

THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

FALL 2017

Celebrating
60 years

THE WILD CASCADES ■ Fall 2017

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COVER: Baker River headwaters: Water flows from the Rainbow Glacier, winding and rushing far below the Portals and Lava Divide. Mount Baker Wilderness. September 27, 2017 —TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Anne Basye

EDITORIAL BOARD: Philip Fenner, Anders Forsgaard,
Tom Hammond, and Rick McGuire

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The Wild Cascades Editor

wildcascades@northcascades.org

North Cascades Conservation Council

PO Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-2980

THE NORTH CASCADES

CONSERVATION COUNCIL was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, N3C keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through administrative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past half century N3C has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, the Wild Sky Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

N3C is supported by member dues and private donations. These contributions support the full range of the Council's activities, including publication of *The Wild Cascades*. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership dues for one year are: Living Lightly/Student \$10; Individual \$30; Family \$50; Sustaining \$100.

**North Cascades
Conservation Council
P.O. Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, WA 98145-2980**

**N3C Website
www.northcascades.org**

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Founded in 1957

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

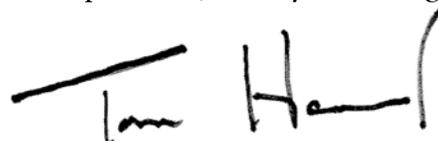
FALL 2017

Allow me to start off by correcting an error in the Spring/Summer *Wild Cascades*. The glacier on the cover photograph was misidentified, as was the location where the photo was taken. While the errors were made in the 1930s by L.D. Lindsley, the *TWC* editorial committee failed to make corrections or place a note outlining the errors. The glacier is the Douglas Glacier on the NE flank of Mount Logan, while the Fremont Glacier resides on the SW flank of Logan. As well, the photo is taken not from Cloudy Pass, but instead on or near Point 7920, a high ridge crag on the North Fork Bridge Creek/Fisher Creek divide. I know this because I camped on Point 7920 while climbing Mount Logan in the early 1990s. I can tell you the Douglas Glacier is much thinner and smaller than it was when Lindsley visited!

Thankfully, for the first time in seemingly years, we're not celebrating the passing of a conservation legend in this issue! Unfortunately, we are witnessing the passing of sound policy based on science and the best available information.

In this issue you'll find updates on many critical issues and challenges confronting the North Cascades—mountain goat translocation from the Olympics to the North Cascades, road construction and destruction on the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, logging plans for the Stillaguamish valley and much more. Perhaps more foundational than these individual issues is the fact that the Trump administration is actively seeking to undermine the laws that underpin much of what we do and how we do it. The Clean Water Rule is being challenged, as is the Endangered Species Act. We must all be engaged with lawmakers at the local, state and federal levels to ensure these bedrock laws and others are not eliminated or weakened. I call upon our membership and board to take on this challenge with attention and energy.

But not all is doom and gloom. The blatant assault on our environmental laws is bringing attention and publicity to the importance of environmental advocacy, and (we hope/expect) spawning a new generation of environmental activism. As well, the N3C continues to celebrate 60 years of advocacy for the North Cascades. And just as our 60th anniversary ends, we roll into 2018 to celebrate 50 years of North Cascades National Park. So many people take for granted National Park status for areas of the North Cascades (I should know, I used to be one of them). But it took years of hard work and dedication by informed, caring people to bring about North Cascades National Park, as well as the other areas of the range protected as Wilderness. The importance of congressionally designated protections in the form of Wilderness and Park is more evident than ever, as administrative protections have been thrown into question (and thrown out the window) by the current administration. More than ever, we need to seek meaningful protections for our North Cascades, and I call on the conservation community as a whole, and the N3C in particular, to carry the message to everyone.





N3C Actions

FEBRUARY
to OCTOBER 2017

*Advocacy carried out by
dedicated N3C volunteers
in the last nine months to
protect and preserve the
North Cascades lands,
waters, plants, and wildlife.*



EXPANDING, ESTABLISHING, AND PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

Why it matters: federal land designation as Wilderness and Park is the gold standard of ecosystem protection, precluding most damaging industrial and commercial exploitation.

- Signed joint letter supporting retaining the Johnson Amendment that forbids partisan political activity by 501(c) 3 organizations.
- Presented keynote address at the Carhart National Wilderness Training Center for National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Homeland Security Wilderness managers.
- Met with Senator Maria Cantwell in Washington, DC to express N3C's concerns about the new administration and Congress's threat to public lands.
- Presented public lecture on North Cascades Glaciers to PROBUS, a retirement group.
- Attended public meeting in Chelan to defend the North Cascades National Park's decision not to rebuild the washed-out road in the upper Stehekin Valley.
- Signed joint letter to the US Senate objecting to Subtitle D, the Critical Minerals subtitle of S.1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017, which loosens permitting requirements for mines threatening fresh water supplies.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECREATION IN WILD AREAS

Why it matters: balancing access with economics and Wilderness preservation, we evaluate motorized use and places where it needs to be limited to reduce land impacts and recurring road repair costs.

- Signed another joint letter to Congress opposing the permitting of bicycles in Wilderness. The bill we opposed last year has been reintroduced.
- Signed joint letter to Congress thanking them for including Legacy Roads and Trails in the FY17 spending bill.
- Signed joint letter to Congress expressing strong objections to the present administration's proposed drastic cuts in the FY18 budget for the Forest Service and the Park Service.
- Signed joint letter to Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (MB-SNF) objecting to the 8-month closure of the Lake Serene and Bridal Veil Falls trails to accommodate logging on adjacent private property.
- Two N3C board members attended 5 meetings and 2 field trips to Ashland Lakes and Greider Lakes as members of the citizens' advisory committee to the Department of Natural Resource's Morningstar Natural Resource Conservation Area.



PROTECTING ANCIENT FORESTS AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Why it matters: like real estate, they're just not making ancient forest anymore. We seek to restore watersheds and fisheries damaged from decades of heavy logging and road building and protect significant forests from degradation.

Signed joint letter to the Capitol Projects Advisory Review Board – Project Review Committee in Olympia opposing the Okanogan’s proposal to reenergize the Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River.

Signed joint letter to the Icicle Work Group raising additional objections to the expanded withdrawal of water from high alpine lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Signed joint letter with the Pilchuck Audubon Society to the MBSNF requesting a 30-day extension of the comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Stillaguamish Vegetation Project. The extension was not granted.

Signed joint letter to MBSNF commenting on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed expansion of the Swen Larson Quarry into the Mount Baker Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA).

Signed joint letter with Pilchuck Audubon to MBSNF commenting on the Stillaguamish Vegetation Project (commercial logging!) EA.

Signed joint letter to Congress opposing current hydropower bills pending votes in both houses.

Signed joint letter providing comments opposing the Okanogan PUD’s request for a 2-year Stay by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the expiration of the construction schedule of the Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River. N3C will not file objections as an intervener.

Signed joint letter with 9 other organizations objecting to MBSNF’s draft decision to the EA allowing expansion of the Swen Larson Quarry into the Mount Baker IRA.

Signed joint letter to US Bureau of Reclamation citing numerous objections to the Snow Lake Valve Control Structure Draft Environmental Assessment in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Why it matters: from microscopic fungi to top predators, the wilderness ecosystem’s living members are interdependent, so keeping viable populations of each species is essential to preserve the ecosystem for future generations.

Submitted comments to DNR supporting the Conservation Alternative of Marbled Murrelet plan.

Signed joint letter to Congress in support of the Endangered Species Act in anticipation of proposed legislation to terminate the act.

Submitted comments to the Olympic National Park on their Mountain Goat Management Plan. Specifically we cited concerns about the proposed alternative of relocating goats from Olympic NP to the North Cascades.

60 Years
1957-2017



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

STEHEKIN ROAD REPORT

Prepping for lower valley paving—while some still lobby for upper valley road

Good news: There are no plans to rebuild the Upper Stehekin Valley Road. The bad news: Advance work on the lower road paving project planned for 2018 made a mess this summer. Stehekin's Lower Field was transformed into a staging area covered by heavy equipment, trailers, and an immense mountain of chips and logs. It looked very much like a logging operation—because so many trees have been cut to widen the road.

It's absurd, but when old, narrow roads are improved they "must" be rebuilt to modern standards, usually meaning about twice as wide. The excuse for this work is to make road less prone to washout from the river, but of course trees are the best protection the road has. The road will also be rerouted around McGregor Meadows due to wetlands there.

Heading the project is the Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division in cooperation with the National Park Service—which has had little to no input on the project. Fortunately, budget issues and geography (debris flow, flood plains, geological hazards, etc) have put the kibosh on dreams for a reopened Upper Valley Road. Any sort of "special project" would have to compete for funding with other park special projects throughout the west. The prognosis is poor, and we're glad.

But not everybody has gotten this message. Stehekin Heritage is circulating a 16-page brochure of historical photos, testimonials, maps and a petition asking for legislation and/or administrative action to reopen the road. "Reopen the way



through to more than a very few" is the headline that leads things off.

