

# THE WILD CASCADES

SPRING 1990

HORSEY

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POST-INTELLIGENCER  
NORTH AMERICA SYNDICATE



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## WHEN IS A COMPROMISE NOT A COMPROMISE ?

DAVID FLUHARTY

In the daily press and in this issue of The Wild Cascades you will find many references to ancient forests and the controversies surrounding their protection and management. The disputes between the environmental community, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the timber industry have been ongoing, over the appropriate level and location of logging cuts from federal lands. Now Congress has intervened to impose a "compromise" among the interested parties. It is time now to critically review this compromise.

First, it is not a compromise in any sense of the word. A number of environmental groups brought suit against the timber management program of the USFS in the Pacific Northwest, charging that it was in violation of the law. This measure was taken by these groups only after 15 - 20 years in which all other remedies were exhausted. They have testified at hearings, written to the USFS and Congress, participated doggedly in forest planning processes. However, all of these efforts did not result in a reduction of the rate of cutting on federal timberlands to a sustainable level, nor did it result in application of federal law with respect to assessment of environmental impacts. Thus, suit was a last resort. The USFS had plenty of time to bring its activities under compliance with federal law. (Remember, too, that many legal challenges had been thrown at the USFS on specific sales of timber to little avail. It was the whole timber sale process that was being used in a flawed manner. Had the USFS operated within the law on timber sale planning, environmental groups would have had no grounds for suit).

Second, compromise entails agreement by all parties to a method to end the dispute. The terms of this "compromise" were drafted by Congress to allow the USFS and the timber industry to sell and buy timber but it did not solve the complaint of the environmental groups bringing suit. Therefore they did not agree. How could they agree when they were the only ones whose position was being compromised. Furthermore, the right of environmental organizations to sue for injunctive relief on this issue was denied by the Congress. This is business as usual for the USFS and timber industry, with an excluder clause for the environmental community.

Third, Congress, the USFS and timber industry point to a panel that selects which areas shall be slated for logging during an interim period, as the core of the compromise. They contend that this allows environmentalists a vote in where these sales occur. However, there are at least three other votes to one environmental vote. Furthermore, the list of possible sales is deliberately restricted to leave out many potentially environmentally benign sales and to include numerous environmentally controversial sales. This results in a process whereby the panel selects timber sales, like the Sugar Bear Sale, in the Seattle City Watershed, which block efforts to develop environmentally sensitive management on the surrounding lands.

The message to Congress must unequivocally loud and clear. The Hatfield - Adams compromise is a totally unacceptable approach to dealing with longterm forest management issues. The USFS must be held accountable to operate by the laws Congress had given it with respect to sustainable forest practices and environmental assessment. This means that

many of the sensitive ancient forest areas must be managed on a perpetual basis for wild-life habitat, recreation, water, fish, etc. not just logging. This is the mandate under federal law. The role of Congress should be to make sure that the USFS lives up to its obligations. Environmental organizations should be allowed to do what they do best - diligent surveillance of and comment on USFS activities to ensure compliance with the law. Timber interests should do as ex-Senator Dan Evans and Public Land Commissioner Brian Boyle suggest, realistically reevaluate their own positions with respect to sustainable and environmentally sensitive forestry on private and public lands. It is time to realize that the national forests are a trust to be managed for all citizens. The forest are not a federal reserve to be used to bail out the bankrupt policies of a federal agency and its industry clientele.



Clearwater Wilderness boarder near Mt. Rainier

Photo by Daniel Dancer

# SUE OR SETTLE ?

## NCCC CHALLENGES NPS PLANS

The North Cascades Conservation Council, in November 1989, filed suit against the National Park Service (North Cascades Conservation Council v. Lujan, et al., C89 - 1324 D. ( W.D. Wash. )) over the drafting of Plans that allow continued degradation of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area ( see The Wild Cascades, Fall 1989 )

The plaintiff NCCC received, in December 1989, a response from the General Litigation Section, Land and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice, representing the defendants Department of Interior and National Park Service. The National Park Service indicated its willingness to meet with the North Cascades Conservation Council to discuss a possible settlement ( out of court ) which might include preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement ( EIS ) for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and interim management during the preparation of the EIS. The National Park Service wishes to proceed with the management of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area without having to concern itself with the distraction and expense of litigation. It was then mutually agreed upon to meet in Seattle, January 11 - 12, 1990 for discussions.

