsell, Paul, Fetterman, Todd and Hokanson. Makes you wonder what Seattle has a Corporation Counsel and all those lawyers on the payroll for! The University of Washington raked in \$93,057 for their biotic survey of Ross Lake Basin and some more fisheries studies. Professor Grant (Cedar Tree) Sharpe didn't do so well this year -- his share of the pie was only \$2280. Professor R. L. Burgner fared a bit better -- \$3049, and old Electric John Nelson had to be satisfied with a consulting fee of \$175. Well, maybe when City Light finally gets the Canadians to agree to ran-

soming their Skagit Valley, the City of Seattle will get some of this dough back.

December 5, 1973. Chief Vickery, as quoted in the Everett Herald: "If we get the F. P. C. permit, we will build the dam. I don't know what the Canadians can do to stop us. If the dam goes up and the water will back into Canadian land, (B. C. premier) Barrett will be unhappy, but I don't know what he can do to stop the water". THAT'S TELLING THOSE BLOODY COLONIALS, CHIEF!

February 1, 1974. The State of Washington, Department of Ecology, published its Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Elevation of Ross Dam. The 197-page document contains a thoughtful analysis of all environmental data submitted so far by advocates and opponents of the project as well as a useful summary of the history of the controversy. Some quotes we like (emphasis provided by DOE):

"In the absence of determinations regarding the logical alternatives to High Ross and the environmental consequences of those alternatives, THE LOSS OF BIG BEAVER VALLEY HAS NOT BEEN JUSTIFIED."

"IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS IN CANADA OF RAISING ROSS DAM REMAIN CRITICAL AND UNSOLVED."

"The F. P. C. and Seattle City Light should study the combination of conservation and purchase of power as a potential alternative to High Ross Dam. Additionally, the environmental impact of such a combination-alternative should be presented for public consideration".

"If Seattle City Light does not intend to further develop the Skagit River Valley, they should disavow Cooper Creek and all other future projects on the Skagit River. ONLY THEN CAN HIGH ROSS AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES BE CONSIDERED ALONE".

"IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT, PRIOR TO ANY APPROVAL TO RAISE ROSS DAM, APPROVAL ALSO BE ASSURED FOR THE DESIGNATION OF PRISTINE AND WILDERNESS AREAS, INCLUDING BIG BEAVER VALLEY, WITHIN THE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA".

Good show, DOE. Our compliments to

John Biggs and his hard-working staff!

Today, what remains to do before this crummy project is buried for good? The F. P. C. hearings, which we once thought would be held in 1971, are now scheduled for the spring of 1974, and N3C must submit its testimony (an expensive proposition). Time, of course, is on the side of the white hats, and some day, when all this is history, we'll be able to tell you just what N3C and its legal staff really did to keep City Light from stealing Big Beaver Valley and the Canadian Skagit. They wouldn't believe us down at City Hall and the Lighting Department back in '69 when we said we had just begun to fight.

The State Department of Ecology has concluded in an Environmental Assessment highly critical of both Seattle City Light and the Federal Power Commission that all feasible alternatives to High Ross Dam have not been revealed.

The assessment recommended that plans to raise Ross Dam be scrapped and the prospect of combining conservation measures with the purchase of power from British Columbia be studied instead.

The report also stated that those two agencies had not presented information for the public to compare alternatives to the dam project and the expected environmental impact of the alternatives.

The report pointed out that the FPC is required by federal regulations to investigate both the alternatives to an action and the environmental consequences of the alternatives.

Steve Mitchell, head of the environmental evaluation team within the Department of Ecology, which prepared the report said yesterday that the federal hearings on the

dam project have been postponed one month until April 15 in order to give the FPC time to revise its Draft Environmental Impact statement.

Testimony from all agencies concerned, including the State Departments of Fisheries and Game, must be filed in Washington, D.C., by March 15.

The environmental assessment, while not an official environmental impact statement, summarizes and supplements the environmental statements which have been filed so far, and fulfills the Department of Ecology's responsibility under the State Environmental Protection Act, said Mitchell.

The report also criticized the "conspicuous absence of a logical sequence of events that would occur if the High Ross proposal is denied."

In addition, it said that both City Light and the FPC had failed to commit themselves to measures which would minimize and protect the Skagit River Valley against environmental damage should the FPC approve the 48-year-old project, which would raise the level of Ross

# Forget Raising Dam, Say Ecologists

Lake 122.5 feet and increase the surface area of the reservoir about 8,300 acres to a total of 20,000 acres.

The reservoir would extend seven miles further into Canada and flood an additional 3,600 acres in the U.S. and 4,720 acres in Canada.

# Ross Dam Swap Plan Opposed

BY JOHN deYONGE  
P-I Environmental Writer

Gov. Dan Evans' Energy Policy Council yesterday refused to wire itself to a suggestion that Seattle City Light can trade off plans to raise Ross Dam for a chunk of Canadian electricity.

The suggestion, put as a formal motion, pitted environmental and business members and finally resulted in a vote to table and leave the council — for awhile, anyway — uncommitted on the controversial proposal to raise the Skagit River dam 122 feet in face of opposition by the British Columbia Parliament and the Canadian Parliament itself.

Debate on other subjects showed that the onrush of the energy crisis can cause tension between industrial and environmental interests on the 50-member advisory council as it works on legislative proposals about who is going to get future supplies of energy, and under what conditions.

At a meeting here, the council:

- Heard that a special task force will meet again Dec. 4 to thrash out a report on how the state should react to possible future deliveries of huge blocks of electricity to a proposed aluminum plant at Warrenton, Ore., a proposed magnesium plant at Addy, Wash., and a proposed chemical plant at Klickitat, Wash.

- Agreed that first priority should go to health, safety and basic services, second priority to residences, businesses and factories and third priority to other users on the 10 per cent of suppliers' fuel-oil stocks that the state can allocate for "hardship" cases.

- Heard one task force report that only the full council could grapple with what "social and philosophical" changes ought to result because of the present energy shortages.

- Debated whether it's possible to make rational recommendations about bringing Alaskan oil into Puget Sound unless oil companies state with some finality whether they plan just to take care of Pacific Northwest petroleum needs or plan to use Puget Sound for refining products for West Coast or national distribution.

- Voted to take secret votes when necessary to avoid having members embarrassed by press coverage of ticklish yeas and nays.

- Got into a short, tough discussion on whether nuclear plants have a statistical safety record, with Dr. James Crutchfield, chairman and an economist,

saying that evidence is short, that "the moment you get one point on a probability curve, you're going to have a lot of unhappy, dead people glowing like a wristwatch."

The council, appointed to advise Gov. Evans on possible energy legislation, discussed City Light's Ross Dam proposal after City Light Supt. Gordon Vickery, a council member, had left on other business.

A task force reported that it could not decide right away on what to recommend about the proposal, which would cause flooding over the International Border into Canada and also would produce 38 megawatts of power.

Tom Wimmer, a council member, moved that the council adopt a task-force minority report that the council suggest City Light negotiate for an equivalent block of future British Columbia produced electricity in trade for not raising the dam.

Wimmer, a past president of the Washington Environmental Council and president of the Seattle Audubon Society, said that if forthcoming U.S. Federal Power Commission on raising the dam decision went against City Light, then the leverage would be lost to negotiate with the British Columbian government.

Pete Henault, Vickery's environmental assistant, said that Vickery had decided the night before not to let Henault brief the task force on the Ross Dam matter because there was not enough time to educate the task force fully.

Henault said Wimmer's motion was premature and was second guessing Vickery's judgment.

Gordon Tongue, an industrial representative on the council, told Wimmer that "if you're really interested in energy, the simple solution would be to withdraw your environmental opposition and . . . go to work and raise the dam."

Similar debate occurred over difficulties in getting information about oil company plants for Puget Sound development.

Joan Thomas, president of the Washington Environmental Council, said, it's essential for the state to develop a land-use policy governing placement of new refineries and possible superports for super oil tankers.

D. E. (Ned) Skinner, Seattle business executive, said that if the state's going to change its present laws toward oil refineries, "the sooner the oil companies know it, the better" and said that the real question is what "role this region is going to play in solving national (energy) needs."

*The Times' opinion and comment:*

## Barrett puts strains on cooperation with B. C.

**A** United States - Canadian governmental-advisory board has proposed the creation of an international conservation and recreation area, embracing the American San Juan and Canadian Gulf Islands.

*The report was rightly described by one state official as "very short on specifics; long on philosophical approach."*

Apparently the advisory board—whose job it was to make recommendations for solving the specific local problems of Point Roberts, mainly dealing with water supply—got lost in fantasy land.

A number of Point Roberts residents are understandably alarmed, and have formed a group to fight the proposal.

**O**NE factor that regretfully must be considered is that our northern neighbors—particularly since Premier Dave Barrett's Socialist government took office last year in British Columbia—have raised efforts to renege on international agreements to the level of established public policy.

With Barrett in the forefront, the effort to scrap British Columbia's treaty with Seattle City Light for raising the height of Ross Dam has become a Canada-wide emotional issue. Never mind the contractual obligations involved.

*Barrett also is leading a crusade to renegotiate the United States-Canadian treaty for joint development of the Columbia River for power production and flood control — an agreement long regarded as a landmark example of international cooperation in use of resources.*

Another significant Canadian-American resource-development pact is the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Treaty. North of the border there is a loud clamor to renegotiate that one, too, even though, according to Governor Evans, Canadian fishermen already take more than their entitlement under the treaty.

**I**N recent days, Barrett has pursued his particular brand of xenophobia in the area of natural gas.

Just after bidding good-bye to Evans, who was in Victoria on a good-will visit, Barrett had one of his cabinet ministers fire off an "ultimatum" to the Canadian government, demanding a 15 per cent cutback in exports of B. C. natural gas to Oregon and Washington.

The Canadian federal energy minister, Donald MacDonald, is opposed to export reductions of that size, and says Canadian natural-gas customers should be favored only if Washington and Oregon are not affected.

Opposition leaders call Barrett's dramatics over natural-gas exports "political grandstanding."

**C**OOPERATION between Washington and British Columbia is always a welcome objective, but recently there is reason to question just how durable any international agreement involving the Canadians, such as the proposed island pact, would prove to be.

