NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL NEWS

Volume I October, 1957 Number 3

"To secure the support of the people and the government in the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, wildlife, wilderness, and outdoor recreational resource values in the North Cascades.."
By Laws, Article I

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL BOARD HOLDS MEETING

The second North Cascades Conservation Council Board meeting of the year was a busy two day session for 14 Board members and 10 other N3C members who attended. The scene of the two day gathering was the Chinook Hotel in Yakima, September 28 to 29, and the meeting concluded with the adoption of five resolutions concerning the scenic and wilderness values of the North Cascades.

The five resolutions adopted by the N3C Board members are as follows:

1) In recognition of the superb scenic and wilderness values of the lake country in the vicinity of Salmon La Sac, especially the watersheds of the Cooper and Waptus Rivers, the N3C urges the Forest Service to defer developments therein and to include this area when it studies the adjacent Alpine Lakes Limited Area for wilderness classification.

2) The N3C shall explore means to defer mining indefinitely on Miner's Ridge. We will explore means to minimize the effects if mining cannot be stopped.

3) The N3C believes that it would be adverse to the long-range public interest to build trans-Cascade highways between Stevens and Hart's Pass or between Hart's Pass and the Canadian border. We request that data on engineering and economic feasibility of proposed trans-Cascade highways be reviewed by the State and the U. S. Forest Service with consideration given to comparative losses in intangible scientific and wilderness recreation values, and that these data be made available in public hearings.

4). The N3C believes that scenic and wilderness values on Thunder Creek are paramount; therefore, we oppose any power project on that river and suggest that alternate sources of power be investigated.

5) The N3C opposes any reduction of the present boundaries of the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area. (This grew out of proposed plans by a local ski company for long-range ski developments, if feasible, that would encroach on the northern edge of the wilderness area.)

Editorial Information--This publication is compiled at Ellensburg, Washington from materials submitted to the editor, Mrs. Gene Prater, and the deadline for each issue is the 15th of every month. The Newsletter is a monthly publication and is designed to inform N3C members of news concerning the wilderness in the Northwest and to educate the public that it is man's responsibility to himself and generations to come that we must save wilderness.

Editorial Staff: Mrs. Jean Anderson of Seattle--address typist. Patrick Goldsworthy--Newsletter heading artist. J. Alex (Lex) Maxwell of Yakima--Mimeograph operations

Newsletter acknowledgements for written contributions: Mrs. Emily Haig, Phillip Zalesky, John Warth, Patrick Goldsworthy and Mrs. Pauline Dyer.

BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED)

Organization business items and committee reports were heard during the first day of meeting. At the time of the Board meeting, the Treasurer reported a balance on hand of $123.71 with $29.73 as bills outstanding. The membership included 104 paid members. The discussion about dues included the possibility of considering dues paid during the last quarter of the fiscal year as dues for the following year.

It was decided that the publicity committee, under the direction of Pat Goldsworthy, should include members from the various regions covered by the Council which would form a Speaker's Bureau to offer programs of slides or movies to different groups. This committee was given a budget of $30.00 to carry out its work.

One answer was received from the Forest Service about the boundary recommendations made by the N3C at the May meeting. John Sieker, Director of the Division of Recreation and Land Uses, said that a detailed answer will be received from Mr. Stone, Regional Director at Portland. (The recommendations of the N3C are quoted elsewhere in the Newsletter.)

A letter from Leo Gallagher, of Tacoma, was read relaying an offer from C. D. Weyerhauser to furnish rooms, make contacts, and arrange a meeting if conservationists would meet with representatives of the lumber industry to discuss the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Discussion included pros and cons of meeting and what type of meeting would be best. If the meeting is held, Bill Collings, Western Representative of Forest Products Industry, Tacoma, would be asked to attend. It was decided that we pursue this suggestion for a conference and follow up if an invitation to a meeting is received.

John Warth will head a committee to make recommendations for standards for honorary members. This committee will also submit names and biographies at the next meeting.

BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED)

The nominating committee for the Board and new officers consists of Jack Wilson-Chairman, Emily Haig, Rick Mack and Joe Collins. The committee will submit names and publish them in the Newsletter and present Board members can make further nominations. The election to the Board shall be completed one month before the March meeting. New officers will be elected in March and 9 Board members will be elected then, also. The terms for newly elected Board members were drawn by lot, as follows: 2 years--Joe Collins, Ray Courtney and Charles Hessey. 3 years--David Brower, Mrs. Rick Mack and Jack Wilson.