At this meeting the plaintiffs and defendants presented their positions relative to each of the complaints set forth in the 31-page suit. The complaints included statements that : the EIS will be limited to Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and completed within 2-3 years; the EIS will discuss the National Park Service General Management Plan and all reasonable alternatives as well as examining the Land Protection Plan, the Firewood Management Plan, and the North Cascades National Park Wilderness Management Plan - firewood and all other reasonable alternative energy sources - alternative sources of firewood - curtailment of both residential and commercial growth to conserve energy sources and maintain the pre-park small community character of the Stehekin Valley - limit exchange of lands out of federal ownership - alternative development scenarios in Lake Chelan N.R.A. - review all forms of transportation to, from, and within the Lake Chelan N.R.A. - closure of the Stehekin airstrip - road closures within the Lake Chelan N.R.A. - commercial boat operation on Lake Chelan - use and sources of sand, rock, and gravel - Wild and Scenic classification of the Stehekin River.

Agreements and disagreements between both parties have been mutually exchanged, subsequent to evaluations of the positions presented at the meeting. Final resolution of the remaining disagreements, permitting the establishment of a mutually agreed upon settlement, has not yet occurred nor has a decision been made to proceed with litigation, due to significant lack of agreement.

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL,  
a nonprofit Washington corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

MANUEL LUJAN, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR; JAMES M. RIDENOUR, Director of the United States National Park Service and the UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; CHARLES H. ODEGAARD, Regional Director of United States National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region; JOHN R. EARNST Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Complex,

Defendants.

# CHUCK HESSEY HIS MEMORY LIVES ON

HARVEY MANNING

A friend called with the news that on January 12 our longtime companion of North Cascades wildlands, Chuck Hesse, had been "made one with nature . . ."

Not that he'd never been far apart. At their rustic home close by the Naches River, he and Marion could hear in their sleep what the rains and snowmelts were up to in the high country. The temperature in their forest of Ponderosa pine and snowbrush and pinegrass told them when it was time to pack up the skis for a high tour and when the trails were opening for boots.

Whatever lived in those woods and that river, bird or beast or tree or flower, Chuck knew. He introduced me there to the working habits of the tick. From where a bush had pushed branches across a path near his house he showed me a tick in waiting, clinging to a twig, jaws (?) wide open to clamp onto a passerby. He did not, after the introduction, exterminate the critter, but restored it and the twig to the ambush position. Rattlesnakes, too found him a considerate neighbor. Live and let live.

One year Chuck won one of the few goat hunting permits made available in Washington's annual drawing. When asked by the Game Department officials, in which area he'd like to shoot his goat he completely upset and shocked them by replying that he was not going to either hunt or kill his goat but rather let it live instead.

Coming to the conservation campaigns as a newcomer in 1960, and being brought onto the North Cascades Conservation Council board of directors, I was awed by the company I was newly keeping. The distinguished group included folks familiar with the ins and outs of Congress, federal bureaucracies, and great and historic figures of the conservation establishment. What Chuck knew was the North Cascades. Summer and winter, afoot and a-ski, he had explored, with Marion, more odd corners than any other NCCC director. When a locality came to the board's attention that nobody else knew, all ears turned to Chuck.

He went to see, and to show others how to see. His films of skiing in what was to become the Glacier Peak Wilderness, of hiking in what was to become the North Cascades National Park, were invaluable educational materials ( included in "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin") in that age when Glacier Peak was the volcano unknown to the geography books of Seattle schools and only a handful of Americans knew there was more to the North Cascades than Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan.

Fortunate were those who met Chuck and Marion on some remote or abandoned Cascade trail. She with the large pack full of the living essentials and he with the small pack laden with heavy cameras and film. Chuck would recount the history of the Cascades: when Chelan Box and the Forest Service were determined to log the Stehekin watershed to make apple boxes and when the entire Whitechuck Valley was roadless and yet unlogged. He knew, and was able to convince NCCC board members who advocated USFS Wilderness Areas by preference, that only with a national park could the Northern Cascades be saved from the chain saw.