*Maybe that advisory board ought to come down out of the clouds and get back to the job of working out Point Roberts' water problems.*

# FIVE YEARS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ADMINISTRATION IN THE NORTH CASCADES

by grant mc connell

Editor's Foreword: The author of this perceptive analysis has been an N3C Director since inception of the organization and has known the Stehekin Valley for nearly 40 years, first as a climber attracted by the great peaks, then for several years after World War II as a fulltime resident, making a living any way he could. Subsequently, while pursuing his academic career from his original home in Portland to the University of Chicago and now the University of California, he became, and still is, a property owner living summers in and around the Valley. In 1973 he spent a sabbatical leave at his home in the Valley, from June through December. In November he set down the following thoughts.)

On October 22, 1968 President Johnson signed an Act establishing the North Cascades National Park and two adjacent National Recreation Areas to be administered by the National Park Service out of land previously under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service. This action was the outcome of a bitter struggle waged by conservationists over a period of thirteen years and is still the topic of some lingering controversy. The Act was, like all legislative measures, a compromise reflecting the pressures and political currents of the time, and necessarily it created some ambiguities with which the new administrators have had to contend.

What have been the consequences of this action by Congress? Have the goals sought in the Act and the preceding struggle been achieved? How well has this administrative solution to a serious environmental crisis served? What follows is an attempt to answer these questions. It relates strictly to a part of the National Park Service complex in the North Cascades, the Southern Unit consisting of the part of the Park south of the Cascade crest and the Lake Chelan National Recreation area administered jointly but under different regulations covering these two types of area. The period, five years, is not long in the span of time covered by the history of the older Parks. It is nevertheless a significant period in that it is a beginning and may well have an important bearing on what happens to this area in the future. The basis of the following evaluation is fairly close personal observation and discussion with Park Service

personnel and others.

The conclusion of first importance is that the worst threats which hung over this region from the end of World War II until passage of the Act of 1968 have ended. The most ominous of these was commercial logging. Right up to the last moment, the Forest Service maintained a "necessity" to make timber sales in some of the most important scenic and wild areas. This derived from the combination of Forest Service doctrine placing commodity exploitation of timber resources in a position of first importance and pressure from a nearby sawmill. Such sales are now foreclosed under Park Service policy and the mill has disappeared. Since even this small mill could have effectively destroyed the unique quality of the area, this has to be considered a benefit of overriding importance. By itself, this is sufficient justification for the Act and the years of effort that went into securing its passage.

A second threat of much seriousness but of perhaps less imminence was that a road would be built into the Stehekin Valley. One of the quite unique qualities of this Valley is that, while it has a primitive road, this is dead-ended at both extremities, with vehicles arriving only by barge on Lake Chelan. The Forest Service and state officials quite clearly looked favorably on a connecting road to the North Cascades Highway then under construction. This prospect has been categorically ended by passage of the 1968 Act.

Next in importance is the fact that the Park Service has drastically reduced the scale of the prospective building boom of second homes that was beginning before 1968. One property owner, for example, had surveyed thirty-seven lots on his approximately 100 acres and was offering them for sale. That property, save for several tracts, has been acquired by the Park Service. More than half of the 1700 acres once privately held in the Stehekin Valley have now come into public hands. NPS has been markedly effective and energetic in this acquisition program.

The fourth threat to the region has been mining exploitation. Although the deposits of mineral in the area have dubious value, there have been persistent attempts to make some kind of development, whether through genuine mining ventures or through schemes of stock sales. The mining laws continue to favor such undertakings. At the present time the Park Service is engaged in efforts to gain precise information on the boundaries of patented claims in preparation for their acquisition and to terminate invalid and unpatented claims. Progress on this score has been minimal and late in starting. At any rate, efforts are now under way.

Taken together, these changes abundantly justify passage of the 1968 Act and the efforts that went into securing it. Had this Act not been won when it was, the future of the area's essential values would be very bleak and in all probability much destruction would already have been wrought.

To say this, however, is unfortunately not to say that the future of the area is secure. Threats of a new kind are developing and they can well prove difficult to deflect. Whether the integrity of the area can be preserved will depend upon two factors: the vigilance of public-spirited citizen groups and energetic and clear-minded administration by the National Park Service. On both scores present signs, while not yet alarming, give little ground for optimism.

The major factor in the present situation, one that is likely to continue for the indefinite future, is the vast increase in public recourse to the recreational opportunities of wild and scenic lands. This is a national development and has taken place in almost precisely the period covered by this report. As more well known areas have become crowded and have

lost the wildness now being sought by so many people and as highways have improved, places such as the North Cascades have come under increasing pressure. The magic of the term, "National Park", has also contributed to the public appeal of the area. Thus, between 1972 and 1973 the Park Service estimates that visitation increased by 10% in the area here under discussion. Part of this increase may be attributable to the fact that this was the year in which the North Cascades Highway opened to a fanfare of much publicity and the appearance of a number of articles in popular magazines on the area. It would be rash, however, to assume that the rate of increase will diminish.

In the face of this public demand there is a very serious question as to the kind of use that can be tolerated without disappearance of those values which are bringing increasing numbers of people to the area. The citizen groups which fought so vigorously for protection of the area are themselves the source of considerable pressure of numbers on it. They will have to accept the necessity of limiting the size of parties they send into the area. More insidiously, there is a temptation for them to assume that since a piece of legislation has been passed, the struggle is over and won. Since the threats of the future are less dramatic than those of the past, it will be difficult to mobilize strong efforts for protection. But without persistent attention to a succession of small issues, the area may well degenerate in ways all too visible in other areas.

It is at this point that the year-by-year and month-to-month administration of the National Park Service becomes important. As the professionally and full-time staffed public body charged with the responsibility of protecting the area, this agency should be expected to deal with the multitude of small threats that collectively could seriously damage the area. The spirit and the energy which the agency brings to the task are accordingly important. What is the record and what are the prospects here?

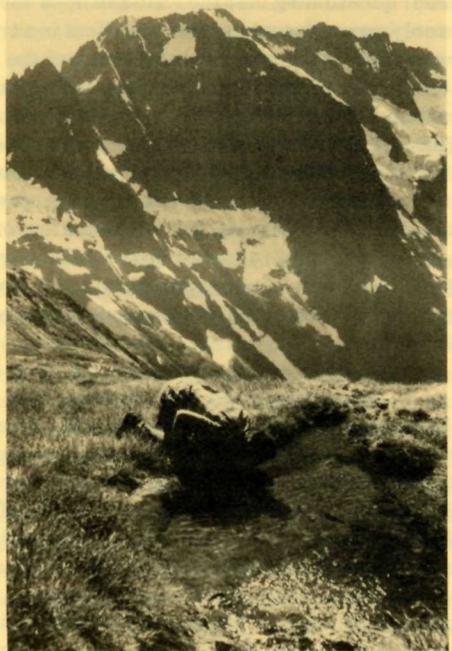
After five years it has to be said that the record is mixed and that the auguries for the future are uncertain. On the positive side there is, first, the substantial achievement in land acquisition already mentioned. This has occasioned some criticism from property owners who have seen their taxes increased as a con-

sequence of the prices paid by NPS for property. This increase, however, is the work of the county government and is only indirectly related to the land acquisition by the Park Service. It could, nevertheless, result in a general change in the social structure of the Valley by favoring the relatively more well-to-do. Whether this is a proper concern for the Service is unclear, not least of all to the Service. A second criticism of the successful land acquisition is that it reduces the prospective size of the Valley community. This, however, is at root an anti-conservation argument.

The Park Service has also moved with relative effectiveness to regulate the intensity of use of the high country which is the region's special glory. Camping permits are required and they are issued under a system which can ultimately be used to limit numbers of campers in any particular part of the area. Camping has been forbidden in several places which have suffered from a previous laissez faire policy, notably Cascade and Park Creek Passes. Unfortunately, however, present policy is not wholly consistent. Thus, campers being directed by Park personnel away from Cascade Pass are told to camp on Sahale Arm, an even more fragile and critical area. The reason is an apparent unwillingness to offend even those individuals incapable of understanding the need to protect endangered areas.

Probably the most important individual issue at the present time is the place to be accorded motorized transportation in the Park and the Recreation Area. Despite the emphasis given by Congress to the value of limited use of autos and trucks by explicitly barring road access into the Stehekin Valley from the nearest highway, Park actions on this score have been ambiguous. On the one hand, there has been no effort to construct the forbidden road to the outside. Moreover, the Park Service has instituted a heavily subsidized system of bus transportation on the road during the tourist season. This service has been generally excellent and has won much approval despite some inherent difficulties. It has helped to do away with a privately run system of old rental cars which had been accelerating the use of the primitive Valley road for the benefit of a small number of visitors. Without question the busses have kept the amount of traffic on the road at a level below what it might otherwise have been.

On two other quite vital scores, however, the record is less reassuring. The road up the Valley penetrates into what would otherwise be a singularly wild area. Each year portions of it suffer substantial damage from floods and avalanches. As a consequence it would largely disappear in its upper reaches (approximately five miles) if annual repairs in this stretch were foregone. This would not only restore the wildness of the upper Valley and give opportunity for wilderness experience at the cost of only easy walking to visitors who now ride over it without seeing the spectacular scenery of the Valley walls, peaks and waterfalls, it would serve as a generally painless device for the rationing of the now heavily used high country near Cascade Pass. To achieve this latter effect a similar shortening of the road approaching Cascade Pass on the west side would also be necessary, an action which will not be possible until mining property at the present end of that road is acquired. The shortening of the Stehekin road, however, is the first step. There has been no sign that the Park Service has been willing to give such action serious consideration. Protests over the delayed rebuilding of several bridges on the Stehekin road from a few individuals have ap-



Johannesburg Mountain from Sahale Arm,  
North Cascades National Park  
(John Warth Photo)

parently sufficed to persuade the Service to reopen the road in its fullest extent each year. The policy is short-sighted.

Even more ominous, however, is the recent paving of the lower part of this road. This paving is an almost classic example of the usurpation of avowed goals by technological considerations. In original planning the primitive character of the road was regarded as one of the attractive features of the Valley to be continued. For much of its length it is a single lane with grass and clover growing between its tracks. It has necessitated low speeds but has seldom caused breakdowns by cars driven with respect for the country. Dust has, however, been a problem during the dry season. The original planners sought to alleviate this problem. After an experiment with chemicals it was decided that paving would be the most efficient solution. The outcome of this, however, has been the creation of a two-lane highway in the lower reaches of the Valley that invites considerable speeds. The road was rebuilt here under supervision of engineers from outside the local staff and plainly their own technology required them to build as roads are built elsewhere -- for the benefit of machines, not of the country. The supervising engineer insisted under questioning that the road had been widened in only one or two spots, but the effect is a transformation of the character of the area the road traverses. Probably what has been done is paving right out to the full extent of the shoulders. The result is a minor disaster, since, in addition to the local damage, it invites the introduction of further private cars, the increase of speeds, and demands for continuation of the paving and widening further up the Valley, where these are even more inappropriate. It speaks very poorly for NPS determination to protect the area.