* * * * * * *

WHAT WE SUPPORT

To get a clearcut understanding of what the North Cascades Conservation Council supports in regard to the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, the following copy is a letter written by Phillip Zalesky, President, to Richard E. McArdle, Chief, U. S. Forest Service, which sums up our stand very adequately:

Dear Mr. McArdle:

The North Cascades Conservation Council was organized with the principal objective of seeking adequate protection for the scenic, scientific, wildlife and wilderness values of the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington. While this organization is new, its membership includes experienced conservation leaders from both western and national conservation organizations. These are individuals, mainly from Washington, Oregon and California, who have made extensive firsthand studies of Washington's mountainous areas, recognize their superlative qualities, and wish to see them wisely preserved.

At a meeting with Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone in Portland on March 23, 1957, the North Cascades Conservation Council was presented with the Forest Service's preliminary proposal for the establishment of a "Glacier Peak Wilderness Area." The Council feels that this proposal, while generally adequate, has several very serious omissions. It appears that the harvesting of natural resources has been allowed to dominate the recreational and wilderness values in a number of instances.

The U. S. Forest Service's plan, supplemented by additional information which the Council has obtained independently (in cooperation with other organizations such as The Mountaineers and the Sierra Club), has led to the adoption of the enclosed proposal. It is the Council's opinion that this proposal constitutes the best possible

WHAT WE SUPPORT (CONTINUED)

minimum for a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and one which the Council should like to present for serious consideration by the U. S. Forest Service.

The Council also considers that the following areas should be studied as indicated with an aim to their possible inclusion as wilderness:

(1) Thunder Creek, Granite Creek, Bridge Creek Area---
This is the portion of the area proposed in 1939 by Chief Forester Silcox for inclusion in a wilderness area, and is bounded by the Cascade, Stehekin, and Skagit Rivers, Ruby, Canyon, and Bridge Creeks and section lines between Harts Pass and the headwaters of the Twisp River. While the "Eldorado-Mt. Logan" section of this area has been considered by the Forest Service to be of possible wilderness potential, the Service indicates it has not "thoroughly analyzed the area's resources and uses". A study of this area should be delayed no longer, since its exclusion in 1940 from the Glacier Peak Limited Area removed the temporary protection still afforded the area south of Cascade Pass. The Council believes that the decision whether or not to build the Rainy Pass road or Thunder Creek dam should be weighed against the wilderness values of the region. Such construction should not be assumed to have a higher priority than wilderness with the relegation of the latter to areas not wanted for such development. Integrated planning, not piecemeal planning, should be employed.

(2) Illabot Lakes Area--
The Council feels that this area, whose unique attraction is the numerous roadless fishing-lakes, should be more adequately studied with a view to including these lakes (Jug, Illabot, Falls and Found Lakes) which were omitted from the Forest Service's preliminary proposal. The fishing quality of the lakes in this area is proportional to their remoteness from roads and can only be retained by including wilderness forested valley approaches.

(3) Phelps Creek, Rock Creek, Entiat River Area--
The roadless portions of this area including the Entiat Mountain Range, Ice Creek, and the headwaters of the Entiat River are of excellent wilderness quality and should be studied for possible inclusion in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

The Council wishes to commend the Forest Service for its foresight in designating a Glacier Peak Limited Area in order to permit an adequate study to be made of the wilderness, recreational, and economic potentials involved. In order that this foresight will not have been sacrificed, we strongly urge that the Council's re-

WHAT WE SUPPORT (CONTINUED)

commendations be adopted in the establishment of an adequate Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. The North Cascades Conservation Council would welcome an opportunity to assist the Forest Service in this respect and discuss their proposals further.

The above letter was drafted by First Vice-President, Patrick Goldsworthy and signed by Phil Zalesky, President of the North Cascades Conservation Council.

* * * * * * *

MORE THAN BOARD FEET

Whenever a wilderness or other dedicated recreation area is proposed, "practical" men immediately want to know how many board feet of commercial timber are involved. The supposition is that every tree will eventually be needed by our expanding economy and growing population. Seldom does anyone mention the possibility that (1) competing materials may absorb much of the expected increased demand for wood products; (2) changing economic conditions and forestry techniques may make farm woodlots more profitable for producing logs than rugged, mountainous country; (3) forestry research may show that many acres of lands now supporting merchantable timber are unsuited for growing successive crops or are more valuable for other uses, so that in effect logging such lands would constitute "timber mining."

