THE WILD CASCADES

FALL - 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RELICENSING THE SKAGIT DAMS

DAVE FLUHARTY

If Seattle City Light were to be proposing to construct the three dams (Gorge, Diablo and Ross) on the Skagit River today, the environmental furor they would set off would make the Exxon Valdez disaster seem a mere skirmish. However, when the dam projects on the Skagit were licensed by the Federal Power Commission more than sixty years ago only a few voices mourned the loss of this area and many praised the developers for their foresight. Through the years, those served by Seattle City Light have benefitted from low cost, reliable power supplied by these projects. Floods on the Skagit have been considerably reduced for farms and communities downstream. But these benefits have come at considerable cost to the environment of the Skagit River. Fortunately, the 50-year license of the projects has expired and Seattle City Light, in applying for a new license, must comply with a new set of laws and a new set of political, economic and social conditions.

The scenic and wilderness quality of the North Cascades has been recognized by Congress. The demand for recreation on free-flowing rivers has exploded. The legal protection accorded the environment has increased the ability of preservation groups to protect natural ecosystems and processes. Historic, cultural and archaeological resources must be protected. Fish and wildlife damages of projects must be taken into account and compensation provided. And this is where the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) comes in. Remember our intervention in the late 1970's to block the licensing of the High Ross Dam. This provided the time needed and the impetus for an international agreement between Canada and the United States which substituted for the High Ross Dam. Now, after more than a decade of operating these dams on annual licenses, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ordered Seattle City Light to complete its application. NCCC officers and interested members have been spending long hours in meetings and research to develop studies and proposals for enhancing, mitigating, and protecting the environment that continues to be impacted by the Skagit dams and associated power production and transmission facilities.

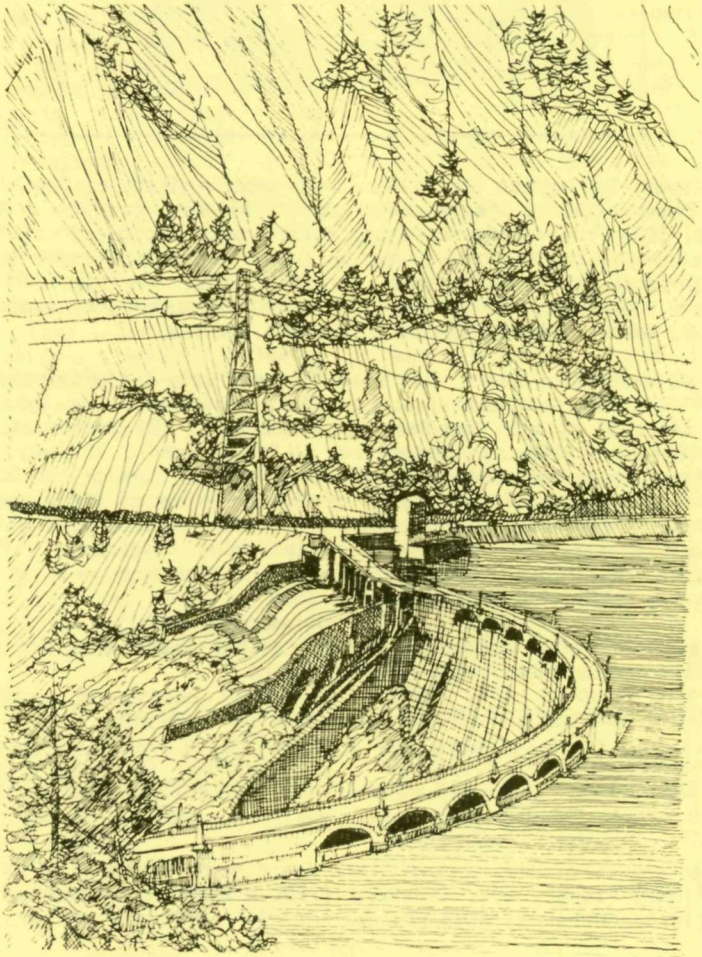
One consequence of the licensing process, albeit unlikely, is that FERC could deny Seattle City Light's application and require that the dams be taken out. Beyond that monumental decision, the potential outcome of the FERC proceedings is fuzzy, but there are indications that comprehensive mitigation packages, worked out in other relicensings, can be substantial and provide many positive benefits - even for power production as well as the environment. There is not much experience from which to draw, concerning the type of protection, mitigation, and enhancement that is required of utilities for relicensing. Should it be the same as would be required if the proposal were being made today on a natural environment? Should it be to compensate for the original impacts of the project? Or, should it be - from the hard line utility manager's perspective - minimal mitigation because the damage if any is already done? From the hardliner's perspective it is imprudent to do anything that would raise the cost of providing power even if this means that low cost power continues to get a free ride on the environment.

NCCC proposals for compensatory measures range from purchase of land to mitigate for wildlife habitat and wilderness recreation lands inundated by the dams to educational programs on the North Cascades ecosystem. We have been assisted in developing these proposals by The Nature Conservancy and North Cascades Institute and other environmental preservation groups. **Do you have ideas we could incorporate into this process? We need your input on measures to mitigate/protect/enhance the impact of the reservoirs, production and**

trasmission facilities and townsites on, wildlife, fisheries (downstream and in reservoir) recreation (all types), cultural historical archeological resources (including consultations with Native Americans), visual quality, erosion and slope stability, etc. Please pass your ideas on to NCCC.

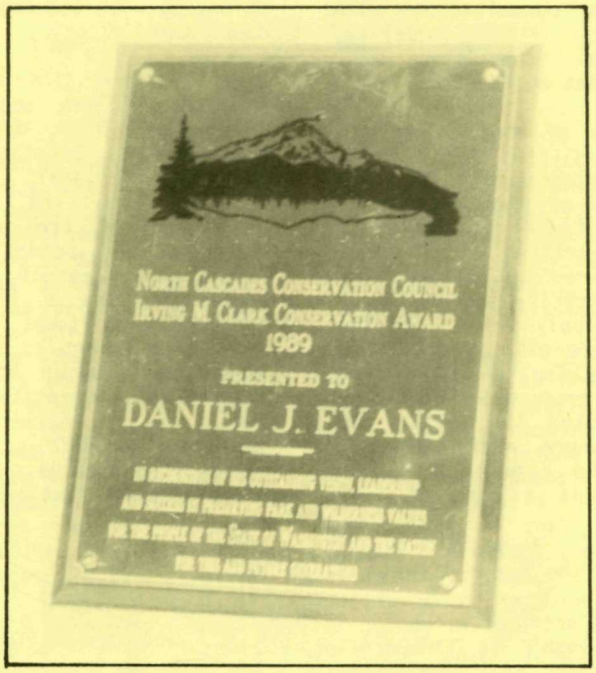
Preliminary results of studies on the origins of users of the Skagit River area show that residents of tne Puget Sound lowland (many of whom are served by Seattle City Light) predominate. Your President is writing this with a word processor powered by Seattle City Light-provided electricity (about 30% of the total energy supply comes from the Skagit). The editors will rework these lines into readable English on another word processor and produce a final copy which will be printed in Seattle for delivery to you where ever you are. Thus, it is not the case of a "them" versus "us". It is a case of "us" deciding to pay a bit more for electricity to allow mitigation of environmental costs of production and transmission rather than the 60+ years of paying with the environment for lower cost power.

Over the next six months to a year meetings between Seattle City Light, intervenors (NCCC, Upper Skagit Tribes, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Ecology, Department of Wildlife, and potentially others) and FERC will result in a revised application for a license that should address these issues. NCCC is making a good-faith effort to provide comment and advice on studies to be done and on measures to compensate for damage to the environment. However, we are prepared to appeal to FERC and the courts if the relicensing package proposed falls short of adequate mitigation of impacts.



Diablo dam

SEVENTH IRVING CLARK AWARD



At the Northwest Wilderness and Parks Conference in Seattle, Daniel J. Evans gave the dinner address "Wilderness as it Relates to "World Needs" on September 9, 1989. Following this, appreciation for Dan Evans' contributions to conservation causes was expressed by Dave Fluharty, President of North Cascades Conservation Council, Bob Aergeter, past President Mt. Rainier National Park Associates, Polly Dyer, President Olympic Park Associates, and Jean Durning, Western Representative Wilderness Society.

As Govenor of Washington State, Dan Evans (1) actively supported the creation of a North Cascades National Park and Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas along with the Pasayton Wilderness, (2) succeeded in having the North Cascades Highway designated a State Scenic Highway, and (3) successfully promoted the addition to Olympic National Park of the Ocean Shore Wilderness from the Ozette River north to include Point of the Arches and Shi Shi Beach. As Senator, he lead the Washington Congressional Delegation in the promotion and passage of legislation establishing Wilderness units within North Cascades, Mt. Rainier, and Olympic National Parks as well as Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas.

In appreciation of this dedicated and successful leadership Dan Evans was presented with the seventh Irving M. Clark Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING VISION, LEADERSHIP
AND SUCCESS IN PRESERVING PARK AND WILDERNESS VALUES
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE NATION
FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Previous recipients of the Irving Clark Award were Irving M. Clark (1958), Harry W. Higman (1960), John Osseward (1965), Karl W. Onthank (1967), Leo Gallegher (1972), and Emily Haig (1977).

SEE YOU IN COURT

NCCC CHALLENGES NPS PLANS

As you may have read in local newspapers, the North Cascades Conservation Council has filed suit against the National Park Service over the drafting of plans that allow continued degradation of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. The policies promulgated in the plans would envision a doubling of year-round population in the Stehekin Valley, would permit use of firewood and other resources to the detriment of the ecosystem, and would result in major changes in the character of the area and community. NCCC members and its officers have worked hard for countless hours in discussing the plans, commenting on them and appealing for stronger measures to protect the Stehekin Valley. These efforts have been ignored in the final plans. Therefore, the Board voted to bring suit. In the pages that follow, you are invited to read excerpts from the suit.

This is an action challenging a series of incremental planning decisions for the North Cascades National Park Complex which have been and are proposed to be made without the benefit of any environmental impact statement ("EIS") addressing their individual and cumulative effects. Plaintiff North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) seeks judicial review of the following major federal actions significantly affecting the environment of the North Cascades National Park Complex:

a. a "Firewood Management Plan for Lake Chelan National Recreation Area" allowing unprecedented clearcutting of live trees within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

b. a "General Management Plan for the North Cascades National Park Complex" allowing increased development within North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan NRA;

c. a "Land Protection Plan for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area" establishing land acquisition and exchange policies which allow increased development within the Lake Chelan NRA; and

d. a "Wilderness Management Plan for North Cascades National Park Complex" establishing land management policies which impair wilderness resources and ignore the effects of increased development within Lake Chelan NRA.

Since the National Park Service assumed jurisdiction over the North Cascades National Park Complex in 1968, the visual and ecologic values of the lands and waters within the Lake Chelan NRA have suffered a steady decline. The once pristine Stehekin Valley and spectacular head of Lake Chelan have been cluttered with satellite dishes, aluminum-roofed stucco houses on land fills, and dense pockets of urban development. The stream banks and wetlands of the majestic Stehekin River have been fouled by placement of "rip rap" and removal of trees. Some of the best specimens of the Stehekin Valley's primeval forest have been, and others are now scheduled to be, cut down for firewood for the Stehekin Valley's growing year-round population. Yet Congress established the Lake Chelan NRA to protect the remote and wild character of Lake Chelan and the Stehekin Valley, where a few hardy pioneers had chosen to subsist in harmony with their natural environment. In allowing development contrary to Congress' intent, the Park Service has abdicated its duty to provide careful stewardship of these sensitive lands. This continuing failure to carry out Congress' objectives has manifested itself in repeated violations of the National

Environmental Policy Act as explicated herein below. These violations have become so commonplace, and their cumulative effect on environmental protection so devastating, that plaintiff was compelled to institute this action.