NCCC is preparing to respond to the handout by reminding folks of the "road from nowhere to nowhere" nature of the road that does not justify the financial cost of rebuilding and the environmental impacts of reroutes. The NPS has over the years put a lot of money into repairs, reconstruction of bridges, and so on. It is

time to stop pretending that the road is needed. National Park Service visitor statistics show usage of the upper Stehekin basin is as high or higher today than it ever was. With all the NPS expenses to implement the Lower Stehekin Corridor plan where 95% of the tourist and economic activity occurs, Stehekin is getting more than its share of federal funding.

—JOE CARAMAGNO photos



A short report from the Nooksack Cirque

By Phil Fenner



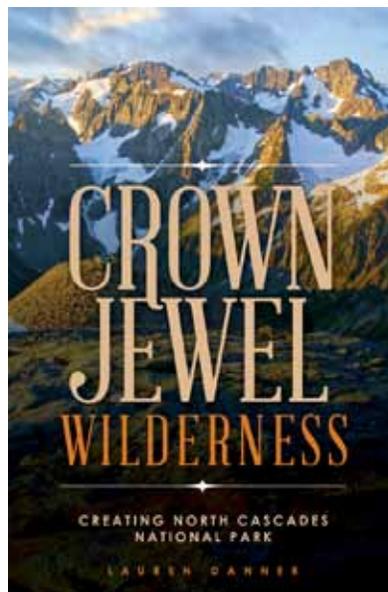
Aptly named Icy Peak looms nearly a vertical mile over the headwaters of the North Fork Nooksack River near the two-mile-wide Nooksack Cirque. More photos at: <http://tinyurl.com/ybtkoy8z>. —PHIL FENNER photo

The apparent history of this place puzzles, saddens and pleases me all at once. There was a road bridge over Ruth Creek, now long gone, so for 3 miles beyond the bridge site, the trail follows the old logging road that was used to remove the ancient forest there. That forest would have been spectacular, akin to the Hoh, had it not been cut down. But the road bridge was removed, so now the trail begins with a ford or a very narrow log crossing of Ruth Creek, which luckily tends to deter casual hikers, so the trail and camps at its end are lightly visited and minimally impacted.

There's only another mile of trail through the ancient forest beyond the end of the old roadbed at the Wilderness boundary, but it's a glorious walk through forest giants. Then the trail ends at the riverbank, still two miles from the Cirque, so the only way beyond is slow going through the rocky riverbed. But it's so worth it!

The Cirque itself is even less visited, and the riverbed part of the trip is dangerous — rolling loose rocks can injure easily (we had a close call), and you have to have constant vigilance to avoid twisting your ankle. Not to mention your feet going numb from the cold water.

The Mt. Baker Wilderness Area (within which logging is forbidden) only starts at the end of the old road, a mile from the trail's end, so potentially someday the FS could put a new span across the old bridge abutments over Ruth Creek and start logging the second growth there, which is now maturing to marketable size.



Crown Jewel Wilderness draws on NCCC history, archives

Put *Crown Jewel Wilderness: Creating North Cascades National Park* on your holiday wish list! To tell the story of how changing values, grassroots activism, and political compromise resulted in the 1968 creation of the Park, author Lauren Danner PhD turned to very early NCCC materials archived at the University of Washington, including papers of Pat Goldsworthy, Emily Haig, John Warth, Polly Dyer, Phil Zalesky, and Grant McConnell. Early issues of *The Wild Cascades* also were important. As Mike McCloskey says on the back-cover blurb, "This is an uplifting story for our times. It is not only scholarly, it is inspiring." Look for it on Amazon!

Tidwell retires, new FS appointments announced

After a 40-year career in the United States Forest Service, FS Chief Tom Tidwell stepped down from his position August 18. A press release announcing his departure said his accomplishments include increasing collaboration with states, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation.

The new Chief, Tony Tooke, began September 3 after serving as the Regional Forester for the Southern Region, including southern states, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Soon after, the USFS announced that Christopher French would serve as an Associate Deputy Chief in the National Forest System Deputy Area, Washington D.C.

We are cautiously optimistic, and will let policy guide our evaluation of Tooke and his associate.

Let's hope that doesn't happen. Allowing the lower part of the route to continue to rewild will enhance what's already a first-rate wilderness experience.

Success with lawsuit opposing Singletary timber sale at Wallace Falls

By Rick McGuire

Conservationists, recreationists, and everyone who treasures the Skykomish valley's premier scenic attraction, Wallace Falls State Park, were delighted to prevail recently in a lawsuit brought by several local groups over the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) atrocious "Singletary" timber sale. (N3C was an active supporter rather than a plaintiff in this case.) Singletary was laid out in the absolute worst possible place imaginable in terms of negative impacts on Wallace Falls State Park: Directly along the borders on the east side of the state park.

DNR bypassed hundreds of millions of board feet of timber in order to punch a road as far in as possible to reach and follow right along the borders of the state park. Singletary was clearly "park preventative" logging, in the proud tradition pioneered by the Forest Service. For decades, the Forest Service would lay out timber sales at the head of untouched valleys, and punch in roads through miles of old growth forest to reach them, thereby removing the valley from consideration for protection. This happened in literally hundreds of instances. DNR came up with the Singletary sale right out of the old Forest Service playbook, circa 1950.

The Northwest Region of DNR is not a place known for displaying any environmental sensitivity. They knowingly and



willfully put out false numbers to deceive local communities about the amounts of money they are likely to receive from DNR timber sales. They repeatedly, and habitually, put out information on many subjects which is not true, and which they know is not true.

DNR has now given up on Singletary and withdrawn it for now at least—but they were so confident they would prevail in the recent lawsuit that they signed contracts and proceeded as if their breaking

the law was nothing more than a nuisance to be brushed off. Because of this, the timber purchaser bought materials for a road bridge across May Creek. DNR is now being forced to buy back the bridge materials, likely at a substantial loss to the state. DNR likes to prattle on endlessly about how changing a timber sale to be less destructive will cost untold thousands, yet they are silent when their own overconfidence results in a big bill for the public to pay.

We will have to see what the DNR Northwest Region comes up with next. There are huge public values to the landscape between May Creek and Wallace Falls. The Wallace Falls State Park should be expanded and many new trails added. DNR has been working on laying out some new trails—trails that the Singletary sale would have turned into trails through clearcuts.

Wallace Falls, a scenic highlight of the Stevens Pass Highway. —MIKE TOWN PHOTO

The forests between Wallace Falls and May Creek are believed to be the largest stretch of naturally regenerated, mature second-growth forest left in Snohomish County outside of a few areas in Wilderness on Na-



Old Pelton wheel on May Creek in Reiter Forest.
—KARL FORSGAARD PHOTO

Clear cuts, ORVs have hindered protection, recreation in Reiter Forest

By Mike Town

The 12,000-acre Reiter Forest, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), lies between Gold Bar and Index on the north side of Highway 2. Acquired by Snohomish County from timber companies after they clear cut the area and then defaulted on their property taxes in the 1930s, the mainly 60 to 80-year-old forest is managed by the DNR. However, the county can reclaim the land through a reconveyance process at any time as long as the area is used as a county park.

By the 1970s, the maturing forest was discovered by off-road vehicle riders and over the next 30 years there was escalating environmental and resource damage. The damage was so significant that the DNR formally closed the forest in 2009.

Around the same time, the DNR designated several stakeholder groups to give input on the development of a motorized and non-motorized recreation plan, which recommended motorized and non-motorized (horse, bike and hike) areas of approximately 1000 acres each. Since then, approximately \$3 million have been spent on motorized trails. Significantly less has been spent on the non-motorized trail system.

A few years ago, Snohomish County bought property for a non-motorized trailhead near Wallace Falls State Park. A short time later a 300-foot long bridge was constructed at the top of the highest falls. Meanwhile, the DNR was building 3 miles of trails on their land in order to connect the county trailhead and the new WFSP bridge.

A year after the trails and bridge were constructed, the DNR announced a clear cut on almost 200 acres of forest. The “Single-tary” clear cut would run along the border of WFSP for almost a linear mile, and would be within 100 yards on the new county trailhead. Almost all of the newly constructed trail system would lie inside the clear cut.

In order to preserve a portion of the trail corridor, Snohomish County intervened to reconvey 21 acres. At the same time, several environmental groups litigated the clear cut because the DNR had not followed the State Environmental Policy Act. Last month a Snohomish County Judge ruled against the DNR.

Newly elected Commissioner of Public Land Hilary Franz’s administration is now reviewing the potential to resolve the issue. Concurrently, the State Parks Department will shortly begin the process of reviewing the potential for increased recreation in the area.

Over the years, N3C board members have been involved in attempting to limit ORV use, expanding non-motorized recreation and protect the area adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park. N3C, the recreational and environmental community hopes that State Parks, the DNR and the recreational community can work together to finish the trail system in an environmentally sensitive manner so that recreational opportunities and environmental protection in the vicinity of WFSP can be maximized for future generations.

tional Forest lands. It sits between the Wild Sky Wilderness above and the most productive salmon spawning area in Snohomish County below. This last remaining natural forest is far more valuable for tourism, recreation, wildlife, fisheries and conservation than another series of clearcuts.