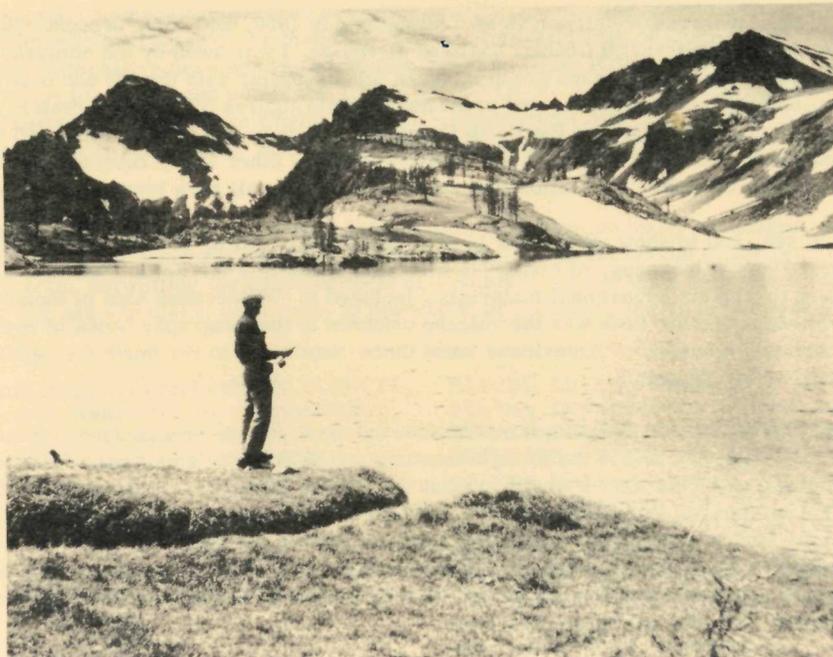
I remember when the NCCC was mobilizing to fight off Seattle City Light's proposed High Ross Dam. Chuck had hiked the threatened Big Beaver Valley, but not for a long time, the reason being that he had hiked the entire Skagit Valley before there was any Ross Dam at all and he could not bring himself to return to view a reservoir which had already drowned the equivalent of a score of Big Beavers.

This is not to say he had become submerged in hopeless mourning for lost glories or twisted bitterness at a generation of scoundrels and idiots and J.D. Rosses. He entertained readers of The Wild Cascades with a series of communications addressed to the Irate Birdwatcher, signing them "Les Braynes". The Les of Chuck's letters was a good ol' boy who since his childhood had always got his buck in the high-country hunt and his elk in the annual orchard slaughter and when there was nothing to shoot for meat kept busy plinking rockchucks. Les mounted the new Tote-Gote, graduated to the Japanese trail bikes, and drove ATV's and in season the snowmobile and the helicopter. Les had the naive notion that he would ultimately

convert Irate to a good ol' boy just like himself. I have to confess that Les was a lovable sort of fellow drawn (not unkindly) directly from life -- the human life of the Hessey home country on the rainshadow side of the Cascades.

I'm glad Mt. St. Helens did what it did -- that is, while Chuck and I were around for the show. The summer of 1980 our paths crossed on the Entiat the day after a minor burp that had lightly ashed the north country. He described the fateful day in May, the hike he and Marion had been taking when the black cloud boiled over the ridge. He reflected, "I'd always wondered why the lakes around White Pass had such sandy shores". He was pleased to see why.

The Hesseys fully enjoyed the Cascades together whether hiking in the hidden Napeequah Valley, the Shangri La of the Cascades as he liked to call it; spring skiing in Lyman Basin; defying wind, rain, and snow at their Cascade Pass campsite; enjoying the reflection of Glacier Peak from their Image Lake camp; or just playing Bocci ball at the Stehekin Valley Bridge Creek camp using milling balls iron from the Horseshoe Basin mining operations.



# SNOW WHITE, CINDERELLA AND THE STEHEKIN RIVER

IRATE BIRDWATCHER

Mirror, mirror on the wall,  
Which is the fairest river of all ?

No true lover of rivers is going to be led into that trap by a wicked stepmother or a gang of elderly, ugly sisters. Every river is precious for what it is, for the life it contains, for the living thing it is. We'll have no truck with snobs who complain that the Snohomish flows too murkily to the Whulge, that the Green-Duwamish is very nice where it issues from the Green River Gorge but is so defiled by Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, and Georgetown it ought to be condemned, or that the Skagit's dike-tamed distributaries would be taken as an insult by such river-boat pilots as Samuel Clemens. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and the beholder who knows the souls of rivers finds them all simply marvelous.

Nevertheless, there is a widespread prejudice in favor of pristinity. While the best that can be done with the Chicago River perhaps is to prevent it from bursting into flames, many streams of the nation are in such condition as to meet the legal definitions of Wild, Scenic, or Recreational - - three categories recognized in federal and state legislation, each regulating the degree of human activities permitted on a river's banks and in its flow.

Presently before Congress is a bill to give such status to various rivers in Washington. The package is excellent; for details, see Washington's Wild Rivers, a new book with the text by Tim McNulty.

While applauding the bill ( and the book ), we were astounded and shocked and horrified to find that the Stehekin River had been omitted from both ! Thanks to some last-minute shrieks and bellows, this river has been tacked on to the bill and a belated postscript added to the book. Or so we understand. ( If we understand wrong, fasten your seatbelts. )

Now, having been there, We all know how complex a Congressional bill can be, many groups and people pushing and pulling this way and that. ( We also know a little about putting books together - - it so happens we were not asked about this one. ) I write, here, not to point the accusing finger at the fault but to explain it.