Former North Cascades National Park Complex Superintendent John Reynolds approved a Firewood Management Plan allowing residents of the Stehekin Valley to obtain firewood from public land by clearcutting live trees within designated woodlots within the Lake Chelan NRA. The program allows the logging of 150 cords per year without an EIS on the effects of this logging activity.

Former Superintendent Reynolds recommended approval of the Lake Chelan NRA Land Protection Plan, which classifies properites within the Lake Chelan NRA according to priority for acquisition or exchange, but fails to mandate acquisition as necessary to prevent further development of the area. The Land Protection Plan provides for a doubling of residential population in the Stehekin Valley without an EIS on the effects of this additional development.

Former Superintendent Reynolds recommended approval of the General Management Plan for the North Cascades National Park, the Ross Lake NRA, and the Lake Chelan NRA. Although the General Management Plan and the aforesaid Land Protection Plan "will provide the policy guidance on which the National Park Service will base its actions for the next 10 to 15 years", defendents prepared no EIS evaluating the environmental effects of either plan. The General Management Plan purports to approve a program of increased growth and development for the Stehekin Valley within the Lake Chelan NRA.

Superintendent John R. Earnst approved a Wilderness Management plan for the North Cascades National Park, the Ross Lake NRA, and the Lake Chelan NRA. Although the Wilderness Management plan is ostensibly designed to identify internal and external threats to wilderness values within the North Cascades National Park Complex, it fails to address the encroaching urban development within the Stehekin Valley. Yet the Stehekin Valley serves as a major gateway for visitors to the Park Complex's Wilderness, and is visible and audible from much of Lake Chelan NRA's designated Wilderness. The Wilderness Management Plan fails to adequately address many other critical issues affecting the Park Complex's Wilderness, including whether artifical fish stocking of its lakes should continue, whether restrictions on sport fishing practices should be imposed, whether campfires in certain high alpine locations should remain permissible, whether use of horses and camping in or near certain alpine meadows and other fragile locations should be curtailed, and whether certain outstanding watercourses such as the Stehekin River should be proposed for Wild and Scenic River designation. Although the Wilderness Management Plan establishes policies and programs for management of over 90 percent of the lands within the Park Complex, defendants failed to prepare an EIS evaluating its environmental effects or its interrelationship with the other incremental planning decision described above.

The Park Service is presently developing further plans and programs within the framework of the General Management Plan and intends that none of the programs in development be evaluated in EISs. The forthcoming plans and programs include the Sand and Gravel Plan for the Lake Chelan NRA, the Stehekin River Management Plan for the Lake Chelan NRA, and the Development Concept Plan for the Lake Chelan NRA. The individual and cumulative effects of these plans on the human environment is significant and warrants evaluation in an EIS.

Plaintiff requests a declaratory judgment from this Court that the foregoing decisions of the Park Service are not in accordance with the law, and must therefore be set aside as void, in that:

a. NEPA requires preparation of an EIS for actions which may potentially, significantly affect the environment. Yet, despite the potential for severe scenic and ecological impairment, and substantial public opposition to and concern over each of these unprecedented actions, no EISs were prepared. In particular, an EIS is necessary to consider

(1) the effects of clearcutting on scenic, scientific, recreational, educational and wilderness values and uses, on soil erosion and water quality, and on wildlife habitat;

(2) the environmental impacts of building and using the roads necessary to implement the Firewood Management Program;

(3) the alternate sources of energy or conservation measures, necessary to supplement the limited and decreasing firewood supply and the environmental effects of use of such alternate sources;

(4) the effect on the environment of the planned doubling of the Stehekin Valley population;

(5) the effect on the environment of the increased development, added energy and utility demands, and added road and general transportation requirements, resulting from the planned doubling of population;

(6) the environmental impacts of the additional development resulting from the proposed land exchanges;

(7) the environmental effect of the increased tourist promotion proposed in the plans;

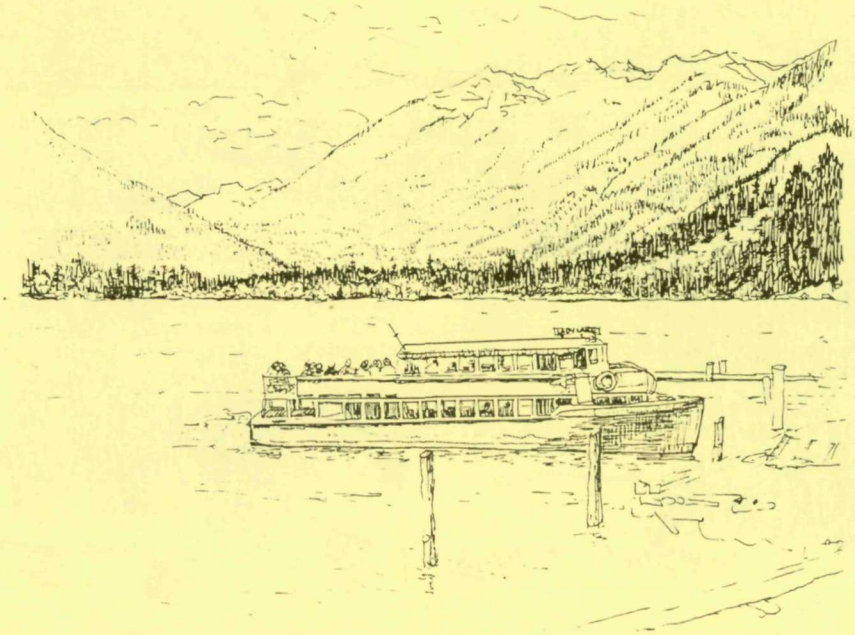
(8) the environmental effects of the increased trail and dock construction proposed in the plans;

(9) the impacts on wilderness resources of current and projected patterns of backcountry use and management;

(10) the environmental impacts of the plans presently in development, and

(11) the potential conflict between the resource extraction and commerical and residential development purportedly allowed by the defendants' decisions, and the statutory standards governing management of the North Cascades National Park Complex.

b. NEPA requries federal agencies to "study, develop and describe" appropriate alternatives. Yet defendants conducted only a superficial analysis, devoid of factual documentation, of some alternatives and omitted consideration of a number of other reasonable alternatives.



Congress created the North Cascades National Park Complex, which includes the Ross Lake NRA and the Lake Chelan NRA, in 1968.

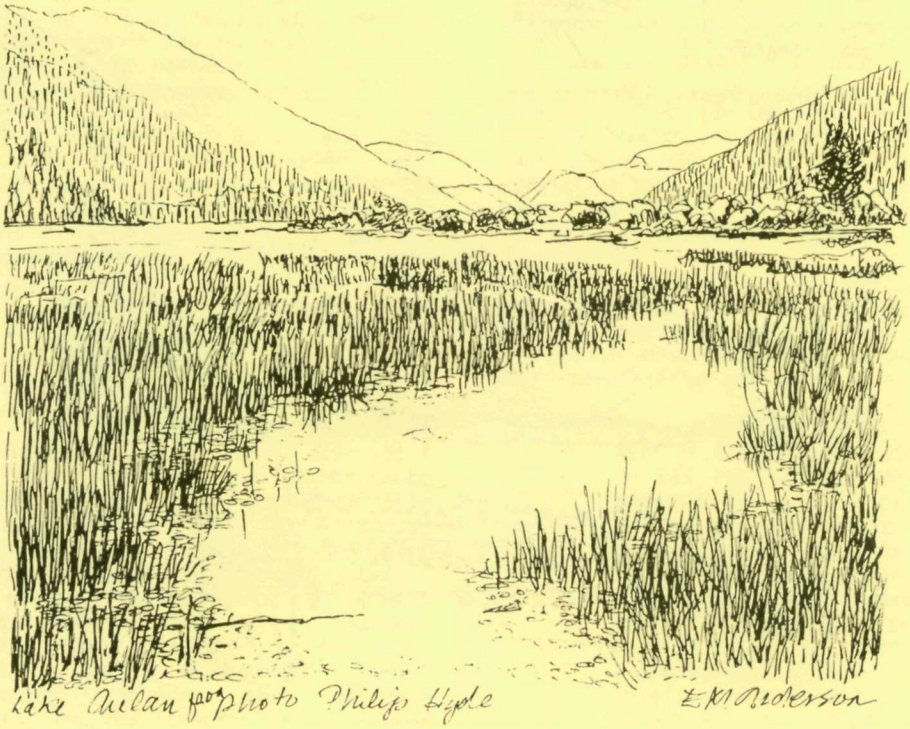
Land in the Stehekin Valley was homesteaded in the late 1800s, and a very small community existed there until the 1970s, when residential development increased substantially. The Stehekin Valley has never been accessible by road.

The estimated Stehekin winter population in 1968 was just 36. Since then it has more than doubled, to at least 79. The number of dwelling units has increased from 68 in 1968 to over 130 at present including an estimated 41 permanent residencies, 72 seasonal residencies and 18 seasonal business and governmental units.

The annual firewood usage in Stehekin was about 68 cords in 1968, but current demand is approximately 150 cords per year. Until the Park Service instituted the Firewood Management Plan, only dead, fallen, "non-Productive," or hazardous" trees could be cut for firewood on public lands within the Lake Chelan NRA. Under the Firewood Management plan, woodlots of green timber will be clearcut to augment current use of "hazardous" trees, trees removed for facility development or maintenance, and dead and fallen trees accessible from primary roads, for firewood.

The subject Firewood Management Plan is without precedent. Nowhere, in any area under the jurisdiction of the Park Service, are woodlots clearcut so that private individuals may obtain firewood from public lands.

The impacts of clearcutting are striking and severe. A forested area subject to clearcutting becomes denuded, scarred and visually unpleasant. Clearcutting generally causes soil erosion and may impair water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. The conifers selected by defendants for firewood logging constitute one of the finest stands of old growth timber which exists in Lake Chelan NRA. Their removal impairs the Stehkin Valley's scenic resources and its wildlife habitat.



The Land Protection Plan and the General Management Plan allow substantial development and growth, including a further doubling of population within the Lake Chelan NRA. In particular, the accommodation of development is the recurrent and dominant theme in the General Management Plan's policies and prescriptions for the Lake Chelan NRA.

The General Management Plan also purports to sanction continued use of the Stehekin "emergency" airstrip despite the large visual scar perpetuated by the periodic brush removal required for its maintenance, the disruptive noise and other disturbances associated with its rapidly increasing casual use, and its unsafe location as documented by previous accidents.

The General Management Plan omits planning direction, and fails to explore alternatives and mitigation measures, in several vital areas. It contains no provisions for cleanup of private waste dumps in the Stehekin Valley. It makes no attempt to consider alternative scheduling of up-lake boat service that might mitigate crowding. It fails to consider restoration of park areas where visitor overuse or abuse has been the greatest, such as the shoreline points and the wetland areas where the Stehekin River enters Lake Chelan. The Plan fails to explore population control by aggressive purchase of private land as it comes on the market. The Plan fails to consider specific policies to retain trailless areas. It fails to consider reducing fishing pressure on fragile natural stock through low catch restrictions, gear limitations and retention (release) programs. The Plan defers for more than ten years the critical need to study the Stehekin River for designation as a Wild and Scenic River despite the rapid degradation of riverine values.

In May, 1987, the Park Service issued an Environmental Assessment ("EA") presenting five alternative proposals for permitting Stehekin residents to obtain firewood from within the Lake Chelan NRA.

The public response to the preferred alternative, a clearcut system, was overwhelmingly negative. Over 100 letters, or 80.4% of the total, supported Alternative (B) (Do Not Allow Cutting of Firewood on Federal Land).

The EA ignores many potential environmental effects of the preferred (and ultimately adopted) alternative. The EA fails to consider the effects of the subject program on soil erosion and animal habitat and on the scenic values of Stehekin Valley as viewed from the numerous hiking and equestrian trails which traverse the surrounding mountains.

The EA fails to provide a factually-grounded, comparative analysis of alternative energy sources. For example, it purports to discuss the effects of providing alternate fuel sources, such as importing fuel oil, importing firewood, and expanding the valley's electrical generating facility. But without any factual documentation, the EA lightly dismisses these alternatives as inviable.