Take a flight over Snohomish County, and you’ll see development sprawling over a vast area. What undeveloped land remains between the development and the mountains has almost all been clearcut, for the second or third time, over the past few decades. The natural forests are all gone. The Wallace-May Creek tract is the last remaining piece of natural, older forest. Will it too be transformed into another dreary tree plantation, or can Snohomish County look far enough ahead to see the value in its last remaining wild lowland forest? Only time will tell.

Fred Beckey: A legend passes

Harvey Manning called him a “dirtbag peak bagger” who dismissed trails as “approaches” and wrote dry descriptions that left out the landscape—the part that matters to us. N3C is about conservation, not climbing, but Fred Beckey, who died October 30 at the age of 94, was an important icon of the North Cascades. Many of the readers who followed his guidebooks into the wilderness to climb stopped along the way to smell the wildflowers, and when they looked around, saw all that threatened the beauty and majesty of the mountains. And they—we, actually—became activists in order to protect it. RIP Fred Beckey. You climbed a heck of a lot of mountains before anybody else did, and you did say that the Boulder River valley should be protected. Which, by the way, N3C went ahead and took care of.

Reiter Foothills Forest non-motorized trail planning

By David Gladstone

On October 5, I attended an all-day trail “sleuthing” party led by Ben Hale of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The stated purpose of this outing (one of at least six sponsored by DNR) was to offer stakeholders (enumerated by Hale to be hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders) the opportunity to inventory and scope out where one or more trails should be placed in this “wilderness-like” forest. At the outset Hale noted that in February 2018, meetings will be held to “connect the dots” on deciding where the trail(s?) should be established; and that in June 2018 they will identify project funding for a trunk trail to cross one or more Wallace River bridges, and to add spurs for potentially each of the three stakeholder groups. Hale has reached out (among others) to Washington Trails Association for the hikers; Backcountry Horsemen for the horse people; and several mountain bikers groups.

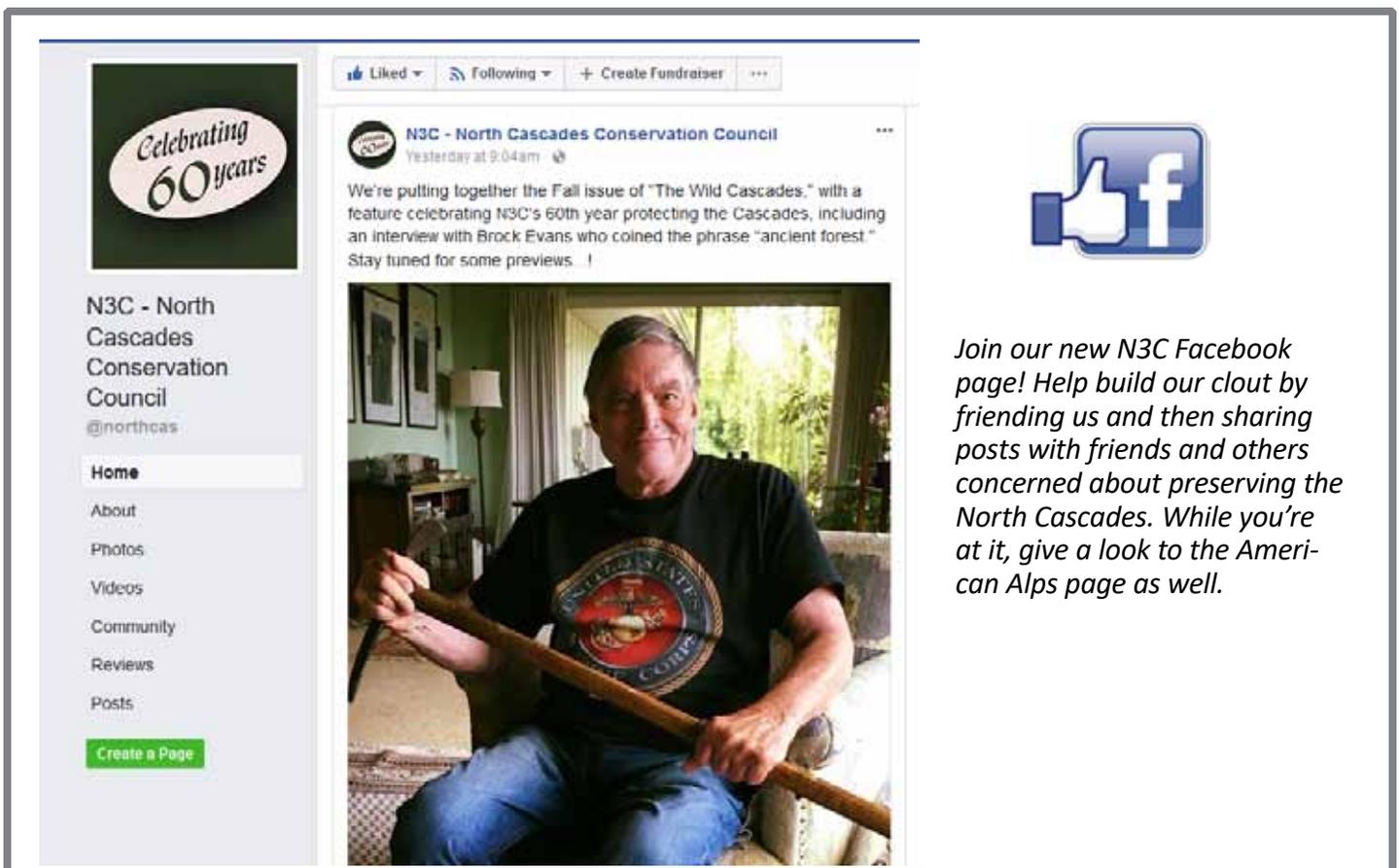
Hale, Sean Tobin (Washington State Parks), Kathy Nelson (Backcountry Horse-

men), Brian Nelson (local runner from Gold Bar) and I met at the trailhead at 429th Ave in Gold Bar and spent five hours hiking/bushwhacking the Reiter Foothills Forest southwest area (maybe 40-60 acres) east of the Wallace River. We hiked/bushwhacked along old logging road remnants, and former and current trails, including a trail developed by a private contiguous landowner which was flagged by State parks. We viewed a good portion of the Singletary Sale, including the 25-acre piece which is to be reconveyed to Snohomish County. Hale was looking to see where a bridge might be placed across the Wallace River below the main Falls; and to look for areas where a trunk trail for all three sets of stakeholders might be placed, and to look for knobs where trail views might be available.

Although no formal decisions were made, it was the consensus that there was no place to put a bridge across the river below the main falls, but rather just above those falls; and possibly make a loop trail

which started on the east side of the River and returned down the main Wallace Falls trail. There was considerable discussion about parking issues, including whether adding new trails and additional parking places at the 429th Ave. trailhead (or elsewhere) would exacerbate the current Wallace Falls parking problem.

As an aside, there are some nice late second-growth conifers at Reiter which will be sad to lose due to the timber sale. Also, for anyone wishing to hike the east side of the Wallace River, not a well-marked trail, there are (according to Tobin, who was the Wallace Falls Ranger for about 30 years) 10 or 11 beautiful falls not visible from the west side of the river. He showed us one such side canyon/falls, complete with a couple of salmon ready to spawn, which no one would have known was there absent his prior experience.



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C). On the left is the page's navigation menu, including 'Home', 'About', 'Photos', 'Videos', 'Community', 'Reviews', and 'Posts'. A 'Create a Page' button is visible at the bottom of the menu. The main content area features a post from 'N3C - North Cascades Conservation Council' dated 'Yesterday at 9:04am'. The post text reads: 'We're putting together the Fall issue of "The Wild Cascades," with a feature celebrating N3C's 60th year protecting the Cascades, including an interview with Brock Evans who coined the phrase "ancient forest." Stay tuned for some previews. !'. Below the text is a photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a circular logo, sitting and holding a long wooden staff. To the right of the Facebook screenshot is a blue thumbs-up icon with the letter 'f' on it.

Join our new N3C Facebook page! Help build our clout by friending us and then sharing posts with friends and others concerned about preserving the North Cascades. While you're at it, give a look to the American Alps page as well.

Middle Fork Snoqualmie: Progress, with challenges

By Rick McGuire

Although some finishing touches remain, the paving of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie is mostly complete and on September 30—National Public Lands Day—the ribbon was cut and the new road celebrated by a tour of the Middle Fork valley and some of its attractions.

Other than some concerns over the asphalt thickness and consequent durability, the actual paving job of the Middle Fork road was carried out well. As has been related in previous issues of *The Wild Cascades*, the initial proposals for broad and straight, 70 mph road with 35 mph road signs and a huge swath of “clear zones” stripped of forest on either side along its entire length.

That didn't happen. Thanks to strong and unrelenting pushback on the design, the road fits the valley rather than the valley having been made to fit the road. Trees still arch together overhead in many places. The road goes through forest, not a miles-long, open, former forest.

As expected, the new ease of access is bringing a phenomenal increase in the number of vehicles going up the valley. This is good in some ways, bad in others. Friday and Saturday night now usually see dozens of cars headed up the valley, the objective being to burn pallets and drink beer. Already the new asphalt has caught fire and/or melted on a few occasions.