First: The coalition of river-lovers omitted the Stehekin River because they assumed that since it ran entirely within the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the North Cascades National Park, the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and the North Cascades Scenic Highway corridor, they didn't have to worry. The federals, those famous friends of the land and waters, has the situation in hand. The coalition failed to ask the North Cascades Conservation Council its judgement of the federals.

Second: The coalition did not take note of the distinction between "national park" and "national recreation area". They assumed that because the Stehekin was almost entirely in national park or national wilderness from headwaters to the confluence of the main stream and Agnes Creek, the rest of the way to Lake Chelan, in the National Recreation Area, administered by the ( good-guy ) National Park Service, had comparable protection. Again, the coalition failed to ask why the NCCC was working up a lawsuit against the National Park Service.

The coalition and the publisher have been sufficiently chided in irate phone calls and broadsides, They have vowed to go forth and sin no more. Blessings on both. Nevertheless, the one river acknowledged by every person with any knowledge of the state's waterways, to be the most totally and purely Wild from headwaters to outlet will not have a single photograph in the book that is, otherwise, in text and photos, so eloquent a "celebration of our rivers." That is a very great pity.

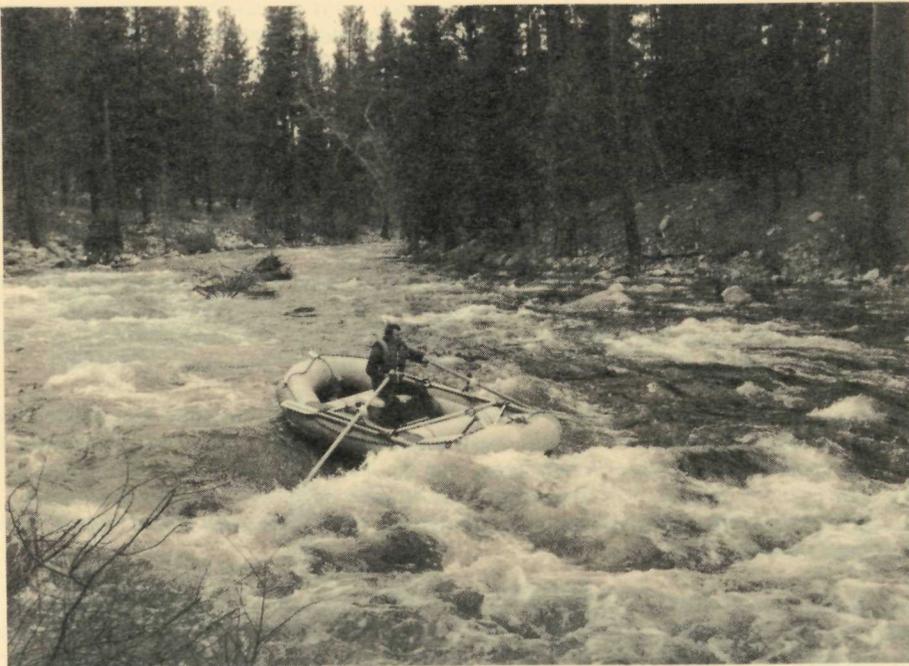
The NCCC had a major worry about the omission: That the embattled Park Service would take it as a ratification by the environmental community (except for the NCCC) of whatever it bureaucratically felt like doing to the Stehekin between Lake Chelan and High Bridge.

Happily, we can report that in the process of suit-negotiating reported elsewhere in these pages, the NCCC has succeeded in getting the Park Service on the ball. The federals will crank up their act. (Or so they say.)

--But that doesn't mean that the Stehekin can be left out of the statewide act. -- And we're sure sad it was left out of the statewide book.

Speaking as a person so gone on rivers that I love to sit on the riprap at the mouth of the Puyallup River and gaze across the waters of Commencement Bay to the Tacoma Smelter stack, I must confess that if all the world of rivers was to be destroyed, only one to be saved, my vote would be for the Stehekin.

Coalitions, publishers, federals, take note. Shape up.



# NO OPEN PIT MINE!

## KENNECOTT LEAVES GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS AT THE FRONT

The fog was settling in over the headwaters of Agnes Creek as I approached the head of this beautiful valley. Earlier in the day I had passed through a magnificent, vibrant forest of silver fir, red cedar, Douglas fir, and hemlock. The South Fork of Agnes Creek had been singing a lively tune through the forest as it crashed over a series of smooth granite steps and poured through clear green pools on its way to the Stehekin. The final ascent through the narrow timbered valley gave way to a dense, but open, forest of hemlock and true firs; an aura of huckleberry and goatsbeard floated on the wind. I set up camp near clump of trees in an emerald basin below Suiattle Pass and drifted off to sleep .....