The Firewood Management plan is the first program allowing clearcutting within an area administered by the National Park Service for the purpose of providing firewood to private individuals. It establishes a precedent for allowing the logging of live trees on public lands within Lake Chelan NRA for private firewood. If the Stehekin Valley's population continues to grow, this precedent may lead to expanded logging of public lands to satisfy increasing demand for firewood. By creating a 74-acre logging zone wherein live trees are sacrificed for local firewood, the subject program also affects, at least indirectly, future planning for the location of trails and other significant recreational facilities within Lake Chelan NRA.

HOW WILD THE WILD CASCADES ?

M. T. S. BERNARD

"Well, wilderness is wild. Sometimes it isn't nice. Sometimes it frightens little children not to mention grown men.

"Suffering is not indespensible to a North Cascades experience, and my family and I have spent countless days there sniffing flowers and feeling no pain. But the essence of wilderness is: no guarantees.

"Though the fringes are friendly, the heart of the North Cascades is a no-guarantees wilderness and so it must remain."

from **The North Cascades National Park**
by Bob and Ira Spring and Harvey Manning
1969

"We have to stop the ridiculous policy of trying always to alter the wilderness to conform to the way we think it should be, instead of the way it is designed to be. There is nothing new to be learned from animals who are products of our own selecting -- that's only another stroll down a hallway of mirrors. If we are to succeed in saving grizzlies with all their wildness, we will not do it by changing the bears to meet our needs. For the first time in our relatively short history on the planet, we need to be the ones to bend."

Doug Peacock

For the past several months **The Mountaineer** has echoed the hopes and fears of residents of the Pacific Northwest about the possible existence of grizzly bears in the North Cascades. Some of the letters (Dec., 1988) represent outright distortions. One author stated that "Some want up to 450 bears added to the present population of 12 to 20" and implied that the "some" was the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The author of another letter (March, 1989) stated that he "feared that 20 or 30 percent of our trails will eventually be closed to hikers" if grizzlies recover in the North Cascades. (Later in the article, his estimate of proposed trail closures reached 50%.) The author went on to state that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee has been very "evasive" and that, by making comparisons with Yellowstone, Glacier, Banff and Jasper, it would be "a simple matter of arithmetic ... to determine how many hikers in the Cascades would be affected by trail closures once the desired grizzly bear population is established."

Well, Pardners, it ain't that easy. It's like the old recipe for rabbit stew: First, catch a rabbit. If you want to know the impact of grizzlies on hikers in the North Cascades, you've got to know where they live, what they eat, and what trails are in the vicinity. The goal of the Interagency Grizzly Bear North Cascades Study is to answer those questions.

Eight members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee met with the public on December 12, 1988 at the North Seattle Community College to inform the public of their work and to answer questions. **The Interagency Team emphasized that no bears had been placed in the North Cascades and there were no plans to do so.**

The North Cascades study is attempting to answer three questions:

1. Are there any grizzlies in the North Cascades?
2. If so, how many grizzlies are there?
3. What habitat exists in the North Cascades for the grizzlies?

This study is part of an attempt by Federal and State agencies to prevent the extinction of less than 1000 grizzlies that presently live in six scattered areas in the lower 48 states. The project is a five year study of the grizzly and its habitat that will end in 1990.

Jon Almack, who is heading the field study in the North Cascades, stated that his present objectives were to confirm the presence of grizzlies in the North Cascades, to survey habitat quality, to identify bear foods and to estimate population parameters. **He has seen no grizzlies in the Cascades. He has also seen no grizzly tracks. There are no photos of grizzlies in the North Cascades.** The only pieces of evidence for grizzly bears in the North Cascades are approximately 30 "reliable" sightings and the 1987 discovery of the skull of a grizzly bear that died 8 to 10 years ago near Cascade Pass.

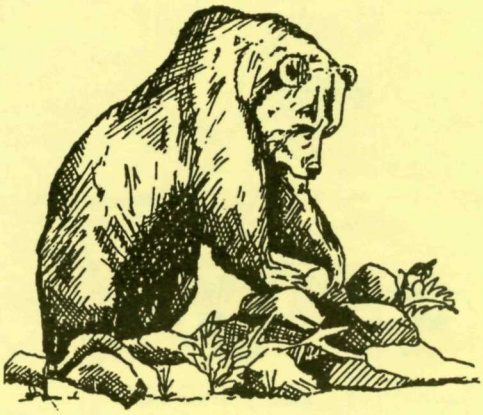
Jon Almack wants to collar one to four bears so that their movements can be used to study the extent of bear habitat and their food sources. Such knowledge would be essential to determine what effect, if any, the bears would have on our existing trail system. The agencies have stopped using PCP (angel dust) to tranqualize bears, and are presently using the anesthetic telezol.

At the end of the study period, the Interagency Team will determine whether or not the North Cascades is a suitable habitat for grizzly bear recovery. The team emphasized that its report would be open for public discussions when it was completed. There will be ample opportunity for public input concerning the possibility of managing a portion of the North Cascades as a grizzly bear recovery zone.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee members all emphasized that the interaction of grizzlies with humans would be part of their evaluation. This would include the effect of roads on bears, bears on domestic livestock and the interaction between hikers and bears.

In answer to the question, "What would happen if the bear population gets out of control?", the Team stated that they don't expect the bear population to get out of control at any time in the near future because of the present low population density. However, should the population become too great, they said control actions such as hunting would be instituted.

A second member of the audience asked how many deaths grizzlies have caused. In the last 88 years, there have been only 17 people killed by grizzlies in the lower 48 states. During the same period, there have been two



and one-half million people killed in automobile accidents.

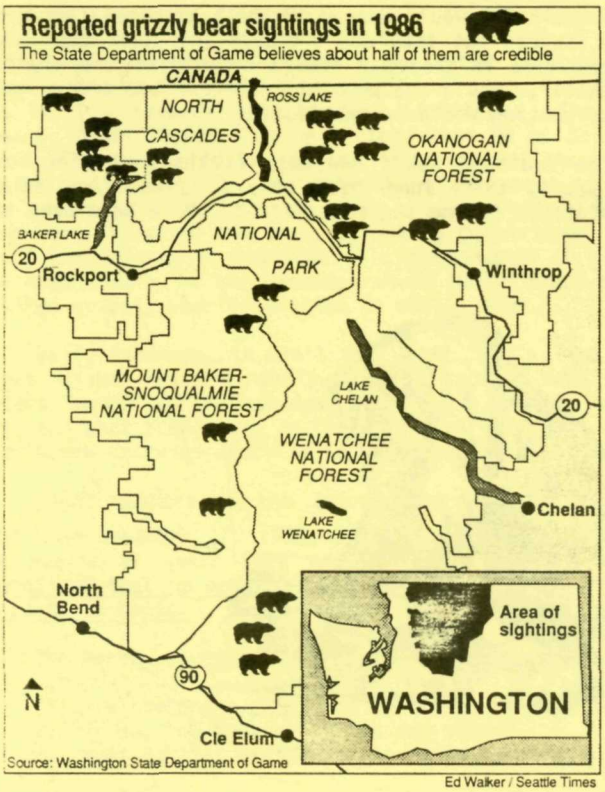
The Interagency Team emphasized that the North Cascades had no history of the type of garbage that has led to habituation of the bears to humans in other areas. According to Stephen Herrero, a noted expert on grizzly-human interactions, the acclimatization of bears to garbage has been the single greatest factor in bear-man encounters in Yellowstone, Glacier, and Banff.

The members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Team are hard-working, dedicated professionals who are trying to save a magnificent animal from extinction. They are not trying to be "evasive". They are just trying to gather the facts before speaking. Unfortunately, Jon Almack's study of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Ecosystem is so chronically and severely underfunded that it may be predestined to failure in spite of his and the other Interagency members' best intentions and efforts. Almack's budget permits only one researcher -- himself -- to survey the entire North Cascades for the estimated less than 50 bears that inhabit the region.

The fears that grizzly bears in the North Cascades have engendered are excessive in view of the rarity of the sightings and the difficulty experienced researchers are having in locating the bears. As one veteran hiker said, "I've been hiking in the North Cascades for 60 years, and I have about as much chance of seeing a grizzly as I do of winning the lottery."

"There seems to be a tacit assumption that if grizzlies survive in Canada and Alaska, that is good enough. It is not good enough for me ... Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness to heaven; one may never get there."

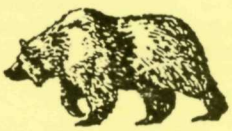
Aldo Leopold



Ed Walker / Seattle Times

Black bear

Grizzly bear



Although *the grizzly bear is generally larger than the black bear, the best way to tell them apart is to note the grizzly's distinguishing hump.*

THE SEATTLE TIMES/SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER July 23, 1989

POLLY DYER HONORED

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS AWARD

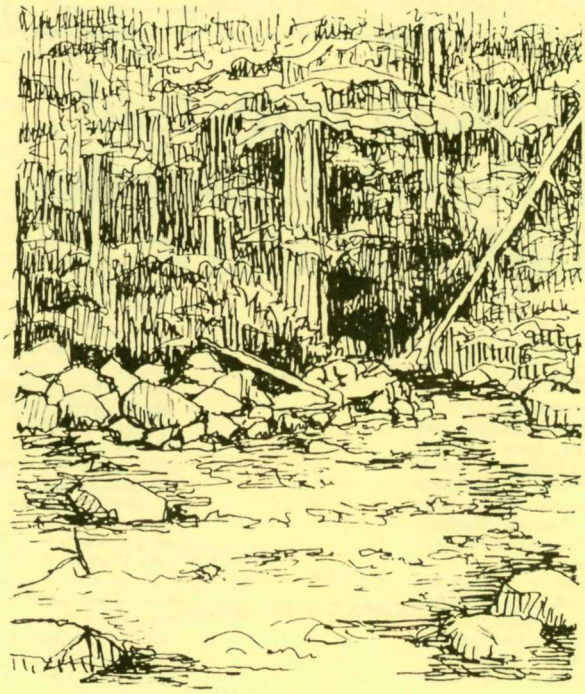
Polly Dyer, Board Member of North Cascades Conservation Council and Olympic Park Associates was presented the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award by Paul Pritchard, President of the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), at their Executive Committee meeting in Bellingham last month.

The award is named in honor of the 1985 recipient, Marjory Stoneman Douglas for her many years of dedication to preserving the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades. She is the author of **The Everglades: River of Grass.**

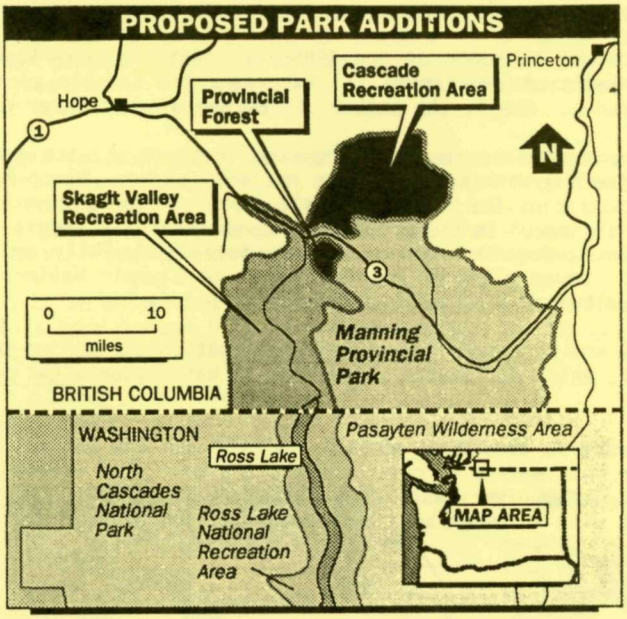
Polly Dyer was recognized for her long-time involvement with groups that are active in protecting Washington's three national parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic. She has been instrumental in protecting and expanding Olympic National Park. In the Fifities, she successfully fought logging and a coast road slated for the park. In the Seventies, Polly helped head the campaign to add seven miles of roadless beach to Olympic National Park and to keep the Quinault area from being dropped from the park.