Insensitivity to the country has also characterized NPS policy on aircraft. Whether it is correct to say the Service has a policy on this is debatable. During the past summer, the Park, the Recreation Area and parts of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area were rendered noisy for prolonged periods by the shuttling of a helicopter. This was brought in under contract to the Service for use of a mining engineer seeking to locate mining claims preparatory to their termination where possible. Some of this use was entirely proper inasmuch as the markers and monuments on these claims were remote

and difficult to discover. However, on at least one occasion the engineer had himself put down on a trail just one mile from the road. Under questioning he saw nothing incongruous in this nor was he willing to consider that he might have walked to such a point as do ordinary mortals. Even more serious, the same helicopter was in frequent and constant use ferrying building materials such as cement and firebricks for campgrounds along the trails in the Park. Service personnel explained that this was the result simply of the availability of the machine and its great convenience. There is apparently no NPS regulation against such use and obviously no sense of its incompatibility with wilderness values. While it is possible the availability of such a machine may not recur, the incident does not appear to promise well for protection of the area against mechanical intrusions where administrative convenience is at stake.

Similar behavior is apparent in NPS dealing with the emergency airstrip in the Valley. This is a preexisting facility which has been the cause of a number of deaths and is used almost exclusively for pleasure flying by fishermen seeking a few hours of fishing out of Seattle. Its existence has been protested as incompatible with the nature of the country, involving as it does low flights not only over the Recreation Area but the Park and the Glacier Peak Wilderness as well. NPS recognized this incongruity in the early days of its administration. More recently, however, Park personnel have been quiet on this and have even built a campground for fliers adjacent to the airstrip.

To its credit the Park Service has restricted the use of snowmobiles and motorcycles to existing roads save for one small exception.

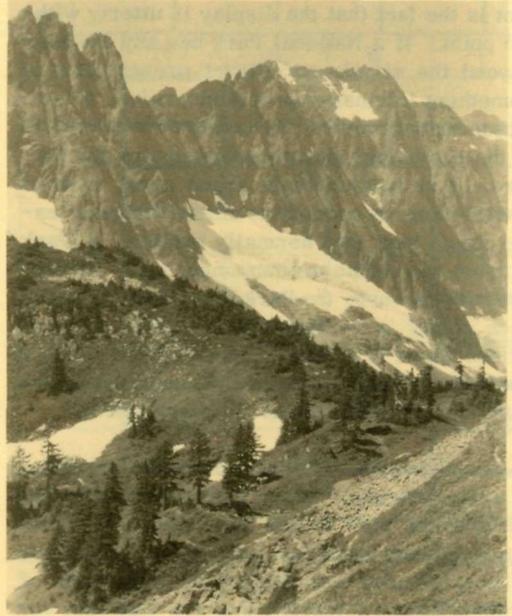
One of the more disturbing portents has been the recent experience involving the U. S. Corps of Engineers in the Stehekin Valley. Under the request from several property owners and the Chelan (city) Chamber of Commerce, the Corps moved with little advance notice into the Valley with large bulldozers and cleared many logjams from the lower shores of the River. This stream, one of the genuinely wild streams of the nation is an essential part of the habitat for much wildlife as well as for fish. The log clearance was thus a gross environmental intrusion of real seriousness. The Park Service did not permit crossing of land in its

ownership, but otherwise did not object to the disruption of the area, nor did it let citizen groups concerned for protection of the area know of projects which had been mounted in what can only be termed secrecy. There was not even any inquiry whether an environmental impact statement had been prepared. The deed was done before any possible objection could be made. NPS response to questioning afterwards, was that NPS had no power to stop what it admittedly considered inappropriate and hence did nothing even by the way of persuasion or protest.

A similar stance has characterized Park Service behavior regarding new buildings in the Recreation Area. While admittedly the mandate given the service in this part of the complex is vague, it is obvious that beyond some point additional building will adversely affect both the Recreation Area and the adjoining Park, both being intrinsically parts of the same area and their demarcation arbitrary. Moreover, in certain spots, as along the upper shores of Lake Chelan, some of the most scenic areas in the whole are involved. Since the NPS has entered the region a number of unsightly and probably polluting houses have been built on points of land pushed into the Lake. Clearly the Park Service has had no power to forbid building since they lie on private property. Nonetheless, their inappropriateness is plain and they are very much matters of concern to the objectives of the NPS. Apparently, however, NPS has made no representations to the planning authority of local government, which has simply issued permits in the belief that the real planning concern lies with the Park Service; and since the local authority has issued the permits, NPS has remained quiet. The result must be characterized as simple governmental irresponsibility.

One of the minor but difficult problems encountered by the Service has been the permitting of woodcutting by the few local residents. Properly the Service has insisted upon cutting only of designated dead trees. This occasional protests, however, and Park Service policy has permitted the opening up of some areas to what must be described as logging and the development of new roads. It is development by default.

Among the major factors affecting the future of this area is the character and the scale of the transportation to it. For this part of the Park Complex, this means primarily the boat



Cascade Pass, North Cascades National Park  
(Joseph Collins Photo)

service offered on Lake Chelan. This is at present a monopoly of the Lake Chelan Boat Company (save for small privately owned pleasure craft). For several years the boats operated by this company have been loaded to full capacity during several months of the tourist season, with many passengers having standing room only for the day-long round trip. Arriving in Stehekin at the same time, these passengers have swamped local eating facilities and can hardly be said to have enjoyed pleasant travel. The Boat Company is now engaged in construction of a much larger boat, which will necessarily deposit an even greater overload on local facilities for brief periods. Spreading out the load over more hours by use of several boats with different departure times would obviously make more efficient use of Park facilities. Yet, here a critical matter of Park planning is in the hands of a private body, The Boat Company, and without apparent efforts of NPS to collaborate on even an informal basis. Here again, the reasoning seems to be that since the Service has no legal powers to compel, it can do nothing whatsoever.

What may or may not be one more straw in the wind is the recently installed display at

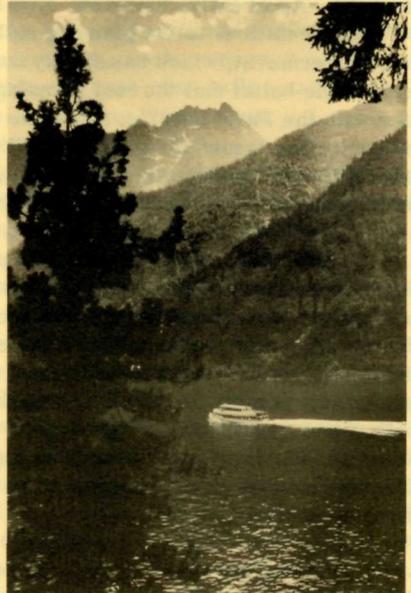
the Visitor Center. This display has a number of laughable but egregious errors which will undoubtedly be corrected. Much more important is the fact that the display is utterly without point. If a National Park has any meaning beyond the simple and direct preservation of something intrinsically of public value, it is an educational device. By having attention called to the ecological interrelationships of the features of an outstandingly grand area, eyes of visitors may be opened to similar things in lesser areas that they normally inhabit. A Park is much more than an amusement area. If anywhere in its work, the Park Service should make such points in its displays at visitor centers. Where there is a wholly meaningless display such as that at Stehekin, the question arises: Does the NPS understand its own mission?

It may be tempting to conclude that there is some deficiency in the particular personnel assigned by NPS to this Park complex. This would be both incorrect and unjust. The staff of this complex are competent individuals of unquestionable integrity; they are also very attractive human beings. Moreover, the incidents commented on here have involved staff from other offices of the NPS as frequently as from the local administrative unit, personnel from San Francisco, Denver, Harpers Ferry and other offices have played important parts. Perhaps part of the difficulty arises from the centralized character of the agency. While this centralization undoubtedly minimizes the coziness of relationship between governmental officers and would-be exploitive local interest groups that has been the bane of Forest Service operations in areas such as this, it may well tend to diminish the comprehension of peculiar values in particular areas and to exaggerate technological considerations in the Service as a whole. The road experience would seem to be a particularly clear example of this at Stehekin.

Two problems of personnel policy would seem to have handicapped NPS operations at Stehekin. First is the policy of making political appointments at the laborer level. Most of the staff in this category at Stehekin have had to secure their positions via senators and congressmen. Although some of the appointees have been excellent, the policy is anachronistic and unjustifiable. The remedy probably lies only with Congress.

The second general difficulty in personnel policy has been an undue turnover of personnel. There have already been two Park Superintendents and two Southern Unit Managers. And there have been other turnovers. Since the area is complex and difficult to become acquainted with, this makes for serious inefficiency. Moreover, it can only minimize the degree of commitment to the area and its protection by the individuals who pass through on short tours of duty.

Perhaps the critical points made in this report are minor; some of them undoubtedly are. Moreover, they relate to a period when a new administrative system has been instituted in a difficult area. Some involve questions about the meaning and purpose of a "recreation area", a category seamed with ambiguities. Nevertheless, the problems indicated here, when taken together, are not trivial. Most alarmingly they indicate a general passivity in confrontation with threats that cannot be dismissed by simple orders. The lack of power to give such orders on many matters or to compel compliance with the purposes for which the NPS was brought into the area is not a sufficient excuse. Compulsion, far from being the whole of government, is only its last resort. What is essential is clarity of vision and a sense of purpose.



REMOVE THIS INSERT NOW!

- I - WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT
- II - FOREST SCENIC RECREATION AREA
- III- FOREST USE AREA, UNROADED
- IV- FOREST USE AREA, ROADED
- V - TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREA
- FOREST SERVICE SUBUNIT NO.