But most worrisome is the fact that there are simply not enough parking spaces in the valley. At one time, the idea of a 1000 or even 1500-car parking lot near the Middle Fork campground was seriously discussed. But the construction challenges, the expense, and the likelihood that such a monstrous thing would be mostly empty except on peak use days soon put an end to such talk. Plus nobody really wanted to pave over such a gigantic piece of the very Nature that draws people to the Middle Fork.

No one really knows what will happen when 2000 or possibly many more cars head up this valley that can maybe accommodate something like 500. We will find out next summer, in 2018, when the road is fully finished. The problem isn't really numbers of people so much as numbers of vehicles. The road could literally choke up on peak use days.

Plans are afoot to provide shuttle transport in and out of the valley, and it could probably be done on a profitable basis if conditions are right. Shuttle operators must be able to turn around at trailheads and keep to a designated schedule—which means preventing people from parking in and blocking designated shuttle turnarounds. With little or no parking enforcement, many people ignore No Parking signs, and even park directly on

the Middle Fork road, blocking travel lanes entirely.

One of the hopes was that paving the road would lead to easier access for law enforcement. But the valley's remoteness means that King County sheriffs aren't able to do any regular patrols. Additionally, their radio system does not reach into the valley, which means that not one but two officers are needed to patrol. The radio problem is being worked on, and the Department of Natural Resources and the Mountains to Sound Greenway are working to come up with ways to hire off-duty officers (with full police powers) to do “emphasis patrols” during peak-use periods.

Ease of access means that some of the old, traditional problems of the Middle Fork, such as squatters, garbage dumping, and “target” shooting, are starting to creep back in. Shooting actually seldom involves a target and more often means simply blasting away at a hillside, a stand of trees, or across the river. Now that there is a trail down part of the “far” side of the river from Taylor River to the Pratt River, across-the-river shooting is a real danger. Trail bikes and ATVs, not legal to use anywhere in the valley, are reappearing in alarming numbers and are now even being used inside the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, on the Snoqualmie Lake and Dutch Miller Gap trails.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Celebrants gather to open new Middle Fork road on National Public Lands Day, September 30. —RAY LAPINE PHOTO



No exports please!

Excerpts from N3C's comments on the Draft Mountain Goat Management Plan/EIS to ONP Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum

NCCC would vastly prefer that the control or elimination of the non-native Olympic goats be resolved within the boundaries of the Olympic ecosystem rather than exported to the Cascades. In terms of the proposed management alternatives this would be accomplished by Alternative A, B and C. If the agencies determine that Alternative D is the preferred alternative then more work on the assessment of the impact of mountain goat transfers in the Cascades needs to be performed and additional safeguards for the Cascade ecosystem need to be addressed in the Final EIS.

In any case, with respect to the environmental impacts within the Olympic peninsula ecosystem NCCC supports the need to eliminate the excessive negative impacts on high elevation and unique habits caused by introduction of mountain goats nearly a century ago. NCCC is concerned that some of the proposed actions to control or eliminate mountain goats from the Olympics involves extensive use of helicopters within designated Wilderness

This mild-looking goat at Upper Grizzly Creek in North Cascades National Park tried to butt the photographer after he took the photo, and eventually drove him off the hill. Really nasty attitude, that old Bent Horn Billy had! —TOM HAMMOND

PHOTO

areas. Use of helicopters in Wilderness areas is not an approved use and needs to be carefully considered in the context of tranquilizing mountain goats and hauling to other areas in the Cascades as well as culling the herds by aerial shooting. The most egregious proposals for helicopter use are associated with relocation activities and somewhat with culling activities. It seems that much of this helicopter use would be obviated by not exporting mountain goats to the Cascades and or by extending the timeline for culling animals in the Olympics to allow expert hunters to target mountain goats from the ground.

If it is still determined that export of Olympic goats to the Cascades (Alt. D) is

the preferred alternative, in addition to addressing the concerns above, NCCC would strongly advocate the following:

1. No translocation by helicopters in Wilderness in the Cascades. Drop the goats off in proximity to habitats (outside designated Wilderness) and they will find their way to suitable habitat.
2. Perform a carrying capacity assessment. The DEIS assumes that because mountain goats are present in the Cascades in lower numbers than before there is unlimited capacity to absorb Olympic ecosystem goats. This is questionable.
3. Eliminate the unknown impacts, e.g., fix the overhunting or poaching in the Cascades that may have reduced populations and identify any genetic causes of declines.
4. Do a better assessment of problems associated with relocating human friendly goats in N. Cascades [From personal and collegial experience we had the dickens of a time getting rid of a lonely tagged goat on Lime Ridge, Glacier Peak Wilderness and elsewhere. The goat not only wanted our pee but our company as well in repeated accounts].
5. Include the impacts on Mt. Rainier NP and North Cascades National Park and National Recreation Areas as potentially affected by mountain goat augmentation from the Olympics. NCCC finds it disconcerting that these entities were not included in the DEIS.
6. Provide a Memorandum of Understanding between Olympic National Park and National Forest, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and relevant National Forests in the Cascades that details the responsibilities of each entity and how they will be carried out – especially with respect to funding of the mountain goat translocation activities. Details about coordination and funding, in particular, are vague in the Draft EIS. The expenses can be significant and are not guaranteed by either the federal budget or the state yet the success of this program is highly dependent on confirmed funding and coordination.

Olympic goats moving to Cascades?

by Rick McGuire

N3C has submitted comments to the National Park Service regarding their plan to deal with the invasive, non-native goats that have been overrunning the Olympic Mountains for nearly a century (see accompanying text of letter). These goats have been causing numerous problems, particularly in the northeastern “dry belt” of the Olympics where a number of rare or unique plants grow.

These goats roll around in and generally tear up the fragile vegetation there, especially in the very places where the rarest and most valuable plants grow. They have also become quite accustomed to following people around in hopes of getting salt from urine, sweaty clothes or equipment. They often appear to be quite tame, lulling people into forgetting that they are still wild animals and quite capable of causing injury or death. One unfortunate hiker was tragically gored to death by a billy several years ago near Hurricane Ridge.

Precise records are few, but the Olympic goats appear to have been captured in either the northern Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia, with perhaps a few coming from as far away as Alaska. Genetic analyses appear to point to a northern origin, although it is impossible to pinpoint just where they came from. But scientists appear to all agree that they did not come from the nearby Cascades.

The goats were released in the goat-free Olympic Mountains sometime around 1920, before the establishment of Olympic National Park in 1938, to establish a population that could be hunted. While today we have innumerable examples all around the globe of the harm that invasive species, plant and animal, can do to ecosystems, little thought was given in those days to the destructive effects of introducing non-native species into places where they never naturally lived.

Park managers and wildlife scientists have known for decades that these non-native goats are a serious and growing problem. They are tearing up and shredding extraordinarily rare plant communities, including some plant species found in just a handful of locations. Despite the apparent lack of natural salt sources in the Olympics, the goat population is believed to be increasing by about 8 percent a year, a phenomenally fast rate for such a large animal. It is expected that if nothing is

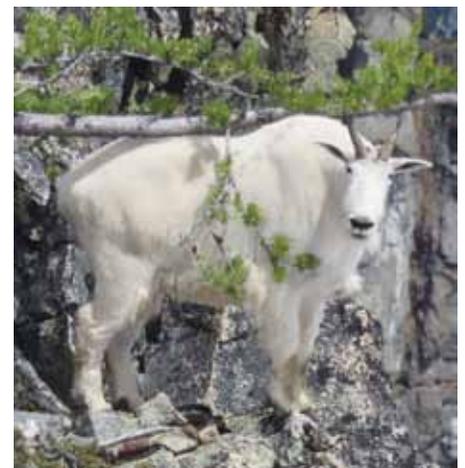
done about these rapidly reproducing invasive animals, a number of rare plant species will become extinct, and the entire alpine meadow environment of much of the Olympics will be severely degraded.

Previous efforts to deal with the invasive Olympic goats have been hamstrung by the insistence of the Washington Game Department, as it was then known, to leave a population of goats for hunting in the Olympic National Forest while removing them from the National Park. But most of the damaged rare plant communities are actually in the National Forest, not the National Park, and there was always the problem of the remaining goats immediately moving back into the Park as well. A few halfhearted efforts—like moving a few dozen goats to the Cascades—have done little. These animals, with prominent numbered ear tags, quickly made their presence known to Cascade hikers by following them around like forlorn pets. Fortunately no gorings happened.

This time, things are better in that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has finally agreed that to solve the problem, all the goats need to be removed from the entirety of the Olympics, with no remnant populations left behind to grow and spread. That part is a distinct improvement.