More recently, she successfully rallied conservationists behind the Washington Wilderness Act, which designated wilderness in Washington's national parks and other areas.

The Douglas Award is presented annually by NPCA and the Bon Ami Company to an individual for outstanding efforts to protect a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System. The award has a monetary component, and Mrs. Dyer was also presented with a pewter bowl to commemorate the event.



A PARK FOR THE CANADIAN SKAGIT ?



Canada may add to North Cascades National Park

By John de Yonge
P-I Reporter

British Columbia officials will ask Americans here tonight whether British Columbia should take steps to create a new large park just across the border from the U.S. North Cascades National Park and the Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

One proposal is to join the Canadian and U.S. park lands into one international park encompassing some of the finest mountain terrain in North America.

Under question is future management of the province's 79,000-acre Skagit Valley Recreation Area, which includes all of the Skagit River north of Ross Lake, and of the 161,000-acre Manning Provincial Park and the 41,000-acre Cascade Recreation Area to the park's north.

Displays of the areas will be open for public inspection beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Mountaineers Club here, to be followed at 7:30 by a slide presentation, outline of management options and the taking of comments from the public, according to James Morris, regional planner for the B.C. Ministry of Parks.

The meeting here, the last of a series that began last month in British Columbia, was arranged at the request of the U.S.-Canada Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission.

The commission was created as part of a 1983 agreement and subsequent U.S.-Canada treaty settling a 42-year-long dispute between British Columbia and the City of Seattle over power production from Ross Dam. Ross, the uppermost dam on the Skagit River, backs up Ross Lake across the U.S.-Canada border.

The panel has available to it $4 million from the City of Seattle, $1 million from the province and income from power exchanges between British Columbia and Seattle. The commission is charged with enhancing recreational opportunities in the upper Skagit valley on both sides of the border, said Bob Royer, who as Seattle's deputy mayor served as the city's chief negotiator in reaching the Ross Dam accord.

Morris said that another reason for having the meeting here is that thousands of U.S. citizens use and travel through the Skagit Valley Recreation Area every year.

A road starting near Hope, B.C., and eventually running through the Skagit Valley Recreation Area, affords the only automobile access to the heavily used north end of Ross Lake and the U.S. Park Service's Hozomeen campground there.

Mel Turner, manager of planning for B.C. Parks, said that public interest in the province has focused on the Skagit Valley Recreation Area, which butts against both the 505,000-acre North Cascades National Park and the 107,000-acre Ross Lake National Recreation Area, both managed by the U.S. Park Service.

"Some people want to see the resources in B.C.'s Skagit Valley developed," Turner said.

"Anglers say the Skagit River there is one of the finest fly-fishing streams in British Columbia, and they don't want to see mining and logging.

"And some people want the Skagit River Recreation Area, along with the Cascade Recreation Area, joined with Manning Provincial Park to create a new large park that eventually can be part of a new international park that includes the North Cascades National Park."

Turner said he and other provincial officials have begun tentative talks with U.S. Park Service officials about the possibility of jointly developing an international park.

Under some options to be detailed tonight, mining and other resource claims would be extinguished in the two recreation areas and they would be classified as parks.

Such classification would be independent of whether an international park were formed. Other options would allow mining and other resource development in the recreation areas.

Pat Goldsworthy, a member of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission and chair of the North Cascades Conservation Council, said he wants to see the existing parks and recreation areas "put together as a whole package that would become part of a great international park."

Turner said that a 5,000-acre parcel of provincial forest land lies "like a doughnut hole" between the recreation areas and Manning Provincial Park. That parcel, he said, will be exempt from the management possibilities to be laid out tonight.

But, he said, how the B.C. government decides to manage the recreation areas and the park will lead to negotiations within the government on how to manage the forest land.

Planners expect to make recommendations by early next year.

Thursday
October 5, 1989
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

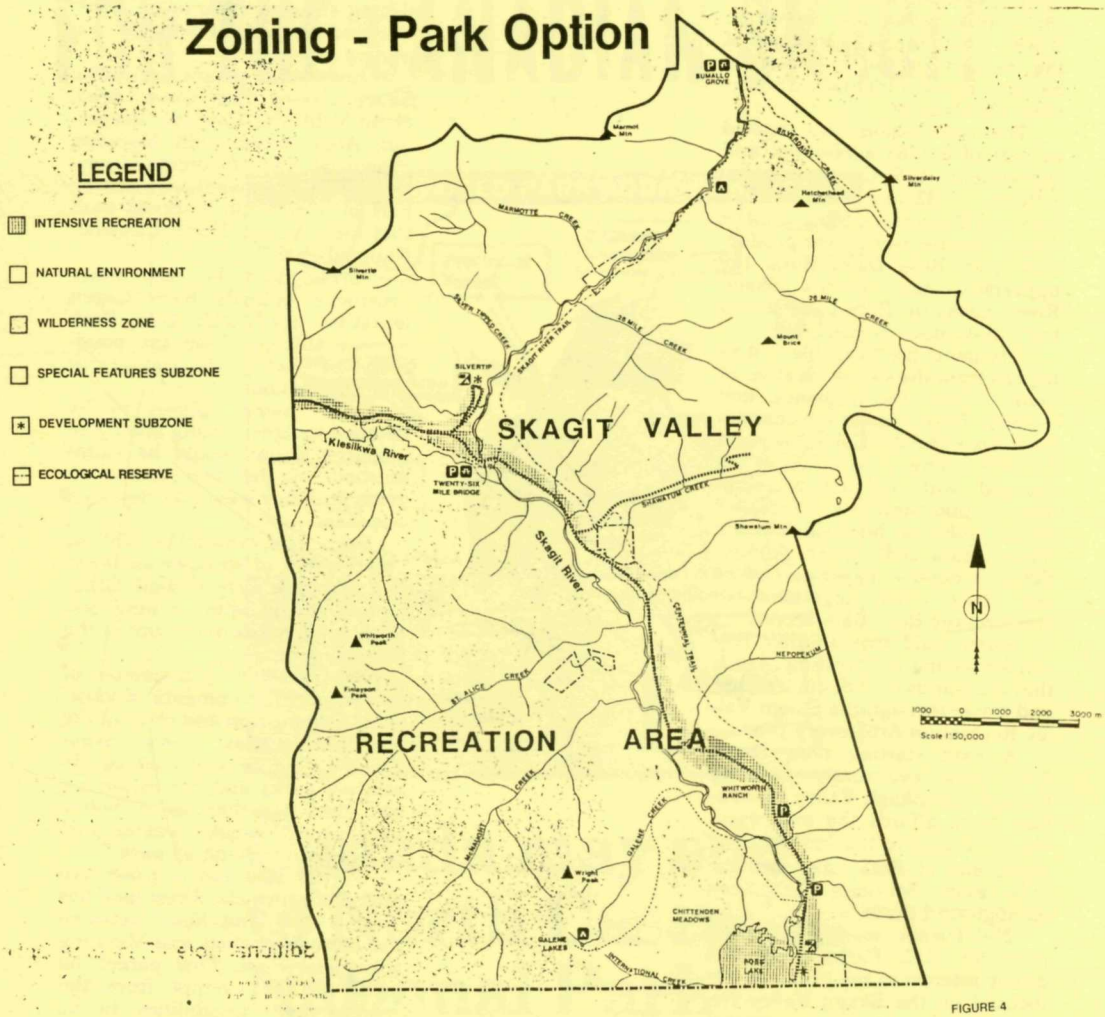
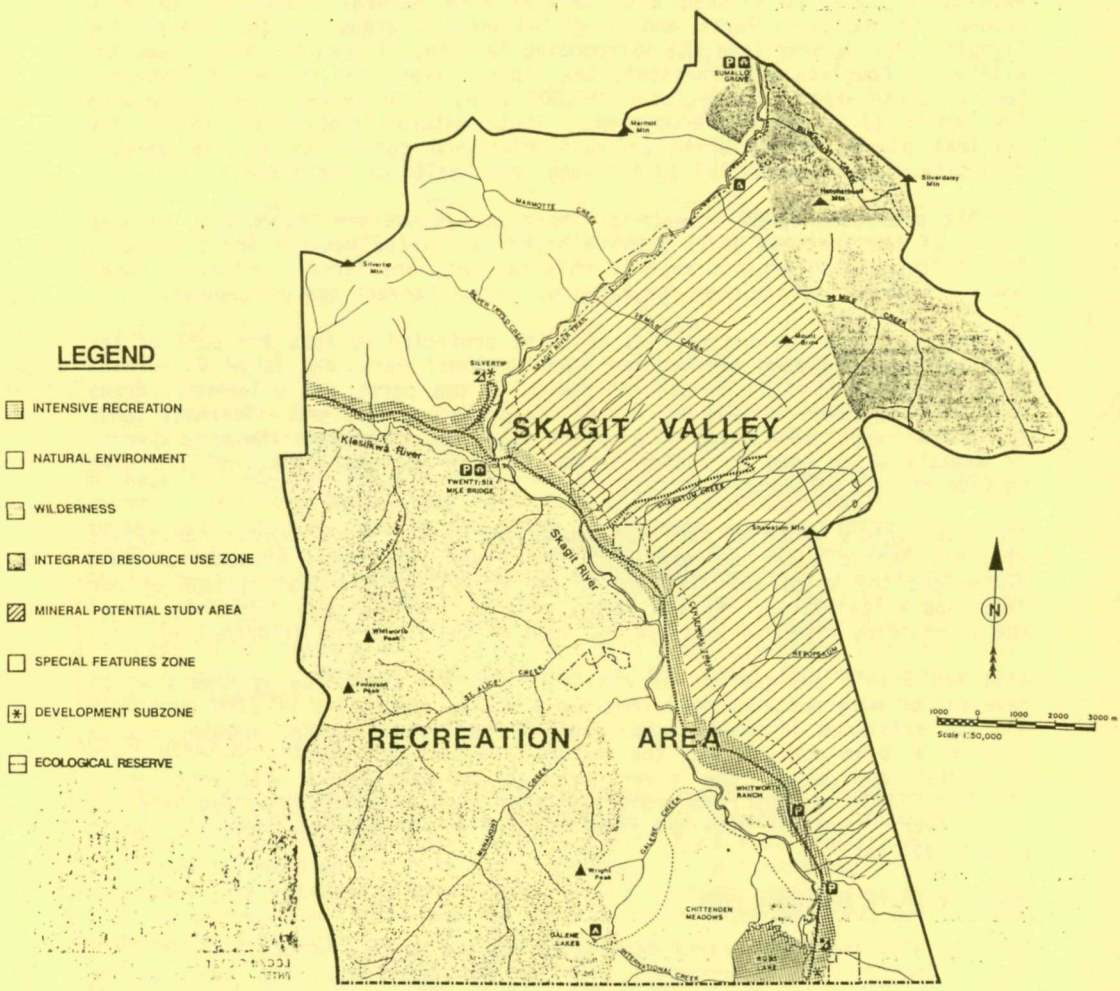


FIGURE 4

THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS OPTION · YOUR LETTER IN SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION WOULD BE HELPFUL · WRITE TO :

Manager of Planning and Conservation , Ministry of Parks
1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver B. C. V7G-1L3

Zoning - Resource Option



WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS:

ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

DOUGLASS A. NORTH

NORTHWEST RIVERS COUNCIL

Washington State is blessed with several fine natural ecosystems centered around the National Parks and large Wilderness areas of the State: the Olympics, Mt. Rainier (and the surrounding Tatoosh, Clearwater, Norse Peak and William O. Douglass Wildernesses), the Alpine Lakes, and the North Cascades. Each of these areas includes over 350,000 acres of protected lands which form the center of a natural ecosystem. These natural ecosystems protect the original plants and wildlife of Washington and contribute to the genetic diversity which is essential to the long term health of our planet.