NO.	AREA NAME	ACRES		V	IV	III	II	I
1	BLACK CANYON	13,600	2					
2	HUNGRY RIDGE	14,500						
3	MIDDLE CREEK	14,400						
4	SAWTOOTH	96,900						
5	TWISP RIVER	30,700						
6	MIDNIGHT MT.	17,600						
7	WOLF CREEK	14,500	1					
8	LUCKY JIM	11,900						
9	LIBERTY BELL-I	45,000						
10	LIBERTY BELL-II	100,000						
11	DRIVEWAY BUTTE	6,900						
12	SHERMAN PEAK	12,032		3				
13	FALLS CREEK	7,300						
14	FAREWELL CREEK	5,600						
15	DISASTER CREEK	6,900						
16	LONG DRAW	2,800						
17	LONG SWAMP	20,500						
18	FOURTEEN MILE	5,800	4					
19	THIRTY MILE	21,600						
20	TWENTY MILE	40,600						
21	TIFFANY	25,200						
22	PEBBLE CREEK	20,500						
23	BEAVER CREEK	13,400						
24	GRANITE MT.	20,200						
25	SOUTH RIDGE	6,400						
PERMITTED USES								
	LOGGING	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
	ROADS	-----	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	
	TRAIL VEHICLES	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
	ANY DEVELOPMENTS	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
	ANY MECHANICAL USE	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
	GRAZING	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
	HUNTING & FISHING	-----	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
	RECREATION 1st PRIORITY	-----	NO	YES	YES	YES	---	
	LOGGING 1st PRIORITY	-----	YES	NO	NO	NO	---	

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## WHAT ARE YOUR ANSWERS ?

<p>U. S. FOREST SERVICE QUESTIONS for SUBUNIT NO. - 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How should <u>Wolf Cr.</u> (#7) be managed?</li> <li>2. Should campgrounds or picnic grounds be built along the North Cascades Highway in the <u>Granite Cr. drainage</u>?</li> <li>3. Should a recreation road be built up <u>Cedar Cr.</u>?</li> <li>4. What should be done with <u>Harts Pass-Chancellor</u> primitive road?</li> <li>5. How should <u>Driveway Butte</u> (#6) be managed?</li> <li>6. Should logging occur in lower <u>Early Winters Cr.</u>?</li> <li>7. Should the road to <u>Harts Pass</u> be improved?</li> <li>8. Should a ski area be developed at <u>Sandy Butte</u>?</li> </ol>	<p>NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ANSWERS for SUBUNIT NO. - 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As Wilderness (see Table).</li> <li>2. No as the valley is too narrow and should be a roadside Wilderness of Liberty Bell I and II (see Table).</li> <li>3. No as should be in Wilderness of Liberty Bell-II (see Table).</li> <li>4. Allowed to revert to non-motorized trail use.</li> <li>5. As Wilderness (see Table).</li> <li>6. No as should be roadside Wilderness of Liberty Bell I and II (see Table).</li> <li>7. No as will bring increased human erosion of a fragile alpine country.</li> <li>8. Yes provided an adequate set of environmental safeguards are spelled out in an Environmental Impact Statement acceptable to conservationists.</li> </ol>
<p>U. S. FOREST SERVICE QUESTIONS for SUBUNIT NO. - 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How should <u>Sawtooth</u> Area (#4) be managed?</li> <li>2. Should there be recreation roads up valleys in <u>Sawtooth</u> (#4) and <u>Twisp River</u> (#5) Areas?</li> <li>3. Should timber harvest in <u>Twisp River Valley</u> continue under tight visual management limits?</li> </ol>	<p>NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ANSWERS for SUBUNIT NO. - 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As Wilderness (see Table).</li> <li>2. No as both should be Wilderness (see Table).</li> <li>3. Yes so as not to degrade the recreational values.</li> </ol>
<p>U. S. FOREST SERVICE QUESTIONS for SUBUNIT NO. - 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Should timber harvest in <u>Chewack River Valley</u> continue under tight visual management limits?</li> <li>2. Should timber management in <u>Chewack River Valley</u> become more intensive?</li> <li>3. How should <u>Eightmile Cr. Valley</u> be managed?</li> <li>4. How should <u>Sweetgrass Butte</u> be managed ?</li> <li>5. Should <u>Chewack-Toats Coulee Road</u> be completed?</li> <li>6. Should plans to log Falls Creek road area (in area #13) be continued?</li> </ol>	<p>NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ANSWERS for SUBUNIT NO. - 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes so as not to degrade recreational experience.</li> <li>2. Yes if it does <u>not</u> degrade the recreational values.</li> <li>3. First preference for recreation.</li> <li>4. We don't know.</li> <li>5. No as will produce an increased and different type of recreation pressure than is there now.</li> <li>6. No as this area should become Wilderness (see Table).</li> </ol>
<p>U. S. FOREST SERVICE QUESTIONS for SUBUNIT NO. - 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How should Tiffany Area (#21) be managed?</li> <li>2. How should Long Swamp (#17) and Long Draw (#16) Areas be managed?</li> <li>3. How should the Meadows Area (#19 and #20) be managed?</li> </ol>	<p>NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ANSWERS for SUBUNIT NO. - 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As Wilderness (see Table).</li> <li>2. As Wildernesses (see Table).</li> <li>3. As Wildernesses (see Table).</li> </ol>

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## RECOMMENDS

The SAWTOOTH RANGE (Area #4) includes spectacular mountain ranges and tributary valleys on the northeast side of LAKE CHELAN as well as the headwaters of the TWISP RIVER drainage (Area #5). This region (127,600 acres) is part of the largest single block (359,200 acres) of unprotected wilderness in the North Cascades which also includes the LIBERTY BELL- I Roadless Area, the LAKE CHELAN Roadless Area (156,600 acres) of Wenatchee National Forest, and proposed Wilderness (30,000 acres) of LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (National Park Service). The SAWTOOTH's primary features are its rugged canyons, huge flower-filled high basins, and magnificent views of all the Cascade ranges just to the west as well as LAKE CHELAN just below.

One of the Forest Service's proposed alternatives ("C") here would alter the feeling of wilderness and destroy the views by running logging roads up many of the tributary valleys of this range: BUTTERMILK, EAGLE, OVAL, MARTIN, and REYNOLDS CREEKS and particularly its largest valley, WAR CREEK and its tributaries. The Forest Service should be told that all the presently unroaded portions of the TWISP RIVER drainage and the SAWTOOTH RANGE as well as the contiguous Roadless Areas (#6, 7, and 9) should be reclassified as Wilderness Study Areas and managed as Wilderness until Congress has taken final action.

WOLF CREEK (Areas #7 and 4) is a completely untouched drainage with its main, North, and South Forks all originating in the spectacular Mt. GARDNER and ABERNATHY RANGE. This is a magnificent group of mountains that stands out as a separate unit to the east of the main SAWTOOTH RANGE and also is a divide between the WOLF CREEK drainage and the CEDAR CREEK and TWISP RIVER drainages. WOLF CREEK valley starts in open meadows and scattered ponderosa pine at its lower end, being replaced by lodge pole, Douglas fir, silver fir, and spruce upstream, as the dry east-type forest is replaced by the wet west-type. On the slopes of Mt. GARDNER are flower-covered meadows and intermittent bogs interspersed with sage brush and aspen. This as yet undeveloped drainage, along with that of CEDAR CREEK, should be kept intact, classified as Wilderness Study Areas, and managed as Wilderness until Congress has taken final action.

PASAYTEN WILDERNESS ADDITIONS should be made to include nine contiguous Roadless Areas. On the west is the logical extension of the great SAWTOOTH wilderness block, LIBERTY BELL- II (#10). As one goes eastward there are DRIVEWAY BUTTE (#11), SHERMAN PEAK (#12), FALLS CREEK (#13), FAREWELL CREEK (#14), DISASTER CREEK (#15), and FOURTEEN MILE (#18). Then on the east there are LONG DRAW (#16) and LONG SWAMP (17) which were originally classified for Wilderness Study but were declassified because "no public support was shown at the public hearings". Let's correct that.

The NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL's recommendations for Wilderness Study Areas are shown on the tabulation of the twenty five areas as the heavy black boxes.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW!

1. Study arguments and recommendations of the North Cascades Conservation Council.
2. Express your own personal views, which we hope will agree with ours, in a letter. This is the most effective action that you can take.
3. If you do not have time for a letter then fill in the form that we have provided and mail in.
4. Mail your recommendations and arguments to : Land Use Planning Team  
Okanogan National Forest  
P. O. Box 950  
Okanogan, Washington 98840
5. September 28, 1974 is the deadline for receiving your comments. However, if you absolutely can't meet this deadline mail your comments in anyway as they are certain to be considered.

REMOVE THIS INSERT NOW!

### SUB-UNIT 5

### SUB-UNIT 1

### SUB-UNIT 2

### SUB-UNIT 4

### SUB-UNIT 3

CANADA

OSOYOOS

OROVILLE

ROSS  
LAKE  
N.R.A.

**PASAYTEN WILDERNESS**

Harts Pass Eightmile Cr.

Chancellor Granite Cr.  
Early Winters Cr.

LOOMIS

Chewack-Toats Coulee Road

TONASKET

Sweetgrass Butte

Falls Cr.

Chewack River

NORTH  
CASCADES  
NATIONAL  
PARK

Sandy Butte

WINTHROP

North Cascades Highway

LAKE CHELAN

Cedar Cr.

TWISP

OMAK

OKANOGAN

N.R.A. Twisp River

WENATCHEE

NATIONAL

FOREST

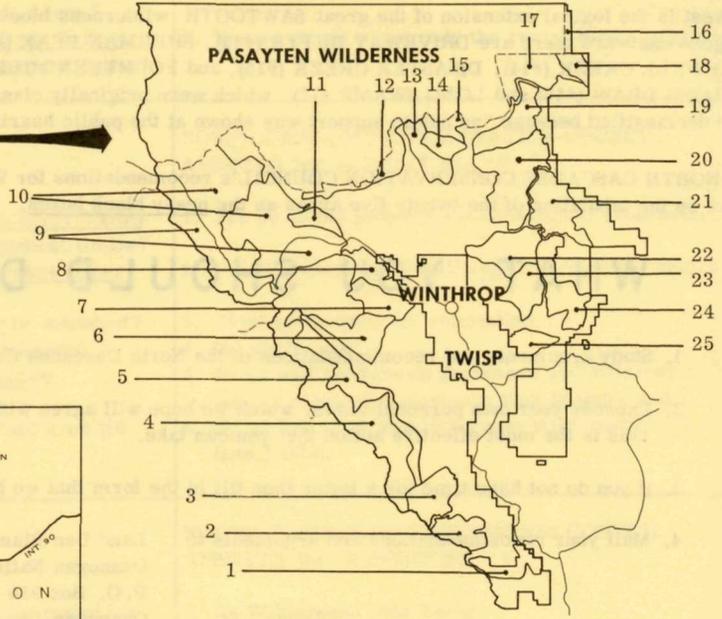
## Okanogan National Forest

**UNROADED  
AREAS**

**PASAYTEN WILDERNESS**

WINTHROP

TWISP



FOR YOU TO STUDY.