These suppositions are more than wishful thinking of a few wilderness enthusiasts. One has only to turn to the trade journals of the timber industry for authentic evidence.

An editorial (Timber Operator, 3-9-57) describes how substitute building materials--brick, steel, aluminum, plastics--are offering so much competition with lumber that lumber may in the future become a "substitute." The editor concludes with the dire prediction "that the product of the sawmill may become as archaic as the ox cart in our scheme of modern living." Brick, for instance, was used to construct 38% of the single family homes last year, an increase of 15% over the preceding year. As one editor put it: "That the lumber business is at the most crucial point in its history is not even open to argument."

Chief Forester McArdle described in a recent speech to Canadian pulp producers how our future timber supply could be substantially increased by (1) utilizing more of the wood cut; (2) reducing losses from natural agencies; (3) replanting the vast acreages of understocked timberlands. He concluded that these opportunities lie primarily in the southern states. One reason was that 60% of our commercial forests are held by farmers and other small private owners, a large number of whom are Southerners.

MORE THAN BOARD FEET (CONTINUED)

He further stated that the volume of wood on "reserved timberlands, though substantial, is unimportant in relation to total needs." No mention was made of the role the Northwest was destined to play in meeting future timber needs. Certainly our rugged Cascade Mountains will not lend themselves readily to such intensive sylvaculture as the Chief Forester envisions.

Some idea of the suitability of the Cascades as commercial forestlands is apparent from the preliminary findings of studies being made of high altitude logging at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Oregon. Snow has proven to be a problem. Elevation and severe weather have formed rather low quality. Snow breakage and rot have down-graded logs.

We need to know the answers to such pressing questions as these: How slowly can a new forest grow and still be more valuable for the production of logs than for recreation, water conservation, etc? It is recognized that growth is much slower at high elevations and in the thin soils which characterize mountainous regions. What factors operate in mountains to prevent or delay reforestation? Avalanching? Brush (known to be unusually husky in the North Cascades)? Erosion?

Were the Forest Service to undertake exhaustive studies of all of these factors, many years and many dollars would be required. Is it asking too much that we go slow on developing such choice remnants of wilderness as we have in the North Cascades. Since present knowledge indicates that the Northwest may have to become less dependent on logging, other industries must be expanded. One unique resource which can be used without being used up, the region has in abundance--scenery. Other regions (Canadian Rockies, Sierras, Tetons) have shown that the basis of a thriving tourist industry is often a core of dedicated wilderness or parklands.

Submitted by John Warth, Seattle.

* * * * * * *

"TIMBER GROUP AGAINST WILDERNESS AREA PLAN"

(Editor's note: The above headline and following article is quoted from the Thurs., Sept. 12, 1957 edition of the Spokane Spokesman Review.)

"By unaminous action the timber products bureau of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce yesterday voted to oppose in its entirety the proposal of the United States Forest Service to establish a wilderness area in the Glacier peak region of the Cascades west of Lake Chelan.

TIMBER GROUP (CONTINUED)

"A resolution to that effect was adopted after George C. Wall, president of the Chelan Box and Manufacturing company, and the Rev. Robert Riley Johnson, president of the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce declared the establishment of a wilderness area would be an economic blow to the Inland Empire. Both spoke at a luncheon meeting in the Coeur d'Alene hotel.

"Wall denied the charges of conservation groups that loggers and lumbermen are devastating the country. On the contrary, he said, selective and sustained yield logging practices in the primitive areas of the Cascades will improve the timber crop and open up the region to campers and hunters.

"If the Glacier peak area, involving approximately 352,000 acres, is looked up as a wilderness area, Wall predicted it would set the pattern for further action and lead to the establishment of a wilderness area in Okanogan county with 801,000 acres of timber land.

"Most of the timber included in the wilderness area is mature," he said, "and good conservation practice calls for the utilization of mature timber. If this timber is not removed, it will be lost to our economy for all time."

Officials of the forest service were accused of "double-crossing" the sawmill operators by Mr. Johnson, who said 2000 persons out of a population of 2300 in the town of Chelan had signed a resolution opposing a wilderness area at the head of Lake Chelan.

There is a good chance that the sawmills of this region will be put out of business if this wilderness area is established, which would create an economic crisis from Oroville to Moses Lake," said Mr. Johnson."

* * * * * * * *

WHAT IS THE REAL PRICE OF COPPER?