The unfortunate part is that WDFW wants to move a substantial number of these goats into the Cascades. Mountain goats are native to the Cascades, but not these goats. A century of living in the

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Backscratch billy.
—TOM HAMMOND PHOTO



Lower Curtis Glacier looking to Upper Curtis Glacier, August 10, 2017. — TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

North Cascade Glacier Climate Project 2017: Lower Curtis Glacier

By Tom Hammond

*How dreadful knowledge of the truth
can be when there is no help in truth—
Socrates.*

This report covers the Lower Curtis Glacier, one glacier in a study that includes eight glaciers (Easton, Rainbow, Sholes, Columbia, Hyas Creek /Ice Worm, Daniel, Lynch). Two of the original 10 glaciers in the study have melted away—the Lewis and Spider. The field season is an extremely challenging 17 days of heavy packs, thousands of meters of elevation gain and loss, spectacular scenery and near-constant situational awareness. 2017 marks the 34th consecutive year of the study.

As with all trips to the North Cascades, weather is key, and this time (August 9-11) it was dense smoke from fires in British Columbia that played a big role—that, and the intense heat (approx 90°F at 4,500 feet) and humidity that made for a most punishing approach to camp. One cannot overstate the impact of the smoke, psychologically and physiologically. As we ascended to the high point of the approach, we all flagged a bit and ended up standing/sitting/laying in an ice-cold cascade—water from a snow patch directly above the trail. It was a tough haul that had even Mauri panting. Of course they were coming from Kulshan and had already hiked more than nine miles that same day! Wildflowers were in evidence and scented the air at points—most pleasing. Berries were small and sour, as to be expected after the longest dry streak (56 days) since records began in the late 1800s.

Smoke obscured all but the near-est views. We could barely make out Kulshan—at times not at all. It was the ninth straight day of gloom like an episode from the old Twilight Zone/Outer Limits. At least Mount Shuksan was visible—the spectacular west facades a shield of multi-hued rock and ice rising a vertical mile above a huge valley floor of braided streams, avalanche fans and ancient forest.

The forecast called for clear skies the next day (August 10) and thankfully that's just what happened. It was a treat to

watch Anthony finally get to see the North Cascades near and far(ther) with vault blue skies.

We were all so relieved and excited to see blue sky. It was hotter than Hades the whole time but having the Pacific influence finally win the air battle was so very welcomed.

But we weren't there merely to sightsee. It was time to get to work on the glacier!

The glacier has receded at an amazing rate the past four years, and while the snows of 2016-17 have covered some of the scars of 2015, there is no mistaking the mass wasting. Especially along the lateral margins, the glacier is thinning and shrinking and deflating all at the same time, and at breakneck speed. Areas of the terminus that one would never consider approaching even a few years ago due to huge seracs are now an easy stroll through a landscape newly exposed after (centuries?) of ice cover. We even crawled under the glacier a bit—a cool place on a hot day. In all cases, the glaciers don't lean out with calving ice cliffs like they used to. Now all ice fronts are in repose, angled back almost to the point

one could hike up them. As I've noted in previous years, Mauri is not one given to hyperbole or exaggeration, so it struck me when he asked me if I thought there would be lakes where the current terminus/lower area of the glacier is “in our lifetimes.” I immediately responded that of course there would be lakes there in very short order, and I wondered if the glacier would be there at all in our lifetimes...

We were able to walk on the glacier nearly to the terminus (from the top side)—amazing and spectacular and exhilarating and disturbing all at the same time. Hopping over crevasses that went right down to bedrock (42 feet deep as measured by Jill with a cool depth gauge she fabricated) and carefully following Mauri over snowbridges was delightful—top shelf alpine stuff, not least because the

Upper Curtis Glacier is draped across the view, huge waterfalls roaring all over the place. We visited the upper east couloir, a key contributor to this avalanche-fed glacier. Except the couloir is now nearly completely vertically displaced from the main body of the glacier, with exposed rock beneath a big ice-cliff. It makes for an impressive and dangerous place to stand. We finished various mass-balance transects and explored all corners of the glacier. Once done, we stayed up on the moraine instead of going to camp to avoid the heat and bugs. Mauri and I both marveled how strange it was to be so close to the large block of ice that is the Lower Curtis Glacier, yet be uncomfortably hot.

The human element of the trip was a wonderful experience: Mauri and I picked up right where we left off—same too with Jill. It is interesting how we only interact in person but once or twice a year, but those times are so very meaningful and engaged with some real sharing. It was nice to get to know Anthony a bit too.

I am so very thankful for the connections and bonds that have formed as a result of a glacier

climate study that has one tramping all over the place in all kinds of hardship and beauty. It is an honor to be a part of the team, and I am profoundly appreciative of/ to Mauri Pelto. He embodies self-motivation, curiosity, attention to detail, learning, growing and a level of engagement in life that inspires those around him. It is fulfilling to be around people that do (important) stuff—less talk, more walk. I am mindful and thankful for the desire and ability to do these explorations.

Wildlife: five goats (three adult, two kids), marmot(s), pikas (not as plentiful, but at least a few), grouse, frog (fairly high on the trail, but close to a watercourse), heard no ptarmigans. The bugs were pretty bad at times, but overall the trip

*The glacier has receded
at an amazing rate the
past four years...
there is no mistaking
the mass wasting.*

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Lower Curtis Glacier

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was nice in large part because we spent pretty much every daylight hour Thursday on the glacier. Black flies were the issue, and had all of us swatting at one time and another.

Conservation: only a few beer cans and trash on Easton. I removed a mylar balloon from Lower Curtis. We saw many day hikers, and about 16 climbers (parties of 2-2-6-6) doing Fisher Chimneys and about five dogs. Mauri noted he's seen a decline in overnighter/backpackers across the range, and even here, in a place that has easy vehicle access.

Glaciers: Of the 40 glaciers covered by the World Glacier Monitoring Service, the Columbia Glacier is the only one from the North Cascades, though it will soon be joined by the Rainbow (and Easton?). The way to get on "the list" is to have 30 years of continuous mass balance and terminus measurements, with data formatted to meet international scientific guidelines. More than 30 nations comprise the WGMS. Mauri is the representative for the United States.

Followup trip to Rainbow Glacier, September 27, 2017

The road is the worst I've ever seen on the MBSNF—at times rutted from edge to edge, the entire prism compromised, with foliage invading from the sides and above. I encountered one of the three huge boulders in/on the road just as an Explorer full of hunters, all decked out in orange, blocked the road. The incredulous looks on their faces at seeing me all decked out in orange in a tiny Subaru, banging along the road was great! Saw two such rigs, plus two others, including a big box dualie, cutting wood.

Just before cresting the ridge of Lava Divide, and then for more than a mile, it was all blueberries all the time. The ones in the shade would burst with a cool shot of juice, while the ones in the sun would explode with a nutty, organic flavor that matches perfection. Indeed I became something of a berry snob, only taking those that were at hip height, not stooping to the hundreds more hugging the ground. Something of a surprise—I would have thought the record dry would have reduced the berries. The staying power of the North Cascades is impressive and dare I say refreshing.

Enough with the approach though, the mission was to image the Rainbow Glacier. The weather was perfect—clear and warm

not a hint of smoke. I got the requisite shots of the terminus, ablation/trimline, upper, and a whole bunch more.

I'm sorry to report that the scars of 2015, along with the record dry of 2017, have combined to reduce the lower third or more of the Rainbow Glacier to a flat, crumbling, disintegrating slab, riven with super, supra and sub-glacier streams (read: rivers). Even from a distance, it is evident the lower (km?) is toast.

Heard but a single pika, no other animals at all the entire day besides the usual birds. I'm sure there were goats on the distant cliffs of the Rainbow valley, but with all the hunters moving about, it was quiet (and I continued to wear orange, red and bright).

Quiet is how the big bird approached. At 100 meters distant cruising the treetops, I thought it was a raven about to pounce on my pack (I was wandering the ridge some distance from my set-up, in a shady hollow between two large trees). As it passed no more than 10 meters above me, I asked, "Are you trying to steal my food, Spirit Bird?" To my amazement, the raptor flared its tail feathers, threw out its wings and I was face to face with an osprey! I wasn't sure if it was a barred owl or what at first, but it circled back and I got a shot of it—whoa!

On the drive out, the fireweed was in full bloom. I had the windows of the rig down, and suddenly the cabin was filled with snow-like seeds. It went on for miles! At points I had to shoo the fluffs out of my face and the window. I'm so glad I get to do stuff like this, and have the ability, awareness, and means to do it.

Early returns indicated the glaciers high on Kulshan have fared well, then the record dry stretch, with many hot days (over 80°F) happened and knocked the numbers back. Avalanche-fed glaciers such as Lower Curtis and Columbia did not do well. Mauri noted snow depth increased above 6,000 feet. Mass-balance measurements (the difference between glacier growth and glacier melt) in meters:

Easton—minus .26m
Rainbow—plus .68m
Sholes—plus .16m
Lower Curtis—minus .58m
Columbia—minus .74m
Hyas Creek/Ice Worm—minus .56m
Daniels—minus .54m
Lynch—minus .32m

North Cascade Glacier Climate Project Lower Curtis Glacier August 9-11, 2017

Field Team

Mauri Pelto—Director North Cascades Glacier Climate Project, Nichols College, Dudley, MA

Jill Pelto—Geology masters program UMaine

Anthony Himmelberger—junior at Clark University, Worcester, MA

Please see:

<https://vimeo.com/234887377>

<http://www.nichols.edu/departments/Glacier/>



Vertical displacement at the E. couloir Lower Curtis Glacier, August 10, 2017.
— TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

60 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

Brock Evans: Veteran wilderness warrior

Brock Evans was the Pacific Northwest Conservation Representative for the Sierra Club during all the major conservation battles here as well as an N3C board member from 1966 to 1974. He recently moved to La Grande, Oregon, and we caught up with him there on the day before the total solar eclipse in August, to talk about his career, the future of N3C and the environmental movement generally.