But the protected lands in each of these ecosystems are incomplete, because little of the lowlands which provide essential winter habitat are protected. The valleys, which provide most of this habitat, are largely privately owned and the land is heavily used for farming, timber harvest and residences.

Ultimately, these lowland valleys near the protected uplands are part of the interlocking ecosystem surrounding each National Park and large wilderness area. Important wildlife species found in the parks and wilderness areas depend on the river valleys outside of the protected Park and wilderness lands for winter range. For example, a recent study has enumerated the many species of mammals which used to reside in Mt. Rainier National Park, but are gone because of lack of winter habitat.

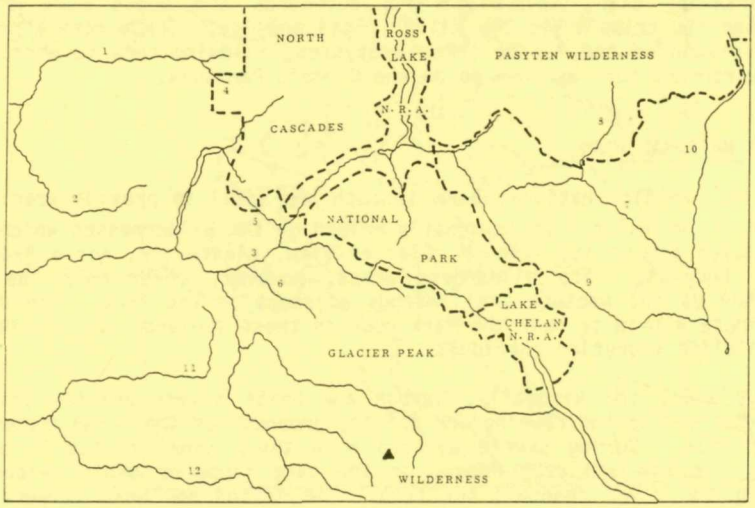
The best vehicle which we have for protecting this critical winter habitat is Wild and Scenic river designation. The rivers and their productive flood plains are the veins and lifeways of the ecosystems surrounding each of our Parks and Wildernesses. By and large, only the narrow, upper ends of each of the surrounding river valleys are included in the Parks and Wildernesses.

Wild and Scenic designation is available for all free flowing rivers which have one or more outstandingly remarkable value, regardless of land ownership and the existence of roads. Designation requires that the managing agency develop a plan to protect the natural values for which the river was designated and manage the river under a non-degradation and enhancement standard. This imposes reasonable limits on timber harvest and road building along rivers, bans all dams and requires that any mining not adversely impact natural values.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

Numerous Wild and Scenic river candidates hug the North Cascades National Park and its surrounding Wildernesses. On the northwest side, the Forks of the Nooksack provide important bald eagle habitat; spawning salmon for food and old growth forest farther up-river for roosting and nesting.

The Skagit river and its tributaries, Noisy, Diobsud and Illabot creeks provide critical salmon spawning grounds and bald eagle habitat. While a major portion of the Skagit was designated as Wild and Scenic in 1978, the portion between Newhalem and Bacon Creek was not included because Seattle City Light wanted to leave open the possibility of building the Copper Creek dam which would flood that section of the river. Hydroelectric projects are also proposed for Noisy and Diobsud creeks, two of the finest areas of low elevation old growth forest left in the North Cascades.



1. NOOKSACK, N. F.
2. NOOKSACK, S. F.
3. SKAGIT
4. NOISY CR.
5. DIOBSUD CR.
6. ILLABOT CR.
7. METHOW
8. LOST
9. TWISP
10. CHEWUCH
11. STILLAGUAMISH, N. F.
12. STILLAGUAMISH, S. F.

The east side of the North Cascades is flanked by the rivers in the Methow system. The Upper Methow and Lost rivers provide winter habitat for the largest herd of mule deer in the state. The same area is winter range for mountain goats which can be seen on the rock wall forming the north side of the valley. The deer also make use of other tributaries of the Methow, the Twisp and Chewack, for winter range and travel corridors. The river corridors also harbor bear, bobcats, racoons, and weasels. The abundance of cavities and snags in the forests of the river corridors provide nesting sites for owls and woodpeckers. These rivers form one of the least intruded upon river systems in the state.

ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS

The Alpine Lakes Wilderness has an odd, octopus-like shape. Its shape results from the inclusion of all of the high alpine and sub-alpine ridges and its exclusion of the low elevation river valleys where roads have been built. This protects the high altitude summer backpacking destinations, but it fails to protect the recreation areas used by the less physically active and it fails to protect the low elevation habitat areas which are critical to the Alpine Lakes ecosystem.

The Wilderness area is bounded by Wild and Scenic river candidates. On the east, it is bordered by the Wenatchee River, Icicle Creek and the forks of the Teanaway. The Middle and West Forks of the Teanaway provide vital unroaded wildlife habitat and recreation areas adjacent to the Wilderness. On the south side, the Cle Elum river penetrates into the heart of the Wilderness, while the Copper and Kachess guard its I-90 side.

On the west, the Wilderness recoils from the roads along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie and its tributaries the Taylor and the Pratt. These rivers provide well documented winter range and travel corridors for the animals who make their summer homes in the Wilderness. The Pratt, inaccessible through lack of a bridge across the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie, has outstanding low level recreation value.

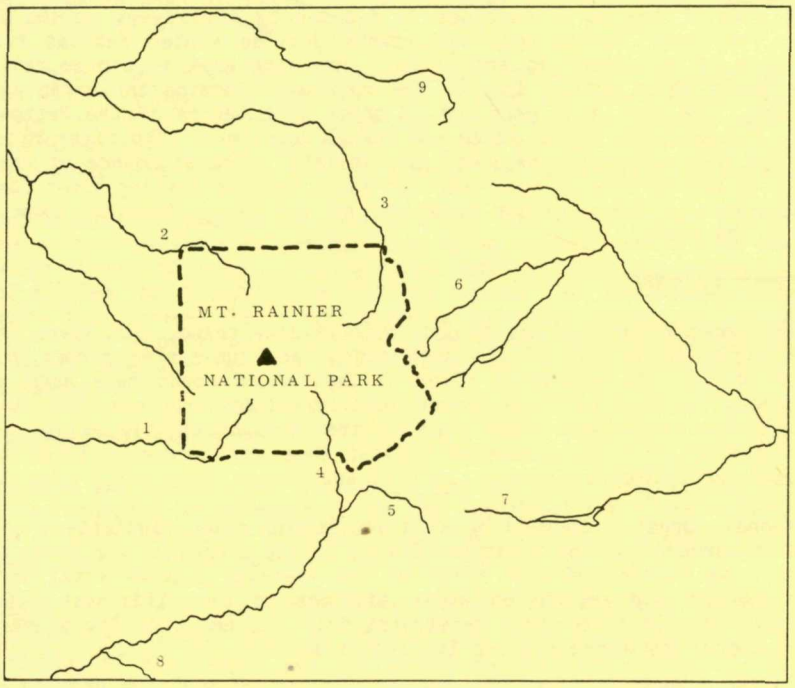
On the northwest side, the Wilderness surrounds the South Fork of the Skykomish and its tributaries the Miller, Foss and Tye. These rivers provide access for salmon to the Alpine Lakes ecosystem, allowing them to enrich the natural environment here as they do on the Olympic Penisula.

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

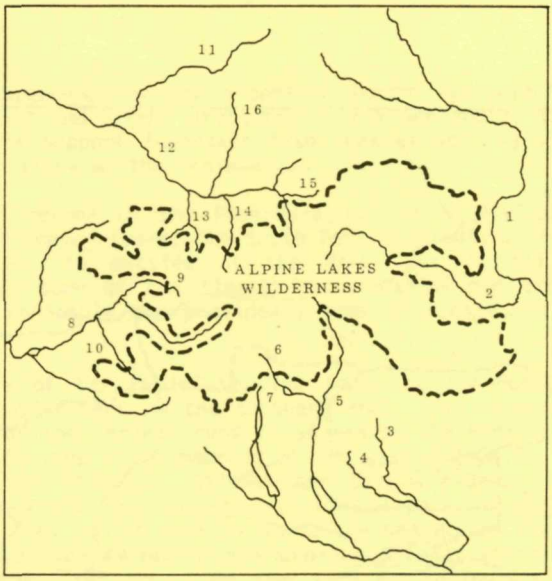
By itself, Mt. Rainier National Park is much too small to provide year round habitat for its wildlife. It is greatly helped by the Wildernesses which have been designated around it; Tatoosh, Glacier View, Clearwater, Norse Peak and William O. Douglas. The Wilderness areas, however, cover only the high country, they do not protect the lowlands adjacent to the Park. The rivers which originate within or near the Park nourish these lowlands and provide the critical wildlife migration corridors.

On the west side, the Nisqually, Carbon and White rivers provide critical winter habitat and spring fawning and calving grounds for the large numbers of elk in the area. During severe winters when their usual forage is buried under snow, the elk and deer depend on the bare limbs of maple, alder and willow along the river channels for feed. The Carbon and White rivers also provide an avenue of access for salmon to the National Park. Some of the finest remaining old growth forest in the area is found along these rivers.

In the southeast corner of the Park, the forks of the Cowlitz river buffer the Park from the commercial forestry paractices of the surrounding area. The unique geological formations along the rivers (a "z" canyon on the Muddy Fork and the spectacular "pipes" of columnar basalt along the Clear Fork) highlight a very important wildlife area.



1. NISQUALLY
2. CARBON
3. WHITE
4. COWLITZ, MUDDY F.
5. COWLITZ, CLEAR F.
6. AMERICAN
7. TIETON
8. CISPUS
9. GREEN



1. WENATCHEE
2. ICICLE CR.
3. TEANAWAY, M.F.
4. TEANAWAY, W.F.
5. CLE ELUM
6. COOPER
7. KACHESS
8. SNOQUALMIE, M.F.
9. TAYLOR
10. PRATT
11. SKYKOMISH, N.F.
12. SKYKOMISH, S.F.
13. MILLER
14. FOSS
15. TYE
16. BECKLER

On the east side of the divide near the Park are two rivers which are very important to the ecosystem; the American and Tieton. Both provide fisheries habitat and critical wildlife area. On the dry eastern side of the mountains the riparian areas along rivers make up only 5% of the land area but are used by an estimated 70% of the species. The "thermal cover" that riparian forests provide in easter Washington protects wildlife from the temperature extremes of summer and winter.