Will it cost the American public $900 a ton alone, or the additional immeasurable wilderness, scenic, and recreational worth from the very heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area?

In the columns of the Wall Street Journal and in the eyes of many of its readers the price of copper is currently measured only in monetary terms. Using these terms P. W. McGann, Chief Economist, Bureau of Mines, stated (Chem. and Eng. News, Sept. 2, 1957) that "Copper mine output will decline about 4% and refined copper slightly, as a result of a 30% drop in the price of copper". This summer the Holden mine, located below Lyman Lake, decided to discontinue operations indefinitely as it seemed no longer profitable to process the grade of ore which was available. The declining price of copper also is probably largely responsible for the fact that additional mines have not been put into operation elsewhere in the Cascades.

THE REAL PRICE OF COPPER (CONTINUED)

fluence of Miners Creek and the Suiattle River (application has apparently been made to the Forest Service for this mill site).

The extensive damage that would be done to the scenery by such a large scale operation cannot go unchallenged. Is the need for copper so great that the American people should be forced to pay for the output of the Bear Creek Mining Company with one wilderness area, the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, or even a part of it? The North Cascades Conservation Council believes definitely not!

submitted by Pat Goldsworthy,
Seattle

* * * * * * * *

SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY SUPPORTS MOUNTAINEER PROPOSAL

"The National Audubon Society with headquarters in New York and branches and affiliates in 300 communities throughout the United States is the oldest conservation organization in the country. Organized some fifty-two years ago it conducts Audubon Camps for training adults in nature and conservation; Audubon Junior Clubs (nine million children in schools and youth groups); Screen Tours given by 30 lecturers to 500,000 people in 200 cities; Wildlife Tours; Photography Tours; Photo and Film Department; Service Dept.; Research Projects; Public Information; Publications; Sanctuaries in which wardens patrol upward of a million acres of land, etc.

The Society is represented on the Boards of the National Parks Association and many other Wilderness groups. Each of the local organizations have conservation chairmen who bring before the group conservation and legislative information to be acted upon by the membership. This brings up the reason for the Seattle Audubon Society's action as found in the attached resolution. The President of the N3C, Phil Zalesky, was invited to speak before the organization and show his slides explaining the purpose for preservation of this area. Literature was also distributed to further explain and show the type of terrain and its rugged untouched beauty. The boundary plan was brought before the organization by the conservation chairman with explanatory remarks from information received from the N3C and other interested groups. It was then endorsed by the organization at its September 19th meeting. The Society has always taken an active part in any of the Olympic Park discussions and hearings over the years, being represented earlier by the late Mr. Ellsworth Lumley and Mr. Harry Higman both past presidents and later by myself as president. Parks, Wilderness and Wildlife Refuges are a vital part of our program activity."

SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

In effect, the Seattle Chapter of the National Audubon Society adopted the following resolution: The Seattle Audubon Society wholeheartedly supports the boundary recommendations for the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area as proposed by the North Cascades Conservation Council. (phrased by the editor.)

submitted by Mrs. Neil Haig
Conservation Chairman, Seattle
Audubon Society.

* * * * * * *

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

John and Jean Anderson-Seattle, Dr. Beach Barrett-Seattle, Amy and Lloyd Bell-Stehekin, Paul R. Bergman-Stehekin, Mrs. Arthur Bobroff-Seattle, Leonard N. Bragg-Chelan, David Brower-San Francisco, Cecil N. Clements-Manson, Miss Virginia Dietz-Seattle, Mrs. Adelsa Doph-Everett, Rhoda and Virgil Fellows-Chelan, Dick Finley-Manson, Mrs. Pearl Forth-Seattle, Mrs. Pat Goldsworthy-Seattle, Steve Griffith-Chelan, Edward F. Grimes-Manson, Earl Gruenberg-Manson, Edris and Wallace Hahn-Manson, Leonard Hayes-Manson, Reverend Gene W. Hibbard-Manson, Nancy Hubbard-Seattle, Janet Key-Seattle, Everett Lasher, Jr.-Seattle F. D. Mack,Sunnyside, Marion P. MacMartin-Seattle, Miss Ruth Miller-Seattle, Harriet and Kenneth Morehead-Manson, Don Morse-Chelan, Mrs. Rose L. Mundt-Chelan, Anthony Netboy-Portland, Ore. Dr. William Odell-Mercer Island, Karl and Ruth Onthank-Eugene, Oreg., Bruce and Ethel Pershall-Chelan, Arthur, Dale and Dorothy Peterson-Manson, Katherine Pigott-Portland, Oreg., Mr. and Mrs. John Rowley-Minneapolis, Minn., Theodore Ryder-Brooklyn, New York, Anton and Irene Sargo-Manson, Wn., Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Severance-Manson, Fred and Ruthina Shoun-Manson, Helen Strom-Seattle, John Swanson-Minneapolis, Minn., Miss Nan Thomoson-Everett, Wn., Dr. Ralph Uber-Yakima, Dr. Wade Volwiler-Seattle, Dick Watson-Chelan, and Patricia Ann Wood-Seattle.