TWC: We have such great admiration for your leading role in so many of our campaigns in the northwest, from North Cascades National Park to Alpine Lakes to stopping High Ross Dam, and we're so pleased to have you back on our home turf! So, for the sake of our very dedicated members, I'd like to ask a few questions about your long and storied career and some of the challenges we face today. You're probably most famous for using the "battle metaphor" for our efforts to protect wild places. For example, Harvey Manning's legacy is still controversial to say the least. Some now say his confrontational approach is obsolete and 'collaboration' is the way forward. N3C has prided itself in holding to the 'old way' of defending wild lands, but we're being accused now of being 'extreme' in that and becoming 'dinosaurs.' How should we respond?

BE: Those terms, being "extreme" and "outdated" and "dinosaur"—and "collaborative" which means "be nice," we're used to those terms, they're always used by our opponents. I remember hearing after hearing on the North Cascades, beginning in the 60s and then on the Alpine Lakes later and others, timber industry advocate after forester witness would get up and say "you environmentalists are so emotional, let's be reasonable about things like this," which just means "see it my way." We don't spend much time demonizing the other side in public, it's sort of "ho-hum, there they go again." Collaboration is a nice-sounding word, except it reminds me too much of what the Nazis demanded in World War II from the countries they conquered. "We're gonna rule you, but we're gonna let you come collaborate with us," which means basically agree with us, whatever we're doing here. In terms of



Brock Evans shows the proper stance for ice axe self-arrest (above) and what it's like being arrested (below). He's proud to have been both arrested and... self-arrested!



specifics like the North Cascades or Alpine Lakes, yes there is a military terminology here. But we use the language of war a lot in the environmental movement because that's what a landscape we love looks like after the other side is done with it! It's strip-mined, there are pollution piles everywhere, rivers catch on fire, the wildlife gets poisoned, the forest gets cut down and will never come back the way it was before, that's the language of war. Anyone who's seen one of the thousands of clearcuts across the Cascades, they'd think if they just woke up out of a dream that they'd been at the battle of Verdun! It's just like that, piles of slash and sediment in the streams! So, what the other side is

doing to the lands we love and are trying to protect is like a war.

That's the way it was, so we who loved these places started realizing we were losing them after WW II—and I came in later, in the early 60s, after I moved here from the Midwest after law school. I was stunned by the beauty of the North Cascades and the Olympics and all the other wild places in our State, and I was especially enchanted with the Northwest forests. There aren't any trees like that in Ohio, or Michigan, or any of those places. Here were these trees 6, 8 feet thick, 150-200 ft. high, some as old as Charlemagne, going way back to the Middle Ages! I'd go hiking and climbing in one place in the Cascades, Goat Lake and Barclay Lake come to mind, they were lovely 4- or 5-mile walks through a magnificent forest cathedral to get to the place – these forests are like cathedrals – and I'd go back and think about it all next year and go back there the next summer and ... they're GONE. They're clearcut piles of junk and logging roads and mess. So those of us who were upset about it heard about this group called the 'North Cascades Conservation Council.' I joined the Seattle Mountaineers and joined their Conservation Committee, too. But I was just in my 20s then, a young lawyer starting out, and I signed up to volunteer for everything but never got asked to do anything. All the aces were up there doing things, but finally I got a call from a guy named Bill Long, and he asked how would I like being the head of the Conservation Education Division, we had a budget of \$250 a year! And that set me on fire! I enlisted all my young lawyer friends to come to the next hearing, and I wrote their hearings testimony up for them. I found out that for \$10 we could have a North Cascades exhibit at the Chelan County Fair! We had a booth there, and passed out our stuff. And so we went on fire with that, I started traveling around making speeches. My first speeches I was scared to death and I had my share of getting hooted down in places like Newhalem.

The hostility was very great, logging is what you did then in the Pacific North-

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60 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

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west when there were trees out there that could go through somebody's mill. And dams were what you built if you saw a free-flowing river out there, because we all needed more hydropower, right? So at first we, and I mean myself and people like Pat Goldsworthy and Polly Dyer whom I idolized, they tried to be nice, and plead with the Forest Service to please don't log here and don't log there, and that got nowhere at all, and didn't even get nice words in return, usually. I'll never forget the supervisor of the Willamette National Forest down in Oregon putting his feet up on his desk, taking a big draft of his cigar and saying to me, the young Sierra Club rep – I'd never met him before – he said to me "I don't like your ethics."

So the Forest Service was completely in the pocket of the timber industry, and all the associated jobs that meant. I call it an "iron triangle," the mills and the owners and the donors that gave to them, the votes of the people they hired, and the politicians that supported them. That's the way it was, so we went to war then, that was our term for it, because we had no other choice. Our pleas, our requests for protection of certain areas went down the drain, were not answered, we were kicked in the teeth every single time. So I realized then, about 1967-68 that the FS was going to protect nothing. Anyplace that had a tree in it that could be logged, would be logged, sooner or later. Those brochures of theirs really meant something: "We're the action agency." It was like a religion. And it provided jobs for the politicians as well as the foresters.

So yes, we went to war because we had no other choice. We could've stood back and done nothing, the way some countries and some States have done, and nothing we treasure would be there now if it had any trees in it.

TWC: But things have changed, Brock.

BE: "Things have changed," they say! The politics have changed because we made it so. Because we raised the banner

and created protected places for people to go, and got a mass movement going and got the media changed around – that's one thing. People say things have changed, but I think if suddenly we went away as a powerful, recognized movement that's won quite a few victories, you'd start to see logging creeping back in there. I know for example here in Eastern Oregon in

I'd go biking and climbing in one place in the Cascades ... and go back there the next summer and ... they're GONE. They're clear-cut piles of junk and logging roads and mess.

the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, now the FS is proposing to log one of our prized valleys called the Lostine River that they haven't dared touch for years. Why? Well, it's a new excuse: "We've got to do it for public safety to stop the wildfires." In other words you have to log the forest in order to save it, that's what they're doing here. So things haven't changed. Perhaps in a place like

Washington State with so many new people coming in that don't depend on logging it's changed, but it hasn't changed in a more rural state like Oregon or Montana, but it has changed there too in some ways. What has changed, as I'm told by you and others, is that many of the places we didn't get added into the Wilderness and into the Park in the North Cascades aren't being logged. They aren't being touched, that's what's changed. If they ever dared to go back again they know there'd be a tremendous public backlash – that's changed. So we can talk about what needs to be done, how much we need to be careful, but fundamentally nothing has changed. If you don't

have a demonstrated political power, then no one's going to want to collaborate with you except as a token. What's also changed is the allowable cut of the Mt. Baker National Forest, which has gone down from about 250 million board-feet a year to 5 million a year. But that's because of you and all the people who forced those changes. We had 100,000 people in Seattle

in a place called Boeing that didn't need logs from the mills to have their jobs. Those workers moved to Seattle because they wanted to live near nice country, which we protected for them. And for us.

TWC: Last time I remember hearing you speak in public was at the N3C 50th anniversary banquet right after I joined, "only" 10 years ago now! This year is our 60th organizational anniversary. Back then in '07 we were hoping a Democrat would replace George W. Bush. At that time also most N3C founders were living and attended that banquet. Now in the intervening decade a lot of "hope and change" were promised but environmentally the Obama years just didn't live up to the expectations of many eco-warriors. How do you view Obama's legacy today?

BE: My goodness, when I hear those words, the first thing I think of is the Roadless Rule. That was during the Clinton administration – 58 million acres of land, mostly still with trees on them. It's now part of the Forest Planning System. So I would say defending that and hanging onto that was something, that's number 1. Number 2, they didn't do what all Republican administrations have done, at least since the 1960s, and try to undo the environmental laws. Fact is, Obama made the EPA stronger, better on some of the pollution things; the land use regulations didn't get weakened, and they enforced the Northwest Forest Plan.

One thing I often think about is I thank God for Thomas Jefferson, who conceived a divided government. That's unusual in world politics as you know, where the party in power typically controls the executive and all the rest, too, and court appointments. Now we have 3 branches here and

so we didn't have any of these sweetheart lawsuits during the Obama years, ones the Republican Administrations would do, where they would pretend to defend an environmental lawsuit or an industry lawsuit that wants more logging and then negotiate a settlement that means more logging. Obama, I would say... I don't know exactly what people expected him to do but he did end up designating quite

If you don't have a demonstrated political power, then no one's going to want to collaborate with you except as a token.

60 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

NCCC at 60: Looking back and looking forward

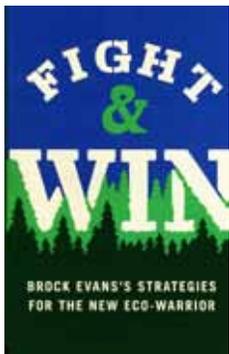
by David Fluharty

a number of National Monuments like the Cascades-Siskiyou, for example, in Oregon, which was considered so hopelessly in the timber industry grasp when I was out here 50 years ago, that we never even considered trying to protect places like that.