# the miners are coming, THE MINERS ARE COMING! 1 february 1974

report by the irate birdwatcher

Now, really, none of you imagine the over-industrialized United States will be allowed to plunder natural resources of laggard countries indefinitely. As go the Arabs with their oil, so will other peoples with their copper, tin, manganese, bauxite, and so forth. Prices will rise, if not from exporters' policies then from the good old law of supply and demand. Furthermore, given a continuation of present international patterns, anti-Americanism easily may become so rabid that raw materials are diverted to competing bidders out of simple spite.

We could minimize dependence on resources not our own by conservation, recycling, and an acceptance of limits to growth. However, Americans can be expected to gulp down these inevitabilities only when forced to the wall by impossible metal costs and/or imminent disaster. The immediate prospect is for more and more intensive exploitation of minerals within our borders, including low-grade ore bodies that will become economic as prices go skyhigh.

Here, for example, is the sort of horror story that could become as common as the slaughtering of Christians on a Roman holiday. Dan Peterson, president of P & H Mining, has announced his desire to tear down Twin Sisters Mountain, just west of Mt. Baker. He says the peak is the world's richest chrome deposit and proposes to mine away as much as 11 cubic miles! He has filed a prologue to an environmental impact statement and the Forest Service is now studying the matter. Preposterous? Not much more so than open-pitting Miners Ridge, a plan we have not yet scotched.

## We've Got To Change The Law

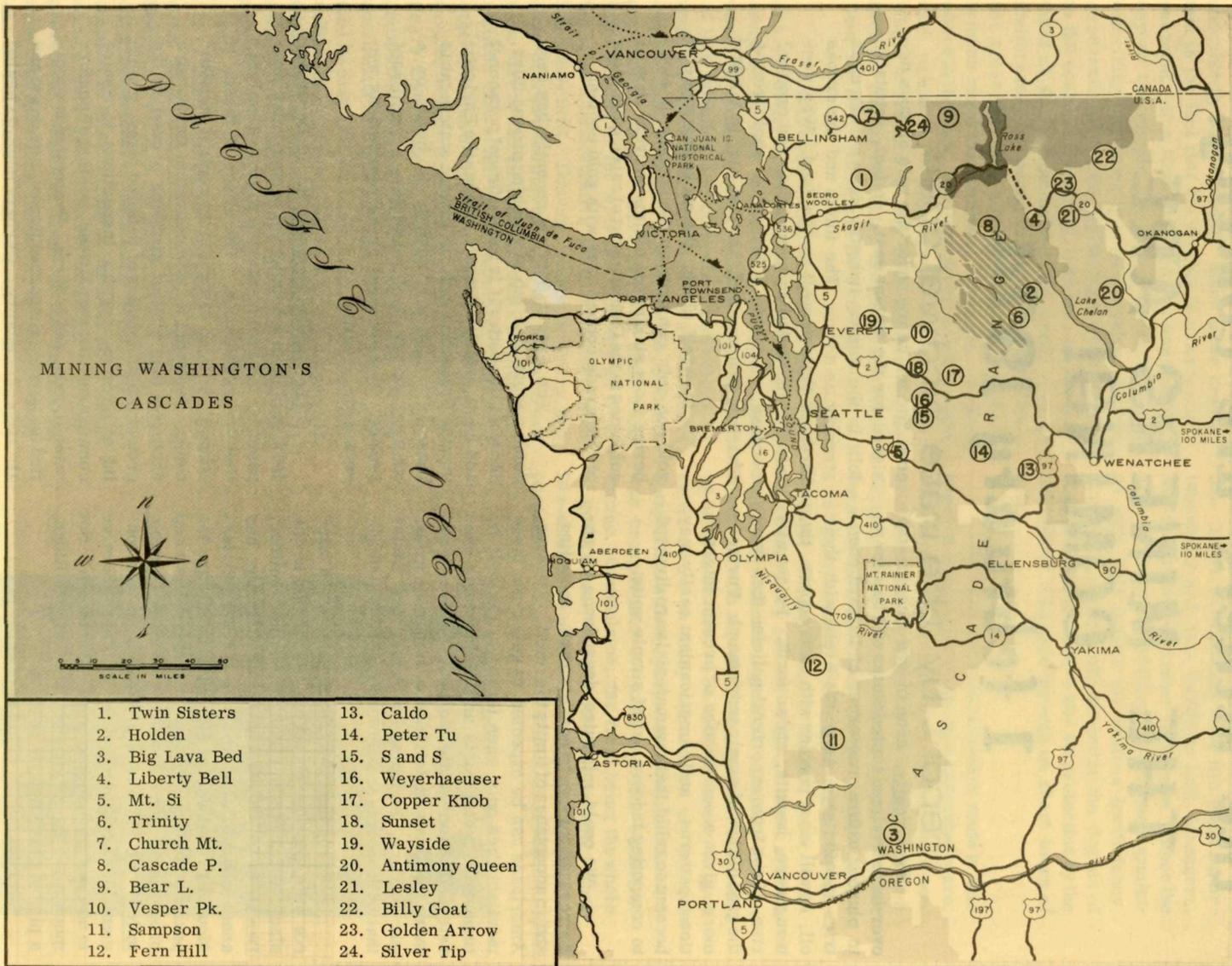
We positively and absolutely cannot pro-

ceed into the future under the rule of laws designed for the distant past. In fact, reputable folk in the mining industry desire reform as strongly as do we. The idiots and the crooks threaten them as well as the land. Why does miner-dom harbor so many idiots and crooks? Because, to quote a bedeviled soul from a Charles Dickens novel, "the law, sir, is A ASS!"

By itself alone, the rocketing price of gold not only conjures up the specter of slobbering fools staking out claims on every show of sulphides in the Cascades but of raising the value of low-grade copper ores with gold content.

The Forest Service recently has been doing a pretty fair job of watching prospectors, and would do better if it had sufficient personnel and funds, which it doesn't. Under the Environmental Protection Act, an impact statement is required before any activity is begun on a National Forest which would have a significant impact. In wilderness areas restrictions are even more severe.

The Federal Register for 19 December 1973 published a lengthy set of new rules proposed by the Forest Service to govern exploration and exploitation. The effect of these, if adopted, will be to tighten up control substantially, requiring for any operation much more extensive than a bit of grubbing around in the ground the submission of detailed plans, granting of permits, regular inspections to ensure compliance with regulations, posting of performance bonds, and so forth. Protection is specified for surface resources (trees, meadows) and air and water quality. Garbage must be hauled out and measures taken to restore a disturbed area. Rigidly enforced, the rules would prevent much of the casual gouging so common in



*Gold*

*100000*

For example, who knew anything about miners at Bear Lake, at the base of Mt. Redoubt? But as the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Gripping Society found on a 1973 hike, they sure as hell were there sometime about 1965-67, dumping garbage and whacking down alpine trees at the lake outlet to give helicopters a clear exit lane. (Of course, these may not have been miners, but may have been irresponsible personnel of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, participating in the mineral survey that preceded creation of the North Cascades National Park. The U. S. Geological Survey has sworn that it is innocent.)

Bren Mac Mines Ltd., a Canadian firm famed more for selling stock than producing metal, has made a fine mess on the side of Vesper Peak, above Sultan Basin. Conflicting stories have been heard about the extent (70 million tons?) and richness of the ore body, mainly copper with small amounts of gold, silver, tungsten, and molybdenum, and whether the firm genuinely wanted to start large-scale mining in 1972, as it claims, or simply to keep on peddling stock. However, the firm gained some badly-needed credibility when it finally hired a geologist known to be both competent and honest. The stopper, so far, is that though Bert Cole, that merry old soul, is hot to provide full cooperation of the State Department of Natural Resources (which manages the affected land), the City Council of Everett doesn't like the notion of a huge mine above Spada Reservoir, the water supply for 150,000 residents of Everett and Snohomish County. As of October 1973 the city was in the courts, suing Cole and asking that exploratory work be halted until completion of the required environmental impact study. Snohomish County Commissioners, who must approve rezoning of the area before full-scale mining can begin, are mighty tempted by the prospect of 1000 construction workers over a 2 1/2-year period, then a work force of 800 to run the mine, but are waiting for the impact statement before deciding. Presumably, 1974 will be a turbulent year in Sultan Basin, one way or another.

#### Directory of Washington Mining Operations, 1971-72

Bert Cole and his Department of Natural Resources love mining and one should expect their bi-annual director to be a comprehensive summary. It isn't, for the plain reason that King Cole and his gang of third-raters have little

initiative and never are aware of more than a fraction of the action.

From the latest issue we learn Washington's mineral production in 1972, as reported by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, was \$107,624,000, a rise of nearly \$13 million over 1971, mainly owing to increased coal production from the enormous strip mine that feeds the monster producer of electricity and smoke located near Centralia.

During 1971 and 1972, 47 mining companies or individuals explored, developed, or mined 49 metallic mineral deposits in the state, a significant decrease from the 92 mineral deposits active during 1969-70. That's what Bert's boys say, which shows how little they know; the "decline" actually is due to tighter security -- now the serious miners won't even talk to their good buddy, the King. As any fool roaming the back country can plainly see, there are more miners, not less.

Three mines in the northeast corner continue to be the only significant producers of metallic minerals, one of gold, another of zinc and lead, and one of uranium. However, unless halted by environmentalist lawsuits, in the next year or so a subsidiary of Aluminum Company of America will start up a catastrophic dolomite and quartzite stripmine 60 miles north of Spokane to feed a catastrophic magnesium plant.

Following are the metallic mineral properties (that Bert's boys know about) that were active in the Cascades during 1971 and 1972, other than those previously mentioned. The listing is, from south to north:

Miners Queen, in Miners Creek area near Columbia River, Alan R. Grant; limited exploration for copper and molybdenum.

Wind River, Fred Neisler; minor production of gold and silver.

Sampson, near Spirit Lake, Duval Corp.; exploration for copper.

Fern Hill Cinnabar, near Morton, Ralph Gillespie; limited mercury production.

Caldo Mining Co., in Negro Creek area (Alpine Lakes region), Barney Gatz, Pres.; development for gold and silver.

the past.