The brightness of dawn invaded my dreams and I began a steep ascent up the ridge behind my camp. The route to the ridge top was slippery on dewy heather under a sky so gray that it turned the entire alpine world into a black and white photograph.

Color became part of the scene on the ridge crest and little patches of cobalt blue peeked through clouds which seemed like floating sponges. The sky was clearing fast now and the little blue holes in the clouds were expanding with each new breath of wind as views of the emerald valley walls to Agnes Creek, the crags of Fortress and Chiwawa, and the whiteness of Glacier Peak and the Ten Peak Range grew and came into focus.

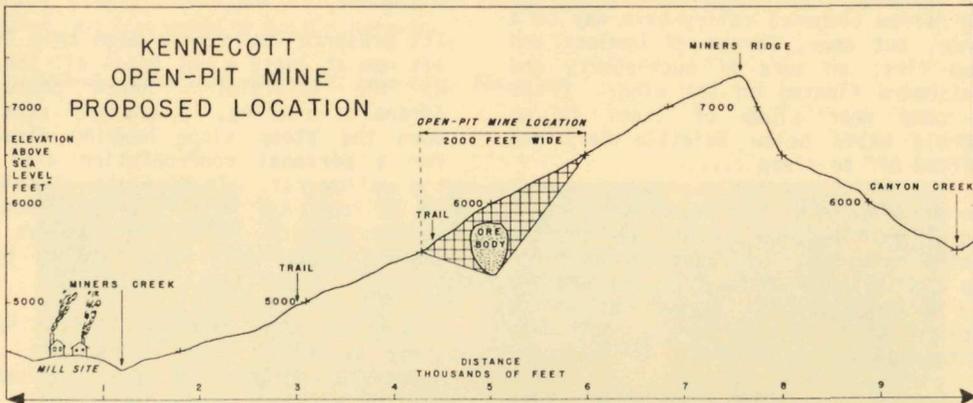
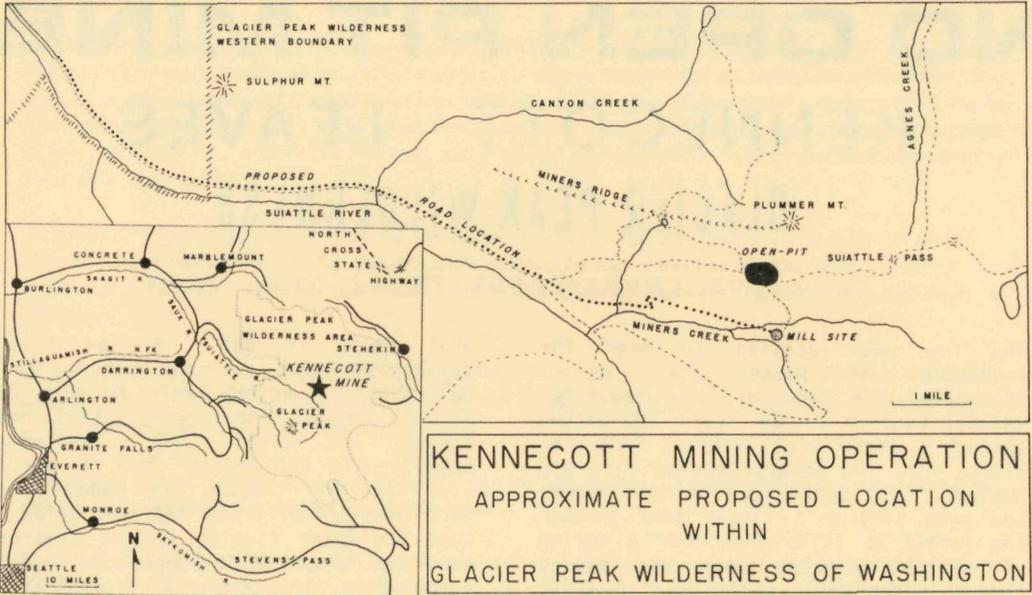
As the view of the mountain expanded a low, varied, rumbling, a growl really, accompanied by a high pitched squeaking noise was growing in intensity. But what could it be? I had not heard a motorized sound since leaving the Stehekin Road several days ago and expected to hear nothing of the sort in the near future. The noise was getting frightfully loud in this quiet meadow;

what could it be? A low flying turboprop plane? A horse party with a generator? A motorbiker? My mind was flying through the possibilities now, trying to avoid the inevitable, unbelievable conclusion. Then I saw it .... churning through the meadow, not more than 1/4 mile and 700 feet below, a huge bulldozer ripping up the heather, knocking over huge subalpine firs, terrorizing the marmots ....KENNECOTT HAD COME

Its presence could only mean that there was now at least a cat trail all the way up the Suiattle! Heart pounding, adrenalin rushing, I charged straight down the steep slope heading directly for a personal confrontation with the big yellow cat. In my haste, I tripped on a root and went flying through a kalidescope of mid summer colors and slammed headlong into a talus block .....