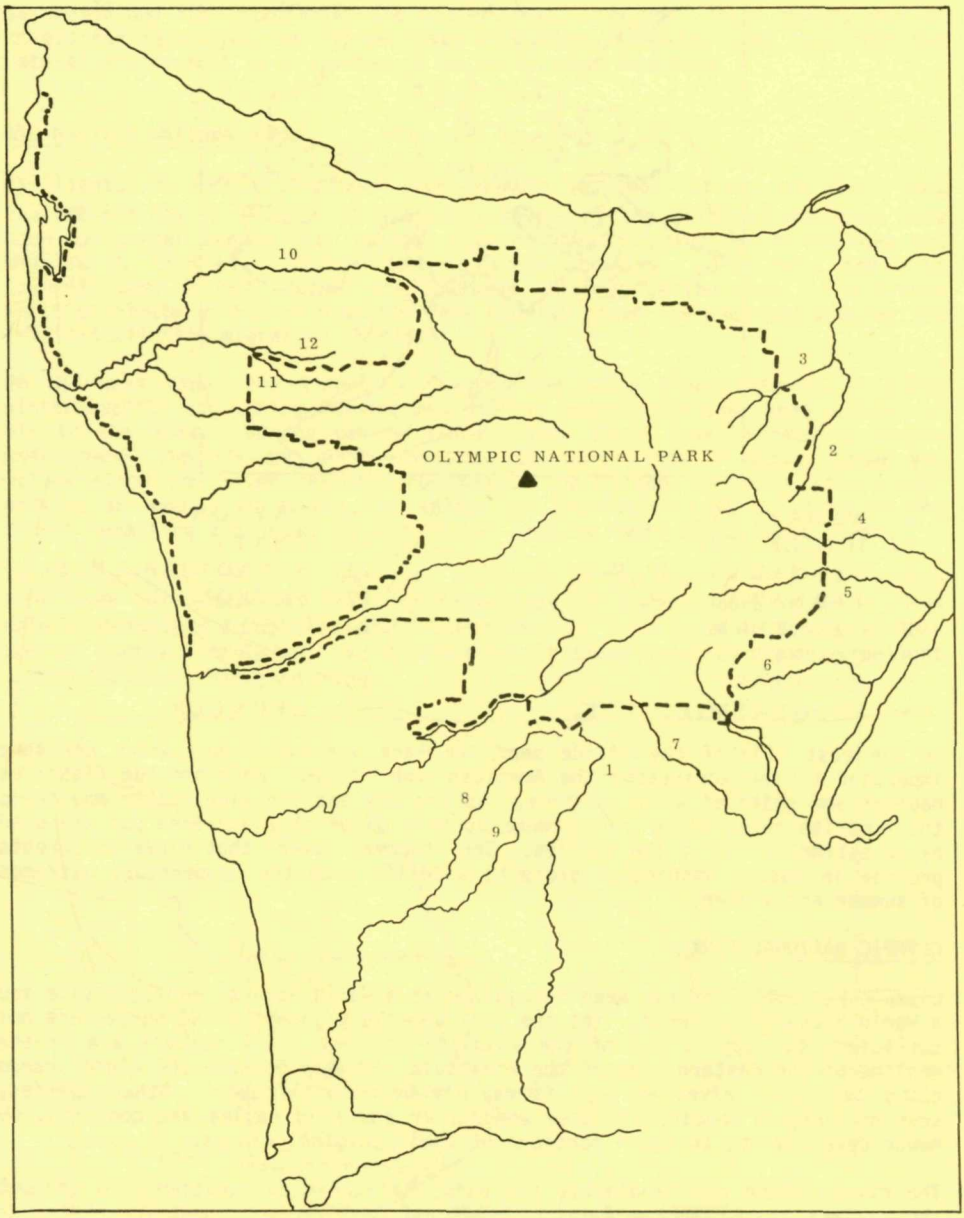
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Olympic National Park has been recognized as a World Natural Heritage site and a World Biosphere Reserve. Yet the Park and its adjacent Wildernesses are not sufficient to support all of the wildlife in them. Elk numbers are on the decline on the eastern side of the Peninsula, largely because the winter range along the lower river valleys is rapidly being built upon. Other species, such as cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker and bald eagles are confined, by human development, to small portions of their original ranges.

The rivers which are candidates for Wild and Scenic designation flow through the valleys that ring the Park. The Forest Service has found six rivers in the National Forest to be eligible and there are several others which merit designation as well.

On the northeast side of the Peninsula, the Dungeness and Gray Wolf rivers are home to a unique early run of pink salmon that is capable of struggling up low water rivers farther than any other species of salmon. The valleys of these rivers also provide critical habitat for the unusual ecosystem found on the dry side of the Olympics, including Washington's only native cactus.

On the east side, the Dosewallops provide the only access to the east side of the National Park by salmon and steelhead and a key wildlife migration



1. WYNOOCHEE
2. DUNGENESS
3. GRAY WOLF
4. DOSEWALLIPS
5. DUCKABUSH
6. HAMMA HAMMA
7. SKOKOMISH, S. F.
8. HUMPTULIPS, W. F.
9. HUMPTULIPS, E. F.
10. SOLEDUCK
11. CALAWAH
12. SITKIM

route. It is threatened by the proposed Elkhorn hydroelectric project and urgently needs Wild and Scenic protection. Further south, the Duckabush and Hamma Hamma rivers support important fish runs as well as winter habitat on the steep eastern slope of the Peninsula.

In the southeast corner of the Peninsula is one of the most ecologically critical of the Olympic rivers; the South Fork Sokokomish. Most of the upper part of the river is outside of the Park, but is still unroaded and unlogged. It has some of the finest low elevation old growth forest left standing on the Peninsula and provides a home to spotted owls, martins, and bald eagles.

On the west side of the Peninsula, the forks of the Humptulips river are premier examples of rivers on the southern end. The forks are the spawning grounds of some of the largest runs of salmon on the Peninsula and important wintering areas for the large mammals of the west side. On the north end of the west side, the Soleduck, Calawah and Sitkim rivers also support fine salmon runs. The returning salmon also have a role in the ecosystem: they return some nutrients to the forests along the headwaters when they die after spawning. And the spawned out slamon provide a ready source of food to many other animals in the fall and winter when they are facing their most difficult season.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS CAN PROTECT THE LOWLANDS

Wild and Scenic designation can help preserve the complete ecosystems which make Washington unique, by protecting the lowland river valleys near our National Parks and Wildernesses.

AN EMISSARY FROM THE NORTH CASCADES

URSUS

I stopped cold. There in the snow, leading out ahead of me were the unmistakable tracks of a grizzly. In the past 15 years I had looked forward to encountering those tracks as I hiked in Alaska and Canada, but these tracks were on my own front porch!

I opened the door cautiously and peered in. Jasper and MST were huddled around the table, the stereo blaring the familiar tune from Buffalo Springfield:

> "Paranoia strikes deep,
> into your life it will creep,
> it starts when you are always afraid..."

MST looked up. "Hey, Pollyanna. Come on in and meet your guest."

A huge, dark form uncurled from the edge of the table, stood, ducked under the door jam and extended a furry paw. The grizzly stood over eight feet. I lowered my eyes and stepped back involuntarily.

MST broke the silence. "Gus, meet Pollyanna. Pollyanna, meet Gus."

I looked at MST as if he were crazy, which of course he is.

"Don't be a jerk, Pollyanna. Shake his paw. The North Cascades grizzlies were upset by the articles in the **Mountaineer Bulletin** and they elected Gus as ambassador to the North Cascades Conservation Council to appeal for coexistence. Besides, he's a little grumpy about being awakened from hibernation."

I stepped forward hesitantly and shook the paw. Only then did I notice that the great bear was wearing a Smokey hat. I looked at it incredulously.

"Oh, that," the bear said. "We felt that it was a symbol of peace that your species might understand."

"Why me," I sputtered.

"Why not? You were writing in support of bears long before most people were even aware that we were up there. Quite frankly, we figured that you're as good a bet as any, now that we've been discovered."

"What do you want?"

"Mainly, we want to be left alone, to seek our living and raise our young. Once, we were powerful in the Cascades, our home, but then the trappers invading from Canada and the United States killed more than 400 of my ancestors in less than five years. Since then my family has hidden from your species."

"That isn't what the trappers said. They swore that your ancestors were fierce beasts that pursued them and refused to die even when shot multiple times."

The bear looked sad. "Once, there were more than 100,000 grizzlies in the West. If we're so hard to kill, why are there now less than 900 left in the lower 48 states? William Wright*, perhaps the greatest grizzly hunter of all time, concluded that the stories were false. In the end, he gave up his single-shot gun, picked up a camera and pleaded our cause."

"Why are you here?"

"My family is upset about the things being printed in the **Mountaineer Bulletin**. We've been good citizens and haven't disturbed a single hiker in the Cascades in recorded memory. Heck, most hikers didn't even know we were there. We buy and read the hike books. Now, they're printing letters that, if implemented, would lead to our extinction."

"You read hiking guides?"

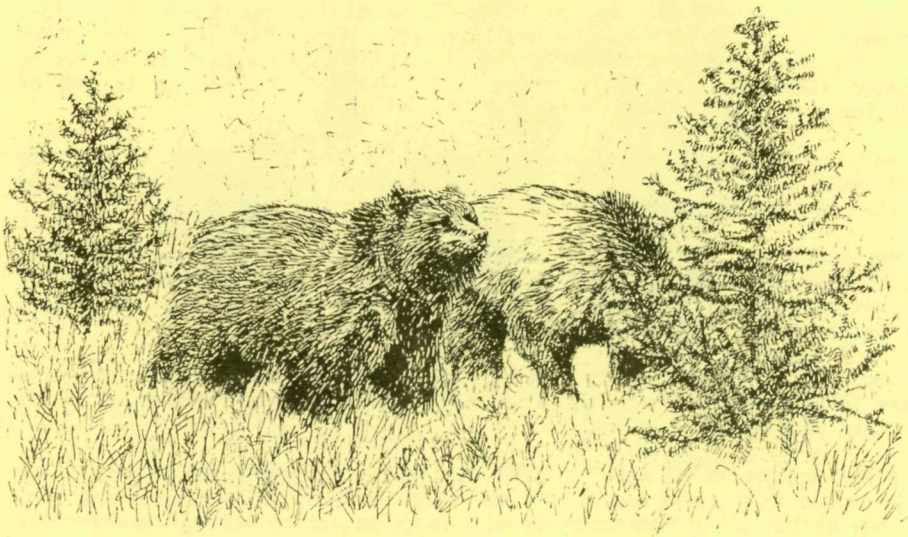
"Of course!. Our species has studied you much more carefully than you have studied us. Our survival depends upon avoiding you. What better way than to buy your hiking guides?"

"You read hiking guides??" I was in a rut.

The bear reached into a knapsack and pulled out a 1988 copy of **100 Hikes in the Glacier Peak Region.** "I bought this because it's near my home," the bear explained. "Just look at what they said here on page 12, under 'Goals Ahead'."

The bear handed me the book, indicating the relevant section with a foreclaw. I read it aloud. "In fact," the author stated, "we are not at a stage where the saving of trails, important though that is, has a lower priority than the saving of fisheries and wildlife resources, scientific values, gene pools..."

"We're wildlife, and we consider our gene pool worth saving," the bear continued after I was finished. "But now, only one year after that book was published, some proponents of the hiking industry are advocating mesures that would lead to the extinction of the grizzlies in the Cascades." The bear looked up sadly. "I guess the words in the book were only hype to promote sales."



E M Anderson '89
From photo by T. Christie
Times/PI

"No," I said. "I'm sure the authors want a genetically diverse North Cascades and that they went into great detail explaining the importance of wildlife in the grand scheme of things. Heck, every good hiking book published nowdays contains a section informing hikers how to interact with the wildlife of the region."

"Nice try, Pollyanna," Jasper interrupted me. "The next four pages are all devoted to the importance of trails. There's not one section in the entire

introduction devoted to the wildlife of the North Cascades. As shocking as it may seem, there's not even a description of the appropriate way to hang food in bear country so bears don't get acclimated to packs as a source of calories."

"Actually, I've reviewed several editions of these guidebooks," MST interjected. "They've never contained an appropriate section about interacting with wildlife. Hell, after thousands of hikers have read all those introductions, I now understand why the marmots on Green Mountain have turned into beggars."

"Well, we all know that the only way to fight development is to get hundreds of hikers into the wilderness, 'voting with their feet'. Heck, a thousand hikers in the woods do less damage than one timber company clearcut," I parroted the wisdom of a quarter century.

"We all agree with that," Jasper responded, "but this is a new argument. This argument states that the users of guidebooks have the right to **all** trails in the Cascades, **even if their use causes the death of a species indigenous to the Cascade Mountains**. This argument is different than any we've ever heard before."

"Unfortunately for us, extinction is extinction," the great bear said. "It doesn't much matter whether it's because the hiking industry demands unrestricted use of the public trails or the livestock industry demands unrestricted use of the public range. We're still dead and our genes are still gone."

The room went silent. MST hunched forward. He was looking at his fingertips, which were pointed together, but his mind was clearly far away. He looked up. "Yes, Gus, some proponents of the hiking industry appear to be making unfounded statements about the bears. One even wrote that up to 50% of Washington's trails might be closed."

"How many bears are there and where are they located?" I asked. "How many trails would have to be closed? Isn't it possible that guidebooks could be rewritten so that bears and hikers could coexist in the Cascades?"

"No one knows the range of the bears," Jasper replied. "The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee is attempting to answer exactly those kinds of questions. Unfortuantely, the study is severely underfunded. The entire North Cascades are being covered by only one researcher."