Naturally, I wish I lived in a polity where everybody agreed with me. It'd be so nice. But I don't. So we have to fight for everything we get. Most things worth having in our society are worth fighting for. I don't mean with swords, thank goodness, but I do mean politically, getting votes and voting people out of office, and heading demonstrations and doing things like that.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WILD CASCADES...

Brock offers free copy of his book to N3C members



Are you a dues-paying member of N3C? Email brock@northcascades.org to receive a free, autographed copy of *Fight & Win: Brock Evans's Strategies for the New Eco-Warrior*.

Part memoir, part how-to manual, the 200-page hardback provides tactics and first-hand accounts of how to effectively form an environmental grassroots campaign, take part in the lobbying process, maximize the impact of social media, and take on the oil, timber, mining and energy industries — as well as other corporate interests — in defense of our nation's air, water, forestland and wildlife. Evans aims to ignite a new movement of environmental activism and give novice advocates the tools they need to fight for lasting change.

Birthdays have a way of sneaking up on us and NCCC as an organization is no exception. It is hard to believe but it becomes exceptionally clear at meetings of the board where none of the original 1957 board members is present and the recent passing of many of the early stalwarts - Patrick Goldworthy, Polly Dyer, Grant McConnell, Laura and Phil Zalesky, Betty and Harvey Manning, Dave Brower to name a few are fresh in memory. However, looking around the board table we see board members elected as in the mid-to late sixties and early seventies still carrying the torch. And most importantly members who have joined the board

in the last decade bring new energy into the organization and are committed to the lasting mission of NCCC to, "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational and wilderness values." Presently this includes one second generation and one third generation of NCCC board families. Lest we forget our base, review of members shows a healthy legacy of long term folks and a growing constituency of new members.

NCCC does not have the membership numbering in the multiple thousands that it did in the days fighting for North Cascades National Park but we have a healthy following for a venerable organization. Think back with us to those days in the mid-1950s when all manner of logging and development was occurring in the Cascades. A few organizations had paid staff and were national in scope, e.g., the Sierra Club. Regional organizations like the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and local organizations like the Seattle Mountaineers were interested in protecting the Cascades. This created the space for an all-volunteer "single purpose" group to organize to fight for protection and

preservation under existing laws. With the professional and passionate advice of Grant McConnell, a Chicago School political scientist whose expertise was interest group influence on government actions, NCCC was formed to fill that space.

Note too that NCCC was formed before the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 so the immediate efforts of the organization were to support and contribute to the movement to pass that key legislation. Board member Polly Dyer actually got the words "untrammeled" into the Wilderness Act. From there NCCC gave impetus to the capital "W" Wilderness movement as well as made the decision to push for a Wilderness National Park in the North Cascades.

The high points of the Park campaign and subsequent actions to protect and preserve the North Cascades are compellingly described in *The Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades* by NCCC board member Harvey Manning and published by Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham, WA for NCCC.

The work of NCCC did not stop with designation of North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Chelan National Recreation Areas. Nor is the National Park the only Cascade landscape that NCCC has campaigned to protect. While much of the history is captured in the aforementioned book, NCCC's signature publication *The Wild Cascades* documents on a trimester basis the challenges to management of wildlands in the North Cascades. *The Wild Cascades* serves as NCCC's record of engagement and through that the history of the protection and preservation movement in the North Cascades. Thanks to the wonders of electronic storage and the

It is our job to hold the agencies feet to the fire to make the right decision for long-term sustainable management for the public interest.

so the immediate efforts of the organization were to support and contribute to the movement to pass that key legislation. Board member Polly Dyer actually got the words "untrammeled" into the Wilderness Act. From there NCCC gave impetus to the capital "W" Wilderness movement as well as made the decision to

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60 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

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noble efforts of members, all issues of The Wild Cascades are now available on line for reading enjoyment, education and for research at www.northcascades.org/wordpress/the-wild-cascades.

Over time NCCC has earned a reputation for principled and unyielding defense of wildlands in the North Cascades. We have sought to hold public agencies accountable for their actions that impact wildland management. Sometimes this has been called uncompromising and anti- this or that especially when it comes to insisting on a full public process and following the law. When Mother Nature takes back her territory and roads that wash out that are too environmentally or economically costly to repair then NCCC supports agency actions to close these areas and allow them to revert over time to unroaded status. Why cause environmental damage or waste money repairing roads that cannot be maintained? More importantly, NCCC has taken on the tasks of developing an international park with Canada to protect the Canadian portion of the North Cascades and we are strongly supportive of legislation to provide ecologically appropriate boundaries for North Cascades National park by all feasible means.

What is NCCC's present and future role in the North Cascades? As a non-profit, low budget, volunteer-based organization we depend on our members and board to choose the fights that we can tackle. In this era of "collaboration" NCCC's principled philosophy stands out as being uncompromising in our assessments of what is "right". If compromise is necessary, NCCC argues it is for the public agencies to balance the interest of multiple stakeholders. It is our job to hold the agencies feet to the fire to make the right decision for long-term sustainable management for the public interest. When self-appointed or designated stakeholders are brought into collaborations to forge compromises we and our supporters lose ground. Public agencies cannot legally abdicate their roles as decision makers by deferring to others to make decisions. NCCC's sense is that we would rather go down fighting for what is right than to compromise in a quid pro quo [you get this and we get that] collaboration. When parties to the collaboration

are self-appointed or restricted they do not represent all interests or necessarily the public interest. While our organizational philosophy places the locus of decision-making in the hands of public agencies we are wary that they can be "captured" and that they may make inappropriate decisions that may have to be challenged. However, more often than we would like, NCCC is in the role of supporting the tough decisions that agencies have to make because of science of long term environmental impacts, limits of funding and funding priorities, and their core management directions.

If the previous paragraph appears vague it may have to be devoid of examples to keep this article short. Maybe a more concrete listing of what we are working on at present is more indicative. Here is a partial list of actions the NCCC board is taking on your behalf.

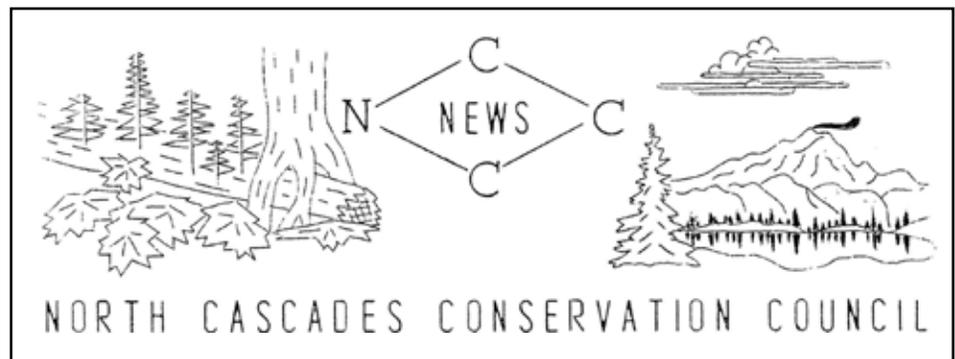
We are starting to gear up for the 30 year renewal of the license for the Skagit River Project by the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC). NCCC's successful challenge of the High Ross Dam completely changed the complexion of the last negotiations and led to the Skagit Environmental Endowment Committee and eventually to the first ever Settlement Agreement and new process alternative for FERC. This settlement provided the funds for the construction and operation of the North Cascades Institute facilities, significant purchase of wildlife habitat, provision of recreational facilities on the Skagit River, and the construction of greenhouse facilities to support vegetative rehabilitation, etc.

- We are pushing for a new Wilderness Management Plan for North Cascades National Park and Recreation Areas.

- We are monitoring and encouraging road management closures and restoration where appropriate.
- We are supporting the revision of boundaries for ecosystem management of North Cascades National Park and Recreation Areas.
- We are opposing some elements of the Yakima water plan that would impact Wilderness in the Icicle Creek basin and in the Bumping Lake basin and more and encouraging water management and conservation efforts in the user community instead.
- While we cannot put the climate control genie back in the box we do support efforts that will decrease impacts of change on North Cascades wildlife, vegetation and glaciers.
- Etc. Myriad day-to-day issues must be dealt with and to the extent we have volunteers willing to tackle these issues then we can say we are "working on it". Let us know if you want to join in tackling some issue.

In conclusion, NCCC is alive and well. It will be healthier and more effective if we can attract new members. Venturing into social media is helping us start to attract a new and younger demographic that shares our long-term goals. We are looking for members who will join us in hard core protection and preservation of the Cascades for its scenic, scientific, recreational, educational and wilderness values.

***Happy Birthday NCCC—
long may you live.***



60 YEARS OF ACTIVISM

N3C birthed in struggle, baptized in painful truths

By Brock Evans

We've always been an outdoors state, with many people who loved their mountains – and climbed/hiked them in large numbers...