Our membership now numbers 127 persons. Due to the ambition of Jack Stevens of Manson, we may now count 31 members from the Manson-Chelan community at the lower end of Lake Chelan and also from the upper end of the lake, or Stehekin. This may disprove the theory that people who like to see wilderness set aside are not all mountain climbers or otherwise above the average citizen in their rugged abilities. When the public becomes informed as to what is going on concerning the future of superlative scenic areas, the wilderness enthusiast ceases to be a minority. Local citizens become interested in helping save native remnants of our planet and news dispatches will finally begin to print both sides of the controversy, as the clamor for more information increases. Also, organized masses of humanity who are constantly beating the drums for mechanized commercialization and exploitation may someday wake up to the realization that there are some portions of the environment that are more "profitable" if left in their natural state of existence.

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Pat Goldsworthy is another very effective "spreader of the word" for the conservation cause and quite a number of Seattle members have come in under his sponsorship.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: Mrs. Gene Prater, Membership Chairman
North Cascades Conservation Council
Route #1
Ellensburg, Washington

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL THROUGH MEMBERSHIP AND I HAVE MARKED ( ) THE CLASSIFICATION DESIRED, AND ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR DUES WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

( ) Annual is $1 a year ( ) Contributing is more than $1

( ) Life $25

FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

The following Resolution was passed by the delegates to the 26th Annual Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, meeting August 31, September 1, 2, 1957, at Cazadero, California:

RESOLUTION NO. 14

NORTH CASCADES

The Federation has long recognized the superb scenic and recreational potential of the North Cascades extending through the State of Washington from the Columbia River to the Canadian Boundary. The Federation realizes that specialized skills of the various agencies of the federal government which administers most of this area have not yet been coordinated as they need to be in the interests of wise long range planning.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs:

1. Supports and recommends that the Glacier Peak Wilderness Preference Area Proposal of February 7, 1957 of the U.S. Forest Service be augmented to include all areas, except Cady Pass, that have been proposed by the Mountaineers in 1956 as part of a proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

2. Requests the U.S. Forest Service to establish a schedule for early comprehensive studies of recreational and wilderness values of all the North Cascades in Washington State,

in conjunction with Operation Outdoors, concurrently with the formulation of management plans and prior to the laying out of working circles.

3. Recommends that the skills and facilities of other federal agencies, including the Agricultural and Interior Inter-Agency Committee, be enlisted and request that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and its member clubs and similar organizations be consulted in connection with the proposed study.

4. Urges that no irrevocable encroachment be permitted and that hearings on specific boundary proposals be postponed until the program is well underway.

--submitted by Polly Dyer, Auburn

* * * * * * *

THANK YOU!

The North Cascades Conservation Council Board members and guests certainly appreciated the use of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce Board rooms in the Chinook Hotel for the two day meeting.

We are in gratitude to Jack Stevens for purchasing our membership cards which all new members will enjoy receiving.

* * * * * * *

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

If it seems that the Newsletter comes to you in disguise each month, it is because, through trial and error, we are trying to establish something worthwhile and pleasing to read. This month's letterhead is an idea of Pat Goldsworthy's and the actual work is his also. Quite a number of people suggested that colored paper be tried out for effect. We will endeavor to mimeograph on both sides of the page and to use legal size pages for a change. Do you have some ideas on how to improve the style of the Newsletter? If so, please send your suggestions in.

Written contributions are always needed--400 to 600 words are preferable, however, take more space if you need it. If you would like to see a "Letters to the Editor" page--please send your letters in expressing your ideas or criticisms. The deadline for all articles or notices for the Newsletter is the 15th of each month.

* * * * * * *

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Phillip Zalesky 2402½ Virginia, Everett, Wn.
1st Vice President: Patrick Goldsworthy-6012 28th Ave., N.E. Seattle 15, Wn.
2nd Vice President: Miss Una Davies 13641 S. W. Fielding Road, Oswego, Oregon
Recording Secretary: Miss Neva Karrick 610 13th Ave., North Seattle 2, Wn.