"But wouldn't it be logical to support the study? Wouldn't it make sense to get the information before it going off half-cocked about the number of trails that might be closed?" I asked.

"Logic has nothing to do with it," MST replied. "To demand the extinction of the Cascade Grizzly just because he may encounter the poorly-educated hikers unleashed by the guidebooks makes as much sense as exterminating the otters in Prince William Sound because they might become entangled in the oil unleashed by the Exxon Valdez."

MST leaned back and then slowly stood up. He extended his hand to Gus. "Some powerful people apparently want you exterminated I'm not sure that we can help, but we'll do our best. We'll support a better funded study of the Bears of the North Cascades. It would be a tragedy if your species went under because an inadequately funded project failed to document your presence. The real issues are clear: Will we have a true wilderness in the North Cascades with all the genetic diversity and wildness that wilderness implies? Or will we have a parody of wilderness, a rather large Seattle City park in the mountains?"

Gus shook his hand. "Thanks. That's all the help we can ask." The bear turned towards the door to leave.

"Gus, you forgot your book," I called out.

The bear looked back, sadness in his eyes. "No thanks," he replied softly. "I don't think I want it anymore."

The bear disappeared to return to his home in the North Cascades.

* William H. Wright, **The Grizzly Bear.** Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909.

WILDERNESS OR LOGS TO JAPAN ?

CLEARCUTTING MINING CLAIMS

PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY

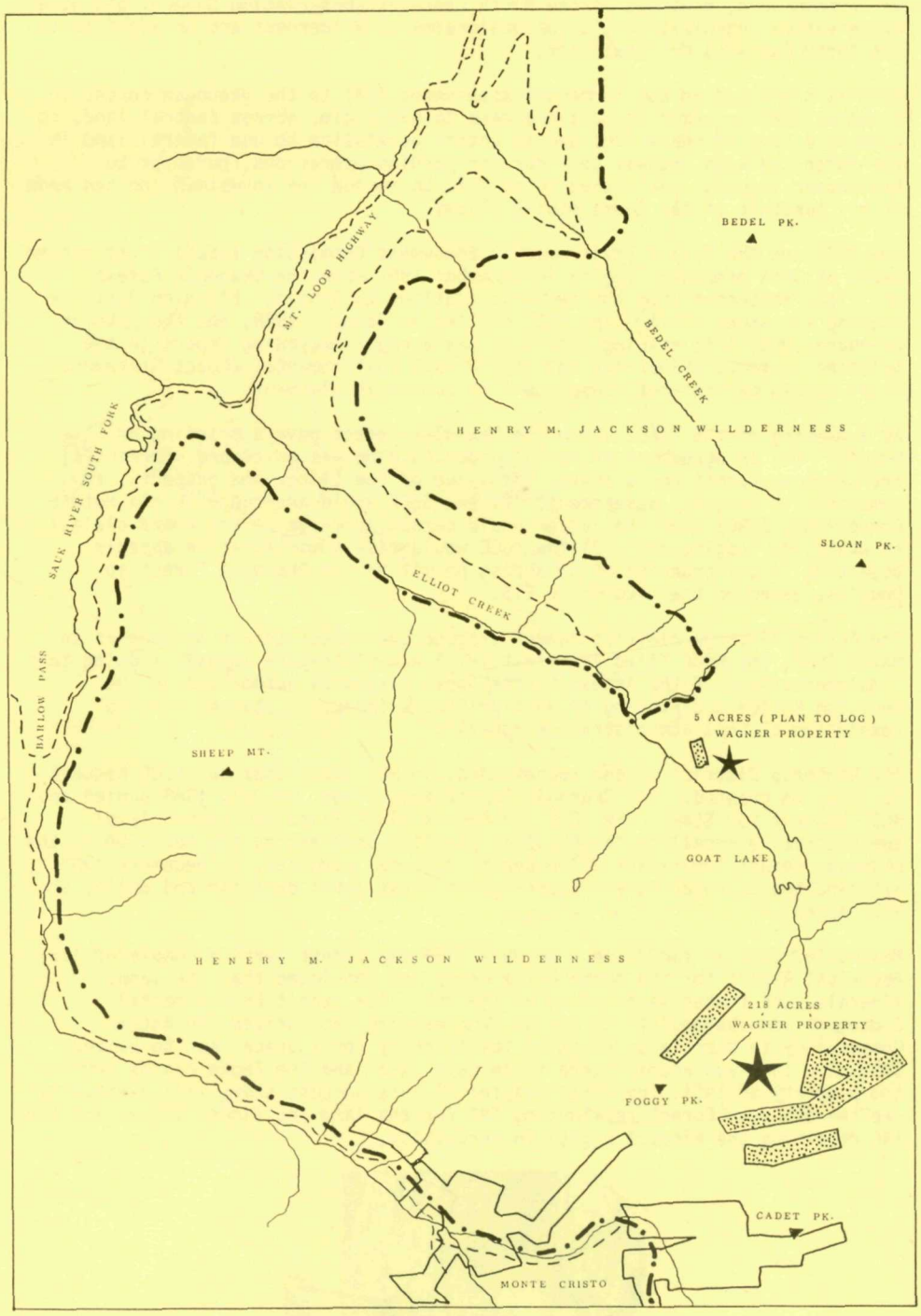
The wilderness scenic resources of Washington's Cascades are now being threatened by Japan's insatiable demand for logs. This has been a steadily increasing demand which has elevated the price of logs, at the seaport dockside, to an all-time high. Some owners of remote, isolated, mining claims plan to take advantage of these inflated prices by clear-cutting their properties, hitherto impractical, due to the high costs of helicopter access or road construction. Two of these projects came to the attention of the North Cascades Conservation Council because their owners are willing to negotiate sales of their claims in their present unlogged condition. These are the WAGNER property in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the ANOKA property in the roadless Canyon Creek drainage of the Okanogan National Forest.

THE WAGNER PROPERTY lies within the South Fork of the Sauk River drainage and entirely within the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. It consists of a 5-acre mill site just below Goat Lake, near the waterfalls, with the trail going through it, and 218 acres of steep rugged topography in the cirque above Goat Lake. There is a commerical stand of timber on the mill site, which Mr. Wagner proposes to log, and non-commercial silver fir and hemlock on the remaining property.

The U.S. Forest Service considers the Wagner property a "high priority" for purchase. Acquisition will remove some of the non-Federal land within the Wilderness boundary. Future mineral development within the Wilderness will, in part, be alleviated, as the lands acquired would no longer be available for location and entry under the mining laws. Special-use access permits, specifying conditions of use of Forest Service roads #096 (Bedel and Elliot Cr.), #4096 (Elliot Cr.), #4080 (Elliot Cr.) and the original "mine-to-market" road, are currently under negotiation between Mr. Wagner and the Forest Service.

In a July 1988 letter to NCCC, Mr. Wagner indicated his "interest in selling my property in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness ... asking $150,000 for the entire package of 223 acres". The Trust for Public Land, with the support of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, believes "with our combined efforts we will be able to see this land protected and enjoyed by the public for years to come". As we go to press negotiations between Mr. Wagner and T.P.L. for purchase and U.S.F.S. for access special-use permit are still under negotiation and the start of proposed logging delayed from September 1, 1988.

THE ANOKA PROPERTY is located three miles east of the North Cascades Highway, above Canyon Creek, a steep northwest-facing spur which separates Boulder and Mill Creeks, two northwest-flowing tributaries of Canyon Creek. This 108-acre property, owned by Joel Douglas, includes 1500 MBF of commercial timber and consists of six patented mining claims, laid end to end ranging from an elevation of 3,400 to one of 5,800 feet. The remains of buildings and adits, developed in the early part of the century, have suffered extensive deterioration. The property is entirely surrounded by roadless land administered by the Okanogan National Forest and bordered on the north by the


BEDEL PK.
MT. LOOP HIGHWAY
BEDEL CREEK
HENRY M. JACKSON WILDERNESS
SAUK RIVER SOUTH FORK
SLOAN PK.
ELLIOT CREEK
BARLOW PASS
5 ACRES (PLAN TO LOG)
WAGNER PROPERTY
SHEEP MT.
GOAT LAKE
HENERY M. JACKSON WILDERNESS
218 ACRES
WAGNER PROPERTY
FOGGY PK.
CADET PK.
MONTE CRISTO

Canyon Creek trail which is closed to motorized use. This is defacto-wilderness land, proposed by the North Cascades Conservation Council and other conservation organizations, to be designated as Wilderness and an addition to the North Cascades National Park.

Douglas submitted an Environmental assessment (EA) to the Okanogan Forest in November 1987 in order to obtain access to his claim, across federal land, to conduct a logging operation, and to obtain permission to use federal land in the North Cascades Highway corridor for yarding operations, pursuant to helicopter logging. He wished to do this to recoup the investment he had made in his purchase of the Anoka mining claims.

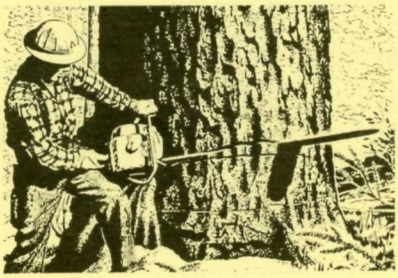
The NCCC and the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) first became aware of this proposed logging in December 1987 when the Okanogan Forest solicited responses from the two organizations to Douglas' EA which justified logging the Anoka claim. The NCCC replied in January 1988, and the SEEC in February 1988, both stating that this was a major degrading impact on the pristine de facto wilderness and that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared, complete with public involvement.

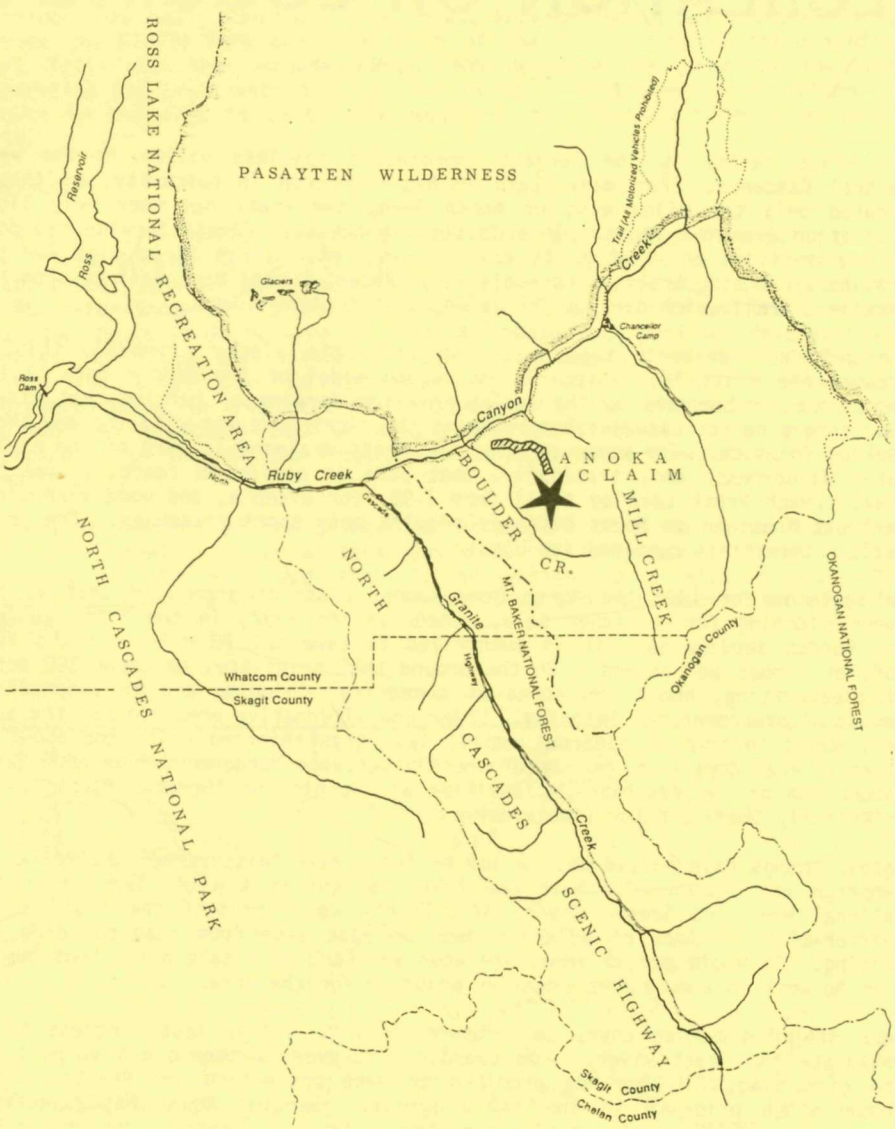
At a meeting of the SEEC, where the Okanogan Forest gave a briefing on Douglas' EA, an agreement of mutual understanding was developed wherein (1) the Okanogan Forest would assess the value of the timber and property, to compare with Douglas' assessment, (2) the SEEC would arrange with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) that the latter would pursue purchase of the Anoka claims; to avoid the logging and, (3) the NCCC would file administrative appeals objecting to any granting of an access permit by the Okanogan Forest to Douglas, based on the need of an EIS.