And at the same time, there always has been a strong core of folks who loved those wild and natural landscapes all around them – and who strove to protect as much as possible – way before the word 'environmentalist' was even heard of!

Witness the fierce struggles to protect what is now Olympic National Park – created in 1938 – despite heavy opposition from the state's dominant timber industry.

The North Cascades Conservation Council springs straight out of this tradition.

Back in 1957, few people had even heard much, much less tried to hike, climb, and explore in that great sea of wild peaks and valleys known as the North Cascades. Beginning at the Canadian border and ending at Stevens Pass, this vast wild tangle of mountains, meadows, lakes and forests was known to just a few intrepid climbers.

Our forebears were well aware that a very different, non-timber oriented FS back then had already designated two special areas for some kind of protection there: the 801,000-acre North Cascades Primitive Area stretching along the international border; and further south, a 422,000-acre Glacier Peak Limited Area. There was no Wilderness Act back then, in the 1950s; thus, everything depended on the US Forest Service and what it would or would not do.

But the FS, it soon became clear, was NOT going to 'do' any more wilderness, no-logging protections in the North Cascades, nor anywhere else in our state for that matter. A new wave of 'professional foresters,' trained by Forestry Schools across the West, had come to power everywhere ... and their creed was quite different from the more benign "stewardship" beliefs and actions of their predecessors.

Now, the new Word was "get the cut out and into the hungry mills nearby..."

a vision fed partly by the fact that the Big Timber Giants like Weyerhaeuser and Georgia Pacific, having already embarked upon a fierce and sustained 'log everything we own' campaign, were running out of big trees to cut... the future was in plain view for anyone who would care to look around the Northwest ...

The FS, in its early efforts to add to the log-pile, underwent whole reassessment of its values, and related priorities across the whole of those (then) five National Forests controlling millions of acres in OUR Cascades, North to South, all the way to the Columbia River.

Every wild valley, theretofore untouched, was surveyed for what volume of big logs it could produce... even the messages in each NF brochure were changed!

Our predecessors, valiant and passionate people like Grant McConnell, Pat Goldsworthy, Polly Dyer, and Harvey Manning, found out the painful truth the hard way.

The map

By Rick McGuire

When people in the conservation community refer to "Brock," everyone instantly knows who that means. There was, for a short while many years ago, another person also named Brock. Some say that he may have been a Congressman or even a Senator for a time, and even that he was not a bad guy. But he was known, if at all, mostly by his last name, now almost forgotten. There is only one "Brock."

When I first visited Brock's office in the other Washington years ago, the first thing that hit me was The Map. This was no ordinary map. It was a mosaic of 3-D maps depicting in full color the mountains, valleys and plains of the entire state of Washington, covering an entire wall. Impressive as it was, it was much more than a map. It was a statement that one had entered the very nerve center, the command HQ of Washington state conservation, ably and

indefatigably directed by Brock.

This was where, for years, the decisions were made and the plans formulated that resulted in all those big swaths of protected lands, dark green areas that now color big parts of other, lesser maps of Washington state. It was the Washington conservation movement's equivalent of the Churchill War Room, which can still be visited in London.

Brock really was The General, as well as the Chief Intelligence Officer and Planner. It would probably be incorrect to call him the Commander-in-Chief, because so many people participated, and giving orders was never Brock's style. Brock would listen carefully, and learn all he could from everyone who came to his HQ. Brock would ask all the right questions, and always incorporate new and worthy ideas into the greater plans, whether they were suggested by a seasoned expert or a rank beginner. No one ever left Brock's Map Room without feeling educated, empowered, and most importantly, encouraged to go forward and act!

Brock's HQ has now moved to La-Grande, Oregon, where his efforts continue unabated.

Incidentally, the maps from which Brock constructed his map wall are still available. "Raised Relief" maps are sold by Hubbard, easily found on the Web. Each sheet for Washington is at 1:250,000 scale, and they are surprisingly accurate and detailed. It probably took Brock 16 or 20 sheets to put together his Command Map.

No one ever walked away from the Command Map unimpressed. But much more inspiring is Brock himself, his enthusiasm and plans for so many of the areas shown on it, most of which have now been fulfilled, often against tremendous difficulties.

Thank you, Brock, for your continuing efforts to encourage and inspire so many to keep up the fight for so many years, all the while keeping a sense of humor and fun, even during the many dark times when the odds seemed so overwhelmingly against us.

American Alps initiative continues

By Jim Davis and Dave Fluharty

Our National Park in the North Cascades turns 50 years old next year. As we get ready to celebrate this important milestone, it seems appropriate to review where we are now in accomplishing some of our goals for further protecting the Park and lands surrounding it.

At the time of Park creation, it was understood that many key areas had been left out of the North Cascades National Park. Sure, there were Wilderness areas and National Recreation areas that were good, as far as they went. Unfortunately, the important areas left out included upper Baker Lake, the area along Highway 20, lands east of Ross Lake, portions of the Cascade River watershed, small portions in the upper Nooksack River watershed, and areas along the Crest in Okanagan County.

About 10 years ago, the N3C decided to work for addition of these lands to the North Cascades National Park. That effort has proved very difficult for a number of reasons, not to mention the overall dreadful political climate.

The best way to accomplish our goal, we decided, was to help form an independent and single issue organization devoted to expanding the Park. Thus, the American Alps Legacy Project was born. This group is primarily located in the Whatcom/Skagit County area. It has its own Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, Officers, etc. The NCCC supports and works closely with this group. The common goal is to expand the North Cascades National Park.

One of the key decisions made to date is that Park additions are likely to be enacted if the concept of "Park Preserve" is accepted. This concept would allow and encourage additions to the Park boundaries that would be essentially National Park, but would allow hunting. All other National Park traditions, such as banning logging, mining, and other development would continue to prevail. The character of existing National Park ideals would be completely retained.

Some of the successes to date include close cooperation with multiple Tribes, a refinement of critical areas needed for inclusion in the Park, and success in working with elected officials at the national level and in several communities.

It is also important to mention some of the major obstacles that have thwarted



our efforts. These include opposition among some Okanagan County residents, several local officials who have not been very helpful, and little or no support from larger national conservation groups.

Success in expanding the North Cascades National Park has been painfully slow to date, but we have to look at the long term and understand that it takes time to overcome opposition to protection of public lands. If we don't keep working at it, nothing worthwhile can be accomplished.

This view of the Methow Mountains includes lands the American Alps Legacy Project believes should have congressional protection as National Park.

—TOM HAMMOND PHOTO

Middle Fork Snoqualmie

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Conservationists, recreationists and land managers have their work cut out for them in keeping the Middle Fork from once again becoming a place with a bad reputation. Access by private vehicles is the key. If the valley were open to shuttle and bicycle access only on weekends, traffic jams would cease to be a threat. It seems highly likely that such an arrangement would lead to more enjoyable experiences for more people. At 110,000 acres, a lot of people can be accommodated. Vehicles are the problem.

Many details need to be worked out and much needs to happen. The Middle Fork valley was until recently somewhat protected by its atrociously rough and potholed road. Now it is an easy drive. With three to four million people within easy reach, it will take creative planning and bold actions to keep it from slipping back into its old problems, or simply being overwhelmed by thousands of private vehicles.

Olympic goats moving to Cascades?

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Olympic Mountains has transformed them in unforeseen ways. Likely the original animals transplanted into the Olympics came from areas where there were many predators which they had to spend considerable time and effort avoiding.

Other than a limited number of cougars, there are no predators of mountain goats in the Olympics. The goats went from places where life was tough to a place where living is easy, turning them from wild animals into semi-tame ones, at least until, suddenly and unexpectedly, they are no longer tame and friendly.

Moving these Olympic goats into the Cascades would be a mistake. They are not the native Cascade race, and should be considered invasive. Their strange, unpredictable behaviors could be a real problem. Places like the Enchantment Lakes

area in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, where there is very heavy use in a fragile high country environment, are likely to attract these pestiferous goats that are so drawn to humans. In such a place they would likely do further damage of the type they are now doing in the Olympics.

Native goat populations in the Cascades have been in decline for a number of years. Many believe that the main reason for that is the issuance of too many goat hunting licenses by WDFW, more than the population can support. It appears WDFW wants to cover up its mismanagement of Cascade mountain goats by importing these non-native problem goats from the Olympics.

The Olympic goats have lived for a century in a place they were never naturally adapted to. Whatever the reasons, and

they may be multiple, they have turned into a population of unnatural animals. They need to be removed from the Olympics, but not dumped in the Cascades.

WDFW needs to restrict goat hunting in the Cascades and allow natural, native populations to recover. Moving in a bunch of problem animals from the Olympics in an attempt to cover up their mistakes is not the answer. No one likes to see animals killed, especially in a National Park, but the Olympic goats never belonged there and need to be eliminated before they eliminate rare plants and further degrade the Olympic high country. We don't need them dumped into the Cascades, and we don't need the dozens of helicopter flights into Wilderness that would be necessary to do so. The resources can no doubt be far better spent elsewhere.



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NW face of Mt. Shuksan in North Cascades National Park, seen from near Yellow Aster Butte in Mt. Baker Wilderness. —PHIL FENNER PHOTO