I awakened upon impact, sweating in my sleeping bag. The meadow was dark around me and the only sound was that of a fog growing over the ridge. As consciousness streamed back into my brain I realized that it was probable that there were no miners or bulldozers on the other side of the ridge. Whew!

The preceding is one dream many of us have long hoped would never come to pass and this past summer the likelihood of a mining operation occurring on Miners Ridge diminished considerably. The Kennecott Co. has sold their claim, including all rights to the land, to the Chelan Country PUD. Kennecott is gone from Miners Ridge! Some cynics may feel that the fox in the chicken coop has only been replaced by a kitten, which may grow into a large cat, and perhaps the PUD may try to load up the county coffers by extracting copper from Plummer Mountain. This is not a likely scenario due to the history of the



acquisition by the PUD and their interest in the land. The catalyst in the story deals with the snowpack, the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service.

The Chelan County PUD has a real interest in the snows which fall on the Cascade Crest. It is of vital interest to the hydrologists to be able to accurately predict the amount of runoff which will flow downstream to fill the streams and lakes. For many years the PUD sent crews up to a small cabin that was situated about 100 yards below Lyman Lake. The cabin served as a warm winter base out of which the crews ran snow courses near Lyman Lake and in the head of Agnes Creek, measuring the depth and water content of the snowpack.

There was a certain amount of hazard in this work, dealing with unstable snow enroute to the snow courses being one, and getting caught by a winter storm another. During the 1970's, new technology made the hard skiers visit to the mountains obsolete as new electronic snowpack monitoring stations, called SNOTELS, began to spring up all over the western mountains. These electronic stations have several features including a tall precipitation tower, transmitting antenna, a large box for the electronics, and a set of "snow pillows" which determine the weight, and thus, the water content of the snowpack. Additional equipment at the site includes a thermometer, barometer, and

snow survey marker. The whole site is powered by a small solar panel mounted on top of the transmitting antenna. Upon receiving a radio command from the network office in Ogden, Utah all the SNOTELS in the west begin transmitting their data home, bouncing their radio signals off the ionized trails of small meteoroids, which are constantly racing into the Earth's atmosphere.

Well, we have gone from the top of Plummer Mountain to the top of the atmosphere, what's the connection? The PUD had a long standing permit with the Forest Service for their Lyman Lake cabin, and it was not much of a surprise that a new permit was issued to the PUD to operate a SNOTEL in the vicinity. Under the terms of the Forest Service permit the PUD was required to remove the rotting cabin and, more significantly, find a new snow measuring site outside the Wilderness within 10 years. The Forest Service did not want this electronic site to become a permanent fixture in the Wilderness, though the Wilderness Act does make allowances for installing various "miniaturized" scientific and data collection devices, and in some cases even stations, such as the glacier research facility at South Cascade Glacier. It is a topic of some debate as to whether or not a SNOTEL is miniature and to what extent it impacts an individual's wilderness experience. The size of the SNOTEL in this regard is subjective and it may look large or small depending on one's own preference for purism in wilderness management.

Instead of snowshoeing or skiing into the Lyman Lake area in the winter to measure snow depths, PUD crews are now flown in a couple of times a year to perform maintenance on the SNOTEL according to a schedule approved by the Forest Service. This is generally only allowed during the early and late parts of the snow free season when few people would be affected by the sharing of Cloudy Pass with a helicopter. This restriction was an occasional hindrance to PUD crews, but it did limit helicopter intrusions into the Wilderness during the peak use season.

In order to comply with the provision of finding a non-Wilderness site, the PUD installed a SNOTEL near Mirror Lake, about 12 miles east of Lyman Lake. Problems with this site began right away. First, the snowpack at the site

did not correlate with the Lyman Lake site and consequently gave false impressions of the snowpack along the Cascade Crest. Secondly, Mirror Lake itself became part of the Glacier Peak Wilderness with the additions of 1984.

Knowing that the Forest Service wanted the SNOTEL site removed from the Wilderness and feeling a bit frustrated over the problems with the Mirror Lake site, the PUD felt caught between a rock and a hard place. And speaking of rocks, the PUD knew some folks in the area that owned some .... Kennecott was their name. The Kennecott land was close enough to the prized Lyman site that it would satisfy the accuracy requirements. Maybe Kennecott would lease the PUD a small spread and prove a little easier to work with, from their perspective, than the Forest Service had been. Kennecott responded to PUD's lease request by selling them the whole claim! Reasons for the sale are speculative at this point, but it seems likely that the copper giant was tired of paying yearly taxes on a claim that it felt it had no real chance to develop. (Rumor has it that the claim went for a song.)