Whatever our reservations about the Forest Service as timber manager, in at least several Cascades national forests we must give it high marks for concern about depredations of miners. However, the basic charter remains the 1872 Mining Laws, which have been amended over the years but whose fundamental philosophy still prevails.

Environmentalists, having succeeded in ejecting Wayne Aspinall from Congress, Senator Jackson and others have resumed attempts (see Wild Cascades, February-March 1973) to plug the Aspinall Loophole in the Wilderness Act. But Forest Service Chief John McGuire and Geological Survey Director Vincent McKelvey have led a Nixon Administration attempt to scuttle the bill, which would immediately ban prospecting and mining in wilderness areas.

The Jackson bill must pass. Yet that is just the first step. The 1872 Mining Laws must be totally junked, replaced by legislation designed for the present and future. Only then will we be rid of the idiots and crooks and able to concentrate on the true menaces -- the big corporations of the Kennecott ilk. A new body of law will help combat them, too, since they would no longer, as now, hold the top cards.

#### A Random Sampling of Diggins and Scratchings Old and New

Well, we've been saying so for years, but now the federal Environmental Protection Agency confirms it: wastes of the Holden Mine continue to endanger Railroad Creek and Lake Chelan. A report issued in December 1973 declares the mine, shut down in 1957, and its tailing ponds are "the biggest threat to water quality in the Pacific Northwest from an abandoned mining operation." Wind erosion (from peaks clear across Lake Chelan I've seen the dust clouds) has created "serious air pollution." Buried steel drums containing waste chemicals could bring a calamity. "How many of these toxic time bombs are buried in abandoned tailing ponds is not known." Sudden failures of tailing pond dikes or dams could release a large volume of toxic waste into Railroad Creek -- and the lake. The mine, which at one time employed 500 persons, yielded about \$60 million in gold, copper, zinc, and silver. The company gained additional profit by giving the (worthless)

mining town to the Lutheran Church and writing off the "value" of the property as a charitable deduction against taxes. The company being long gone, it cannot be required to pay the cleanup costs, which might run to a million dollars or more. (And as another legacy, the Lutherans testified against creation of a North Cascades National Park! May God forgive them. I can't.)

On June 12, 1973, the Regional Forester answered a query from Roger Mellem, then Acting Northwest Representative of FWO and N3C, with a list of current mining activity in "inventoried roadless areas." Two cases were noted in the Cascades. For one, building stone was being removed from Big Lava Bed roadless area on Gifford Pinchot National Forest. For the other, P & H Exploration and Mining Corporation had applied for a trail and road right-of-way in the Liberty Bell roadless area, requesting access to some 13 mining claims containing silver, lead, and zinc. It is the intent to haul ore from the claims by helicopter to the millsite located 1 1/2 air miles northeast of the claims and then transport the ore from there to market by truck. (The millsite presumably is amid the crapheaps and Tobacco Road shantytown a few hundred feet from the North Goddamn Highway a short way down Bridge Creek from Rainy Pass.) Production is expected to peak at 25 tons per day with operations from early July until snow stops operation. The permit was requested for one year only in order to analyze feasibility of operating the claims.

From the newspapers we learned in the summer of 1973 that the Black River Quarry Co. had blasted a small scar on the west face of Mt. Si and was considering whether to apply for a county permit to start a major quarry. Apparently the outcry by North Bend citizens canceled the plans.

We've heard rumors that Texas Gulf had taken an option on the Trinity mine, and also was helicoptering around Church Mountain in the summer of 1973, and that Valumines, the outfit mucking west of Cascade Pass, has sold a flock more stock and is getting up a new rumble, but have no confirmation. That's the trouble with trying to keep track of dirty miners. They operate as secretly as possible and with no single government agency responsible for them. It's hard for us to know what they're up to.

Peter Tu Claim, in Fish Lake area (near Lake Wenatchee), Tom Lloyd; limited development for gold and silver.

S & S Mining Co., in Lennox Creek area (North Fork Snoqualmie), Michael Stuber; exploration for zinc, lead, silver.

Weyerhaeuser Co., North Fork Snoqualmie River; exploration for copper.

Copper Knob, Beckler River area (Skykomish River), Loyal Bailes; limited exploration and development for zinc and copper.

Sunset Mine, on North Fork Skykomish River near Index, Joe Cashman; development for copper, gold, silver.

Wayside Mine, near Granite Falls (Stillaguamish River), Ram Mines, Inc., Charles Cople; development for copper, gold, silver.

Antimony Queen, in Gold Creek area (Methow River), Phil Plano; minor production of antimony.

Lesley group, near Mazama (Methow River), Inspiration Development Co.; exploration for copper.

Billy Goat group, at head of Eightmile Creek (tributary to Chewack River), Cyprus Mines Corp.; exploration for copper.

Golden Arrow Mine, Slate Creek area (near Harts Pass), Walter Gourlie; limited development for gold, silver, lead, zinc.

New Light Mine, Slate Creek area (in Barron Basin near Harts Pass), Western Gold

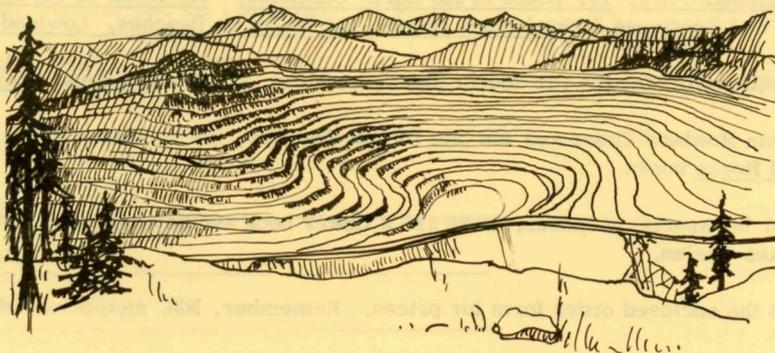
Mining Inc., Robert B. Lambert, Pres.; exploration for gold.

Silver Tip Mine, Ruth Creek area (north-east of Mt. Baker), John Lund; exploration for silver, lead, zinc.

So much does Bert Cole's bunch know about metallic mining properties in the Cascades. Not much. Oh, they're grand on sand and gravel and basalt, their eyes are so sharp they can spot a gravel pit or quarry from distances as great as a hundred feet. But it's never occurred to the fogheads to (1) assemble information from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, and (2) make a running check of records in county courthouses, where mineral claims must be filed, and (3) chat with mining geologists in contact with the wheels of the industry. As a result, their inventory is ludicrously incomplete. And that's a damn shame, because we citizens sure need information about who's been eating our porridge while we weren't looking.

Thanks to Bert's bungling, the state seems to have no clues as to where the big guys are snooping. Most of the operators named above are old-style lunatics for whom going out on weekends with pistol at belt and setting off sticks of dynamite in a hole serves as a substitute for golf or bowling. It's relaxing. The only identified (by the state) firms of less than tiny size (some being fronts for giants, as Bear Creek Mining of Miners Ridge infamy is for Kennecott) are Weyerhaeuser and Bren Mac, and probably Cyprus Mines, Duval Corp., and Inspiration Development.

Nonsense, Cole! If this is the best you can do you're no solution to our problem, you're part of our problem.



**PREPARE FOR A WILD SUMMER**  
*at the*  
**N3C BOOKSHOP**

(NOTE: N3C MEMBERS DEDUCT 10% FROM ALL LIST PRICES SHOWN BELOW)



The Mountaineers have added two smashing books to their Cascades list. Cascade Alpine Guide: Climbing and High Routes from the Columbia River to Stevens Pass, by Fred Beckey, is the initial volume in a series replacing his famous old "Beckey's Bible," first published in 1949 and long since out of date and out of print. The new volume is the finest (and most handsome) climbing guide ever issued for any American mountain range. The 341 large pages contain scores upon scores of full-page photographs, sketches and maps with routes overprinted in red, plus detailed descriptions of every ascent made to date, plus notes on trail access and suggestions for cross-country hikes. Covered are Rainier, Adams, St. Helens, the Goat Rocks, and the Cougar Lakes and Alpine Lakes regions. Future volumes will move north in the Cascades.

103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia, co-published with the British Columbia Mountaineering Club, follows the familiar pattern of the Mountaineers' "Hike Series," with text, map, and photo for each hike. Coverage begins in the Vancouver area, extends through the Vancouver Island Mountains, the portion of the North Cascades lapping over into British Columbia and extends into the Coast Range past Garibaldi and Whistler as far as Pemberton and up the Fraser Canyon. Included in the North Cascades are Sapper, Skagit, Manning, and Cathedral Provincial Parks, as well as the entirety of the proposed Salish National Park.

Of older books, particularly appropriate to remember now that Congress is moving toward action on an Alpine Lakes Wilderness is the superb exhibit-format-style book, The Alpine Lakes, with text by Brock Evans and photos (all in color) by Ed Cooper and Bob Gunning. Nor should one forget Dee Molenaar's classic, Challenge of Rainier, the definitive, heavily illustrated history of climbing on The Mountain. Think, too, of Fred Beckey's lively tales of his early adventures, The Challenge of the North Cascades. And if you want a copy of Tom Miller's The North Cascades you'd better hurry, because this collection of black and white photos from a climber's viewpoint is nearly out of print. Still available is The North Cascades National Park, with color and black and white photos by Bob and Ira Spring and stories by Harvey Manning.

For hikers, there are as always the volumes of the "Hikes Series," 50 Hikes in Mount Rainier National Park, 101 Hikes in the North Cascades, 102 Hikes in the South Cascades and Olympics, and Footloose Around Puget Sound: 100 Walks on Beaches, Lowlands, and Foothills.

Additionally, for the car-tourer and short-hiker, the two Trips and Trails volumes.

From Rowland Tabor and the late Dwight Crowder, the ambitious hiker will want the two Routes and Rocks books.

And for special purposes, there are a flower book and an engaging short history of early days on Lake Chelan.

See the enclosed order form for prices. Remember, N3C members deduct 10%.

# N3C BOOK ORDER FORM

(NOTE: N3C members deduct 10% from list prices shown below.)