The Acting Winthrop District Ranger granted the access permit to Douglas in March 1988, the NCCC filed its first level administrative appeal, arguing that "implementations of the Access to the Anoka Claims as authorized in the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact be stayed, pending resolution of this administrative appeal".

The Winthrop District Ranger recommended, in May 1988, that the NCCC Request for Stay be granted. The Okanogan Forest Supervisor, in July 1988 denied the NCCC Request for Stay. The NCCC, in August 1988, filed its second level administrative appeal to the Regional Forester challenging the decision of the Okanogan Forest Supervisor. The Deputy Regional Forester, in December 1988, affirmed the Okanogan Forest Supervisor's first level decision and denied the NCCC appeal.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch. In July 1989 the Forest Service completed its Appraisal Report for the Anoka Claim Group and concluded that the land, minerals, and timber were valued at $88,807. The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, at its August 22nd meeting, authorized The Nature Conservancy to execute purchase of the property for a price, not to exceed $90,000. This was accomplished three days later and the Anoka claims are now the property of TNC! The final chapter of this success story will eventually see the Okanogan Forest reimbursing TNC for the land and timber values and the TNC retaining the mineral rights in perpetuity.




ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
PASAYTEN WILDERNESS
Reservoir
Ross
Ross Dam
Glaciers
Trail (All Motorized Vehicles Prohibited)
Creek
Chancelor Camp
Canyon
ANOKA CLAIM
Ruby Creek
North
Cascade
BOULDER CR.
MILL CREEK
NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK
NORTH
Granite
Highway
MT. BAKER NATIONAL FOREST
Okanogan County
OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST
Whatcom County
Skagit County
CASCADES
Creek
SCENIC HIGHWAY
Skagit County
Chelan County

THE PRATT RIVER VALLEY
RECREATION OR LOGGING?

LEN GARDNER

The Pratt Valley is the largest unprotected roadless valley in the west central Cascades. For many years it has slumbered in obscurity. Although located only ten miles east of North Bend, the Pratt has seen only light visitation over the years. This is because the U.S. Forest Service had done such a good job of keeping its existence secret. There is no sign for the trailhead; indeed, there is no trailhead. Recent Forest maps fail to show the excellent trail which goes up the valley almost eight miles.

The guidebook writers, too, have overlooked the place. Probably this is because the Pratt is located on the "wrong side" of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie, and access to the valley involves fording or rafting that river. The wrong side for casual visitors means the right side for wildlife and those seeking solitude. The upper part of the Pratt drainage is part of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and, ironically, that part is easier to reach. You can easily reach Pratt Lake by trail from I-90, for example, and good viewpoints on Pratt Mountain or Mount Defiance require only short scrambles. The lower valley, though has remained isolated.

In September of 1987 the North Bend Ranger District announced that it had begun planning for a timber sale, scheduled for 1992, in the Pratt Valley. The Forest Service says it is authorized to take out 20 million board feet (bf) of timber per decade. On the ground that translates to about 500 acres of clearcutting, about 150 acres of commerical thinning and an unspecified amount of precommerical thinning. Under one alternative prepared for the sale this would involve 20 clearcut units, two large thinning units and about 15 miles of road construction. Under the Alpine Lakes Management Plan 6600 acres (about 40% of the drainage), classified as "Scenic" or "General Forest", are potentially available for timber harvest.

Lately things have heated up. A lot of folks have "discovered" the Pratt. A campaign was launched to have the Pratt designated a wild river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This would protect the river and a quarter-mile corridor of adjacent land on each side from road building and logging. It would put an immediate stop on the timber sale plan, thus buying time to work on a more comprehensive solution for the area.

John Miller and Mike Lowry co-sponsored a bill in the last Congress to so designate the Pratt River. Rod Chandler, however, withheld his support and the bill died. Miller has promised to make protecting the Pratt his top conservation priority in the new Congress. Senator Adams has been very supportive, and McDermott is also expected to be so. Chandler, though, is the key. He still needs to be convinced that saving the Pratt for its outstanding recreational and natural values is a good idea.

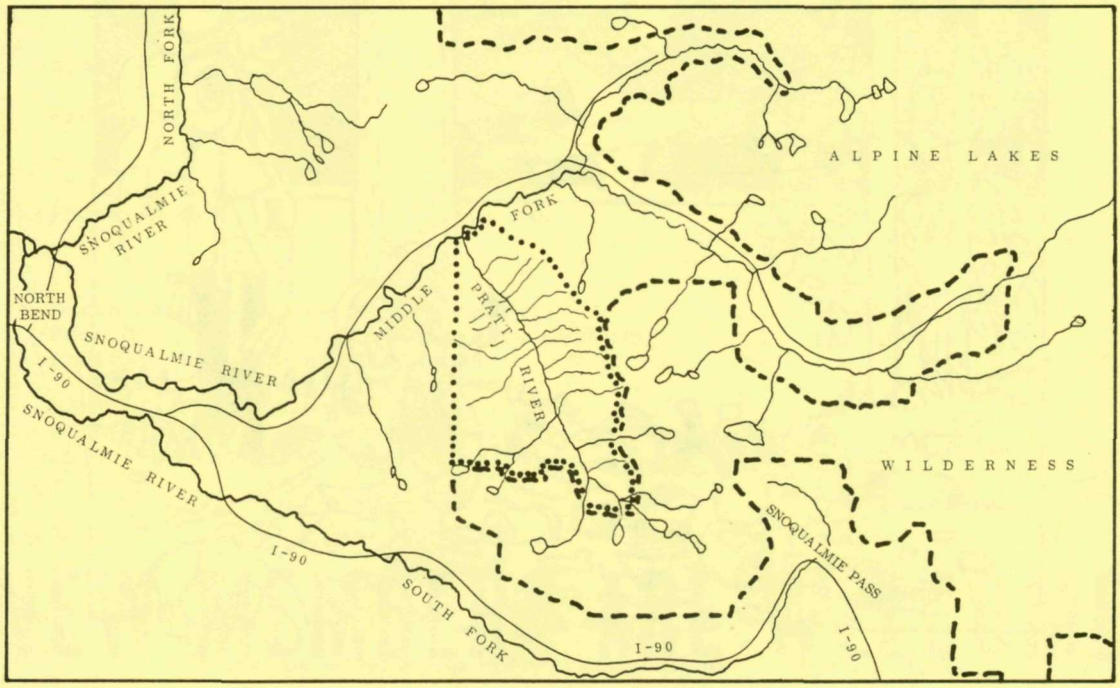
When figured on an annualized basis (2 million bf per year), the volume that would be foregone in withdrawing the Pratt from the commercial forest base

would be less than 1% of the amount that the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest cuts each year (over the last 13 years the MBS cut has average 235 milion bf per year). The need for more trails in the North Bend District is undeniable. The Cedar River watershed is closed to recreation, and the few people heading up the North Fork Snoqualmie must run an uncertain gauntlet of Weyerhaeuser gates. Consequently, trails in the South Fork valley (the I-90 corridor) are badly overused. The Forest Service should build a trail bridge across the Middle Fork near the mouth of the Pratt, rebuild the old Middle Fork Trail (on the unroaded side) and dedicate the area to low-impact recreation and preservation of natural values. Remaining low elevation old-growth in the area is critically important for wildlife, including spotted owls.

POSTSCRIPT

In a recent development Representatives Miller and Chandler have jointly asked the Forest Service to refrain from making a final decision in regard to the Pratt timber sale for the remainder of the year. In a letter (March 1, 1989) to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Supervisor J.D. MacWilliams, Miller and Chandler asked that the decision be delayed so that the state Congressional delegation can address the issue legislatively. Supervisor MacWilliams replied (March 9, 1989) "You asked that we not make any final decisions on logging or hydrodevelopment in the Pratt River drainage for the remainder of this year. You have my assurance that we will honor your request." The most likely approach is to include the Pratt in an omnibus Wild & Scenic Rivers bill for Washington.

Letters to members of the delegation in support of a strong omnibus rivers bill are needed. Letter writers should specifically ask that the Pratt be included in the bill and that it be designated a wild river. Only classification as a wild river will preserve the roadlessness of the river corridor.



MILITARY WILDERNESS OVERFLIGHTS

The North Cascades Conservation Council and Washington Trails Association are requesting that members and friends report all incidents of overflight by military and other aircraft - over Wilderness and backcountry areas. Most of us who have spent any amount of time in the backcountry have been buzzed by small planes and helicopters. Many of us have been frightened by low level flights by military jets. It would help us considerably to have your reports from 1989 or other years describing date, time, and location, the nature of the incident, how you feel about what happened. If you wrote letters of protest or inquiry, we would like copies of your letters and the responses.

This information will aid in developing NCCC input for an ongoing survey of National Park Service and National Forest Service areas relative to disruptive overflight.

Please send reports to the NCCC, PO Box

"Quiet . . . sigh . . . Scout, this is a perfect spot to set up our camp ! "

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The North Cascades Conservation Council needs your support. It is a non-profit, non-taxdeductible corporation. Membership in the Council includes subscription to The Wild Cascades magazine. This lively and informative publication is a must for anyone who wishes to know what is going on in Washington's North Cascades.

I wish to support the North Cascades Conservation Council. Enclosed is $ for membership for years.

Low Income/Student	$5/yr	( )	Regular	$10/yr	( )
Family	$15/yr	( )	Patron	$50/yr	( )
Contributing	$20/yr	( )	Sustaining	$1000/yr	( )
Life	$500	( )			

The North Cascades Foundation supports the non-legislative activities of the Council including legal and educational expenses. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that any contributions to this non-profit Foundation are tax deductible under 501 (C)(3).

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation to help protect the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values.

Enclosed is a contribution of $.

Name

Street

City State Zip

Phone (home) (work)

North Cascades Conservation Council
Post Office Box 45098, University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-0098

North Cascades Foundation
Post Office Box 45098, University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-0098

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

North Cascades Conservation Council
P.O. Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145 - 1980

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WASH.
PERMIT #8602

FALL - 1989

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message 2
Relicensing The Skagit Dams

Seventh Irving M. Clark Award 4

See You In Court 5
NCCC Challenges NPS Plans

How Wild The Wild Cascades ? 10

Polly Dyer Honored 13

A Park For The Canadian Skagit ? 14 *

Wild And Scenic Rivers 18 *

An Emissary From The North Cascades 24

Wilderness Or Logs To Japan ? 28
Clear Cutting Mining Claims

The Pratt River Valley 32 *
Recreation Or Logging ?

Military Wilderness Overflights 34 *

YOUR ACTION NEEDED ON ITEMS MARKED (*) !

President Dave Fluharty
Chairman of the Board Patrick Goldsworthy
Editors Cindy & Brian Reid
Artist Eliza Anderson