Though the fact of PUD ownership of the claim is a much happier prospect (no pun intended) than ownership by Kennecott it is by no means a total solution. PUD will not be outside of Forest Service control and be able to fly into their new property whenever they like, and may want additional facilities near the site which may be much more detrimental to wilderness values than what one would find at the current site. Furthermore, the Lyman SNOTEL is very well screened in a small opening in a subalpine forest where all the trees are taller than the antenna and precipitation tower. It is unlikely that a less conspicuous spot could be found on PUD's new land.

For now though, everyone can sleep a little easier knowing that the miners may be gone for good from Miners Ridge and the huge threat that the tempting ore body inside Plummer Mountain posed to the Glacier Peak Wilderness and the Wilderness System has been greatly reduced. Then next move is up to the PUD, will they move their SNOTEL to Miners Ridge right away, or try to extract the ransom from the Forest Service that Kennecott, thankfully, gave up. Stay tuned for later developments.

# ANCIENT FORESTS THREATENED BY CONGRESS

MITCH FRIEDMAN

For the great natural forests of the Pacific Northwest, these are desperate times. Reduced from an original 28 million acres in western Washington and Oregon, encroachment on the remaining 7 or 8 million acres shows no sign of abating. Ironically, on the heels of what's labelled the "timber compromise" (Hatfield-Adams Amendment), 1990 will see the heaviest cutting in the history of public lands.

Many saw 1989 as a watershed year for ancient forest protection. This was the year that sweeping court injunctions were placed on federal timber sales. This was the year that Northwest forests broached the awareness of the nation's public and the Congress. This was the year that conservationists forged a great alliance for the woods.

Why, then, do the sounds of chainsaws drown our howls of elation? We awoke the nation's sleeping giant of environmental concern, only to see it yawn and roll over the forests. Since lessons from the year's events may improve our future strategies, I offer the following discussion.

Let's begin by reviewing the "compromise". The Amendment mandates the sale of 7.6 billion board feet of timber from Oregon and Washington national forests in 1989 and 1990, a ten percent reduction from previous years. This reduction is deceiving for the following reasons:

- 1) since legal constraints limited Forest Service operations for much of 1989, the vast majority of these sales will be concentrated into just one year (ending September, 1990);
- 2) the cutting level is actually higher than what the combined Forest Service's draft forest plans would call for—confirming past and continued overcutting;
- 3) this comes largely in response to federal injunctions brought on by environmental lawsuits. In other words, we'd finally convinced judges that the logging level is damaging beyond the tolerance of law, when along comes Congress to say, "So what? Let it continue another year."

Specific to the injunction, the Amendment forced us to release more than two-thirds of the roughly 140 timber sales involved; sales known to conflict with spotted owl habitat needs. Clearly, these aspects of the "compromise" were brutal assaults on the remaining forests. What were our gains?

Judicial review: the original draft of the Amendment restricted citizen's ability to sue on environmental laws. This was later modified to only expedite judicial review. However, our primary suit (involving the above injunction) is now neutralized.

Old growth protection: the Amendment suggests the Forest Service should avoid fragmenting remaining large blocks of old growth forest. The bottom line, however, is that 7.6 billion board feet will be sold (and cut). What isn't taken from classic "ancient forest" will be logged from other virgin, irreplaceable stands. As the Forest Service Regional Forester says, "95 percent (of the slated stands) meet somebody's definition of spotted owl habitat."

Advisory Boards: the Amendment directed each national forest to assemble a 7-member citizen's advisory board of "balanced interests" to review timber sales. These boards will be under enormous pressure to rubber stamp proposed sales, since the high cutting level affords no flexibility. Congress also gave the boards -- which have, not surprisingly, turned out dominated by timber interests -- no real authority. They are, at best, public relations smoke-screens.

The Amendment made no promises for future logging reductions. It also said nothing about log exports or programs to assist timber communities through the inevitable economic transition. Score another for the industry giants.

In this great watershed year of environmental concern, we saw the planet's greatest, and most endangered, temperate forests compromised into continued decline.

Most disturbing about this disastrous legislation is that some conservationists publicly support it. Writing in the September issue of Washington Wildfire, the Sierra Club's Mark Lawler shocked the conservation community by claiming that only two groups were opposed. In actuality, the Sierra Club was virtually the only organization in support of the Amendment.