N3C BOOKSHOP  
3215 Northeast 103rd Street  
Seattle WA 98125

Check volumes  
ordered

Cascade Alpine Guide	\$9.95	_____
103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia	\$7.95	_____
The Alpine Lakes	\$25.00	_____
Challenge of Rainier	\$12.95	_____
Challenge of the North Cascades	\$7.95	_____
The North Cascades	\$12.50	_____
North Cascades National Park	\$17.50	_____
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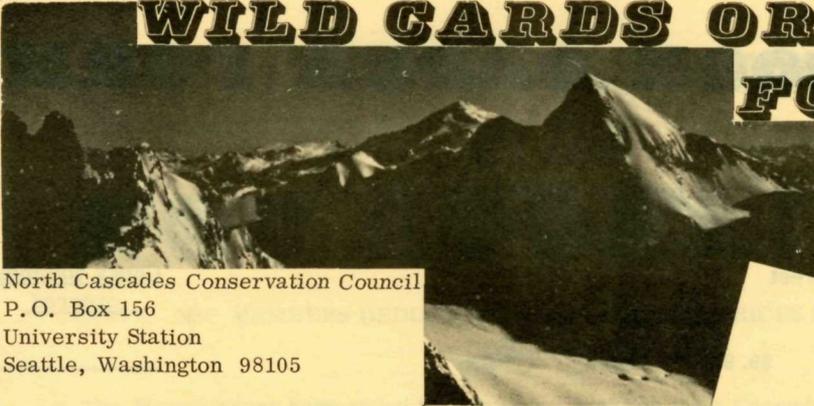
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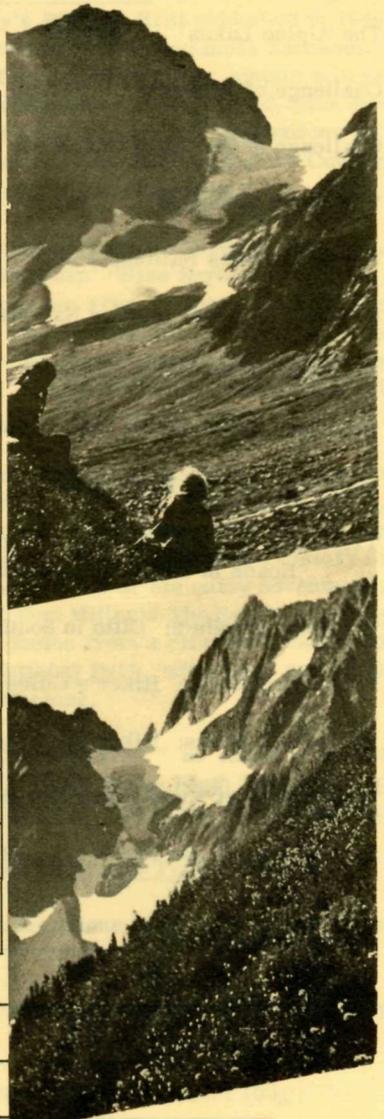
# WILD CARDS ORDER FORM



North Cascades Conservation Council  
 P. O. Box 156  
 University Station  
 Seattle, Washington 98105

Please send the following giant (G-largest), jumbo (J), and regular (R) glossy, color, postcard scenes of Washington's North Cascades:

No.	Scene	Size
1	Trapper Lake near Cascade Pass	J - 10¢
3	Magic Mt. at Cascade Pass	R - 5¢
4	Cascade flower garden and stream	R - 5¢
5	Bonanza Peak above Lake Chelan	R - 5¢
6	Glacier Peak through Cloudy Pass	R - 5¢
9	Magic Mt. , flowers at Cascade Pass	R - 5¢
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31	Suiattle River Basin and Tenpeak Mt.	J - 10¢
41	Aerial view of Chickamin Glacier	R - 5¢
	Set of 13 cards (1 of each)	\$1.00
Check, payable to North Cascades Conservation Council, enclosed for:		\$



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# THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL

by

Ron Strickland

(The following is the introduction to a book now-- February 1974 -- in process of being considered by publishers.)

Narratives of exploration are usually approached by readers as either escapist literature, practical suggestions, or both. However you begin this journal of my backpacking journey across the Pacific Northwest, I hope that it will enable you to share my dream of a new thousand-mile footpath--the Pacific Northwest Trail. This book is both my record of the Trail and region and a source book for those who would tramp off beyond mere vicarious experience.

I propose that the Pacific Northwest Trail be added to the National Scenic Trail System to provide hikers with a superb new long-distance route.

Obviously this will not happen overnight. Don't wait for officialdom to act. Almost all of the Pacific Northwest Trail follows existing trails or roads. You can hike it now as I have done. But whether you decide to explore your own variant of my route, to lobby for Northwest conservation, or merely to thumb through these pages in your spare time, let the idea of a Pacific Northwest Trail capture your imagination. Tell others about it.

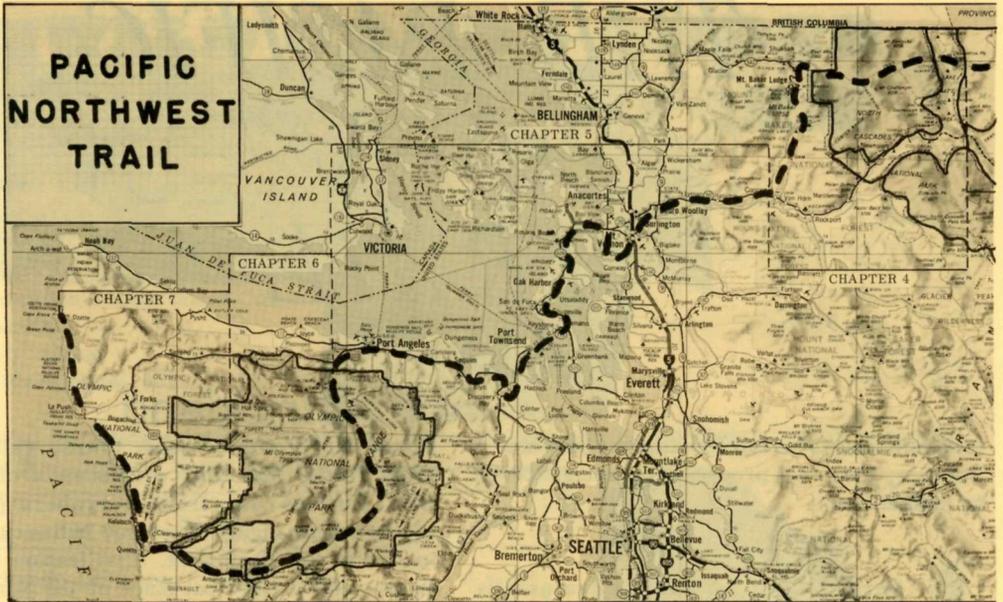
What is there about the region which makes it so fascinating to a backpacker like me? The Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, British Columbia, and Montana west of the Divide) was late to be explored and exploited. Much of the interior was not settled until the second half of the nineteenth century when the search for ore and timber fer-

tilized the growth of boom towns, railroads, stage roads, and other evidences of civilization. Settlers came from everywhere (almost wiping out the highly developed Indian cultures) to live in the Northwest. Civilization spread farther and farther but much of the Northwest somehow escaped. The great mountain ranges, especially, have remained to this day as wilderness sanctuaries. Free-flowing mountain rivers, alpine tundra, violent storms, and wild animals all evoke a time not so many years ago when all of the region was pristine, unknown. The Northwest is for me adventure, untrammelled nature, and peace of mind.

The project began after my first trip from the east coast to Washington in 1968 to hike the famous, north-south Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. I wondered about a route which would link wilderness areas across the whole northern part of the region. An east-west route would have enormous variety: desert and rainforest, glaciers and seastacks. From the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean would someday stretch a unique footpath, the Pacific Northwest Trail. This book is about my adventures walking the Trail in the state of Washington.

I began to explore this new route in the summer of 1970 by following existing trails created by the Indians and the early explorers, trappers, miners, herders, and foresters. Maps (often contradictory), the advice of local outdoorsmen, and intuition were my guides. While walking, constructive bewilderment often led me in rewarding directions.

Most of the time I walked alone. This was partly by choice and partly by necessity. I like to walk alone; good companions are scarce.

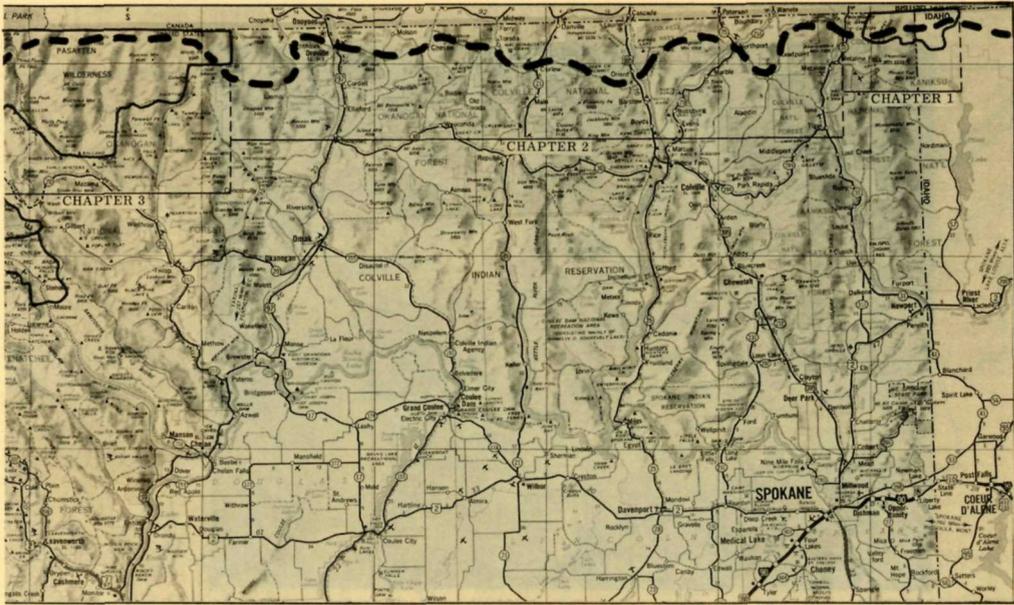


In proper journal fashion each day's entry is preceded by its date. Actually this hike was made in rather disjointed segments over a number of summers but perceptual time is as inconstant as mountain weather. In the valley or at the pass it may be sunny but a mile away cruel weather will make life miserable. This day or this segment of the hike may seem unique but it will soon blend into the whole. Around the corner there may be sunshine or a warm memory of a single hike across the state of Washington--which is the way I have written it.