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Dyer-116 J St., N.E., Auburn, Wn
Treasurer: Mrs. Yvonne Prater Route #1-Ellensburg, Wn.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(One Year Term)

Una Davies, Paul Gerhardt, Grant McConnell, Rod O'Conner, Chet Powell, and Phil Zalesky.

(Two Year Term)

Joe Collins, Ray Courtney, Patrick Goldsworthy, Charles Hessey, C. Edward Graves, Philip Hyde, Neva Karrick, John Warth, and Leo Gallagher.

(Three Year Term)

David Brower, Polly Dyer, Emily Haig, Rick Mack, David Simons, Jack Stevens, Jack Wilson, Arthur Winder, and Yvonne Prater.

* * * * * * *

DANA SEES RECREATION AS BIG BUSINESS IN NORTHWEST

"Recreation in the Pacific Northwest is a potential billion dollar-a-year business and facilities in the Columbia Basin can help make it that, Marshall Dana said recently."

"Dana, chairman of the recreational subcommittee of the Columbia Basin Interagency Committee, said recreation already ranks third in economic importance in Washington behind lumber and agriculture."

"This billion-dollar prediction for the economic worth of recreation in the Northwest is not just an idle figure," he said. "It came out of extensive study by experts in the field, including the Stanford Research Institute."

"He said reports indicate the area will have 40 million visitors annually by 1960."

* * * * * * *

The intangible values of wilderness cannot be measured in dollars and cents signs or by the number of people that may find enjoyment in such an area, however, when it becomes necessary to organize and fight to keep some wilderness for those who will come when we are gone, we must become "practical" and assume financial responsibilities.

This is just taking a complicated means to come to the point. The North Cascades Conservation Council is deeply grateful for the 100 contribution which just came from the Seattle Mountaineers. Thank you, Mountaineers, for the wonderful help!

* * * * * * *

THE WENATCHEE PROJECT-GOOD OR BAD?

A few months ago the Chelan County P.U.D. applied for a license to build a dam in Tumwater Canyon on the Wenatchee River above Leavenworth. It would involve a 200-foot rock-fill dam near Drury Falls. The effect on rugged Tumwater Canyon--known for its spectacular white water, sheer cliffs, autumn colors, salmon runs, and the rare flower Lewisia tweedyi--would create a dreary reservoir in the upper half of the canyon and to reduce the flow throughout the lower half.

Of even greater concern to conservationists than the effect on the beautiful canyon itself is the role which the dam is destined to play as part of the larger Wenatchee Project. Engineering studies indicate that the Tumwater Dam and power plant will only be economically feasible if upstream storage is to be made available. Since most of the major branches of the Wenatchee River above Tumwater Canyon have their source in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the effects could be disastrous as far as the southeastern portion of the wilderness is concerned.

Two proposals involve Lake Wenatchee and the Chiwawa River. Probably only the latter would actually flood lands included in the N3C proposed wilderness. However, the Army Engineers have been looking for other sites in the region. Someone thought he read that the Napeequa Valley had already been proposed. Even the scenic lands lying outside the wilderness are valuable as a buffer zone, and to supply the ever-increasing demands of the roadside recreationist. As the cutting circles on the Wenatchee National Forest are worked out, timber to be flooded by reservoirs outside the wilderness will almost surely be sought within the proposed wilderness boundaries.

It behooves us as conservationists to examine these proposals from every angle. Do they represent the wisest use of our natural resources? Is the power procurable elsewhere, even if at somewhat higher cost? Steam plants perhaps? Should we of the N3C cooperate with the Wenatchee Project, but try to minimize the damage? Or should we immediately register our protest with the Federal Power Commission before it is too late? It is obviously unwise to license the initial phase of such a questionable project before plans for the entire project are completed. In this case it may be equivalent to giving someone a signed blank check. Members who have information are urged to contact the writer, so that all the data necessary for evaluating the project can be assembled.

By John F. Warth
3806 Burke
Seattle 3, Washington

** * * * * * **

THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Next month's Newsletter will feature an article by Gale Dick of St. Joseph, Illinois, who has spent some time in the Glacier Peak area, Pat Goldsworthy's answer to a letter in the Seattle Times that "the true wilderness of the Northern Cascades" are for "an exclusive club to which only persons of means can afford to belong" and many other interesting articles.