Each chapter, though, is a geographical unity. The crest of the Cascade Mountains divides the state in two. At first, it seemed that all of Washington east of the crest, that vast, dry "Inland Empire" so different from the humid western slopes of the Cascades and from Puget Sound, should be one chapter. Drainage-wise the interior is a true unity. Every drop of flowing water on the hundreds of miles of our Pacific Northwest Trail from the Continental Divide to the Cascade Crest is part of the Columbia River system, a system so mighty that one third of all America's potential hydropower flows seaward through its channels. The list of its tributaries reads like the list of subject kingdoms in ancient Rome or China. On the Washington section of the Trail alone, the following large streams contribute their waters: The Salmo River; the Pend Oreille River; the Kettle River; the Sanpoil River; the Okanogan River; the

Similkameen River; the Ashnola River; and the Pasayten River. Although it is such an obvious feature of Washington's landscape, the Columbia River drainage is too vast to be particularly useful in dividing this book into chapters.

I have divided eastern Washington into three chapters. The first of these describes the Salmo-Priest wildland (a proposed wilderness area), rugged backcountry named for its two principle rivers, the Salmo and the Priest. Here the strong contrasts of Northwest hiking soon become apparent. In the wild river valleys and on the lower mountain slopes are virgin forests of Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock. High above in a different alpine world where deep snows are more usual than summer sun, a simpler lichen-based environment resembles the tundra of the far north. There are animals in the Salmo-Priest which have become rare or extinct over much of their original range such as the grizzly and the woodland caribou, the landscape, the wildlife--there is even beauty in the frequent and violent storms. Straddling Washington's eastern border, the Salmo-Priest makes an ideal gateway into the state. Chapter 2, the Ponderosa Pine Country, covers a vast space of: for the most part, less dramatic mountains; rolling, forested hills; native pasture, impressive river valleys; and genuine desert. Its most characteristic feature is the ponderosa pine, that three-needled conifer so partial to the dry, continental climate east of the Cascade Crest.



The Pasayten Wilderness (chapter 3) includes the northernmost part of the American Cascade Crest in its 505,524 acres of prime wilderness. It is bordered on the west by artificial Ross Lake and by more wilderness of perhaps even finer quality, the North Cascades National Park, where glaciers seem to be as plentiful as the marmots. Ross Lake, the North Cascades National Park, and Mt. Baker, one of the west coast's string of dormant volcanoes, are described in chapter 4.

From Mt. Baker, towering above Puget Sound, west to the water's edge there is no hiking trail. However, the Skagit River provides a natural access route to the Sound through the region's rich farmlands. Someday a trail link may be built along the river to the Skagit Flats, one of the last undeveloped estuaries on the west coast of the contiguous United States. Deception Pass and Whidbey Island complete this scenic connection (chapter 5) between the Cascades and the Olympics. For this most-developed, road-bound section I abandoned all principle and loaded my pack on a bicycle.

The Olympic Peninsula is divided between the mountains (chapter 6) and the Olympic National Park beach (chapter 7).

Because most of the route of a potential Pacific Northwest Trail is still beautiful and unspoiled in 1973, we may become complacent about the future. "Fifty-four forty or fight,"

cried bellicose American settlers during the Northwest border troubles of the 1840s. Their wilderness paradise of unclaimed mountains, bountiful rivers, rich plains, and endless forests seemed worth a war more than a century ago; today is no different although the combatants have changed. Perhaps the struggle has become more intense as the supply of open land has dwindled. Many conservation battles are being fought in the Northwest along the Trail to preserve some of the finest remaining vestiges of wilderness America. A list of Northwest conservation organizations is provided in the Appendix. These groups need your help. Everyone everywhere has a stake in the outcome of this struggle; the wilderness is our common heritage.

Backpacking is a totally absorbing experience which a journal such as this can only approximate. I have tried my best to describe what I have seen and felt but I must admit that you would be better off by putting down this book and putting on your pack to take your own hike. Backpacking is not a spectator sport. The pleasures of putting one foot in front of the other, of blending into the countryside, and feeling its rhythms--these must be experienced first hand.

Adventure, the boundless possibilities at camp-breaking, the satisfactions of full days, the subtle and grand impressions of nature -- these will be the elements of our new Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. This book is dedicated to all backpacking the Northwest wilderness.



# The Lake Washington to Cascade Crest Ecology Trail

John Warth scarcely needs introduction to N3C members, having been a pioneer in the movement toward creation of the proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

He has now put forth another plan equally noble in conception, an Ecology Trail from Lake Washington to the Cascade Crest. For 2 years he devoted virtually a fulltime effort to scouting alternatives before settling on a route.

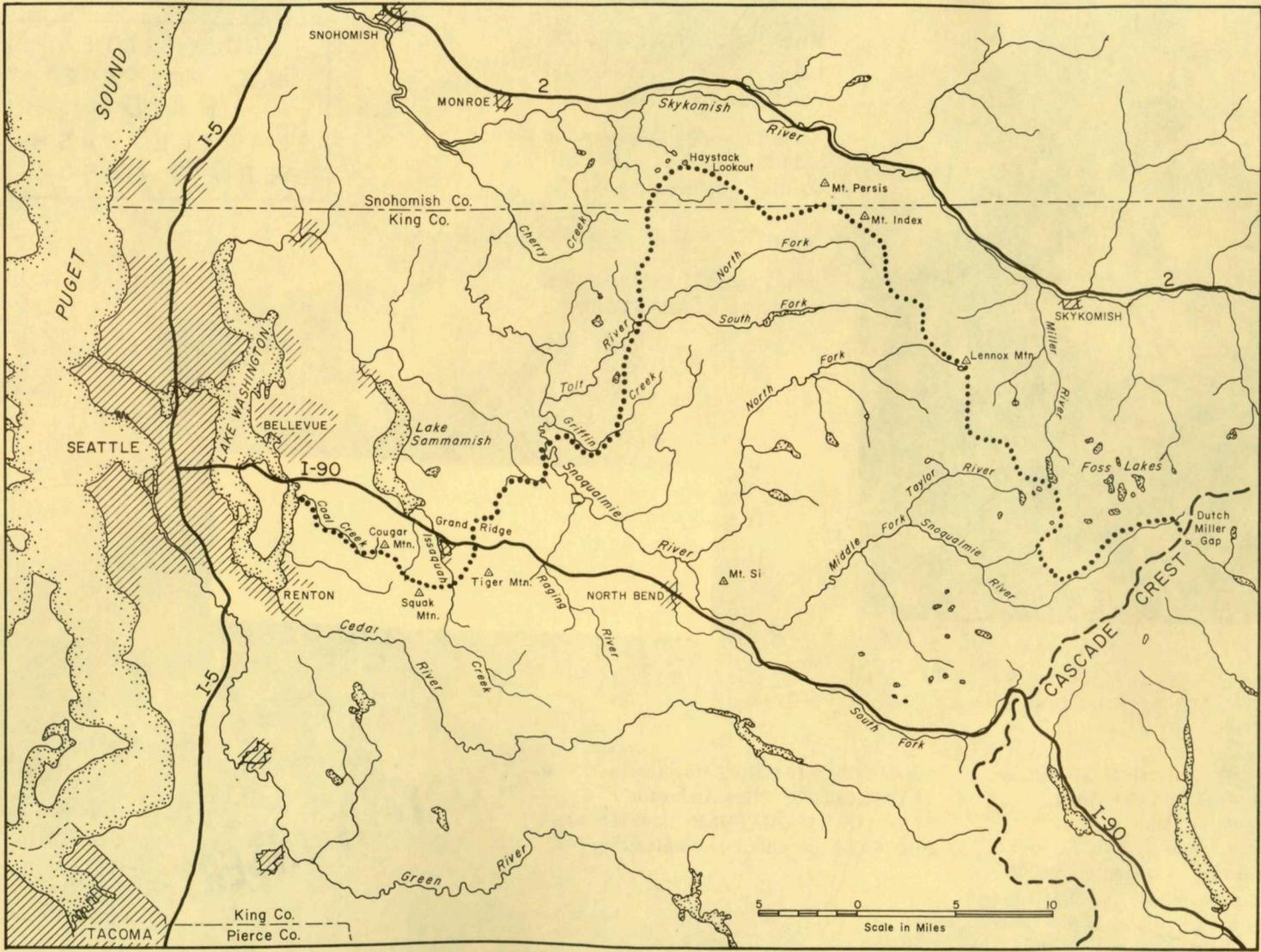
In late 1972 the North Cascades Conservation Council published his preliminary proposal in a 40-page booklet. Copies may be obtained by sending \$2.00 to the Council at P.O. Box 156, University Station, Seattle, Washington 98105.

Much work remains to be done. John could use help in settling the fine detail of the route. And, of course, only many individuals and organizations can make his vision a reality.

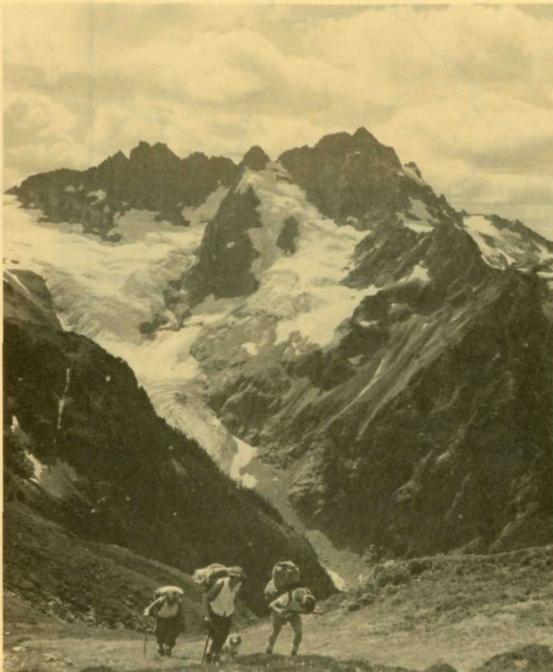
The trail would permit one to walk from city home to mountain wilderness on a single trip, traveling through a series of lowland county and state and city parks, along linked trails in the King County trail system in the process of the development, and at last into Snoqualmie National Forest.

By tying together scraps of low-country wildlands, all these would be more widely appreciated and valued, thus enhancing their chance for preservation. Fragile areas such as marshes could be better defended from encroachment. Finally, the range of ecological features sampled would provide a unique opportunity to study, either as an individual or in classes offered by school systems, the totality of the life zones from low to high elevations.

N3C members are urged to obtain a copy of the booklet, study it, and then join in creating the trail.



..... ECOLOGY TRAIL .....



THE WILD CASCADES

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Seattle, Washington 98125

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