Sierra Club leadership not only supported the compromise, they helped write it. Many speculate that it was the Sierra Club's complicity, dating from the so-called "Hatfield Summit" in June to the Amendment's final wording, that greased the skids for the deal. Certainly it was the Club's supportive statements in press that made attacking the compromise futile. From the public's perspective, any one group (especially the Club) represents the views of all.

Why would the Sierra Club undercut the opposition of other Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) groups? Possibly because a hard-line position in this fractious issue would jeopardize their open-door access to Congress on other issues. Or perhaps their goals for Northwest forests are relatively lower than those of other groups. Some even speculate their motivation to be the glory and membership-boosting coup of settling first and claiming victory (at whatever outcome).

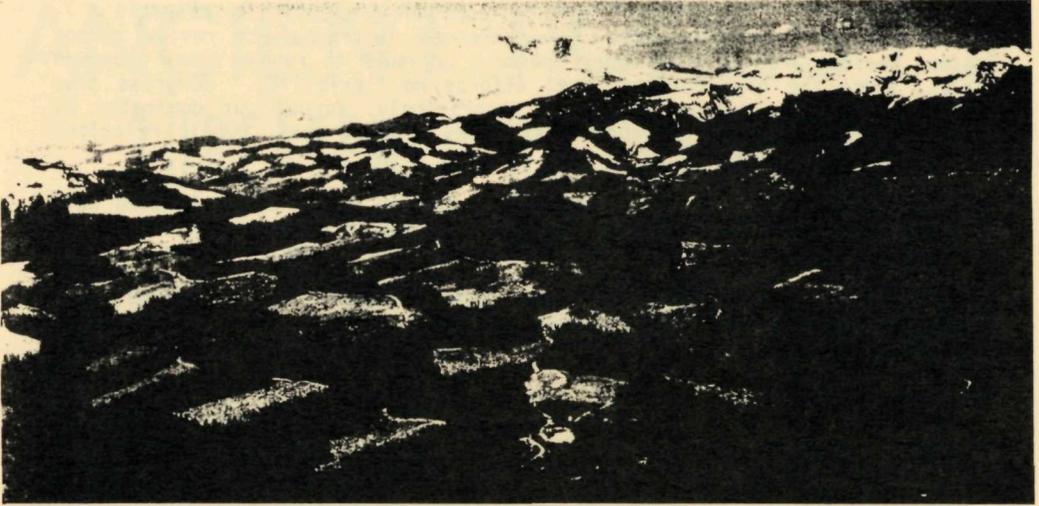
Regardless of the reason(s), such behavior has led to distrust and contempt within the Ancient Forest Alliance. The Oregon AFA is engulfed in a decision-making power struggle between grass roots and larger groups. Instead of cooperating on legislative proposals, factions are scrambling to release their own.

At the same time when unity is needed most, we have divided ourselves, allowing the timber beasts to conquer. Somehow, the industry can remain unified over the contentious log export issue, but we can't hold together on what to protect.

Looking forward, 1990 gives us a chance to regroup and amend our strategies. What should we do?

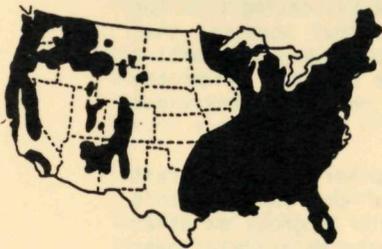
I suggest a good dose of democracy. Those groups closest to the ground, be they individual Audubon Adopt-a-Forest committees or focused groups like North Cascades Conservation Council and Olympic Park Associates, must stay involved. These grass roots groups should decide and articulate their standards for resolution of the issue, then make these positions known to Congress, the press, and to the national groups.

Grass roots groups must plan to stay involved in the issue through all of 1990. This may mean budgeting for a member to fly to the capitol next fall. It at least means monitoring the situation to assure that no one or two group's restricted agenda undercuts the strength of the remainder of the conservation community.



Clearcut blotched foothills of Mt. St. Helens, Gifford Pinchot National Forest

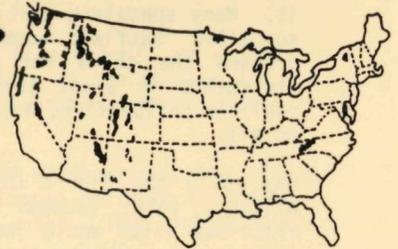
Photo by Peter Morrison, 1989



Virgin Forests 1620



Virgin Forests 1850



Virgin Forests 1989

The overall level of logging on federal lands should be the primary focus of these efforts. In a recent caucus, the National Audubon Society formed a position for reducing the current level by at least 60 percent. The Native Forest Council is gathering support for its Native Forest Protection Act of 1990, which eliminates, nation-wide, any logging of previously-uncut federal forestland. From an ecological perspective, these are very defensible positions—too little natural forest remains and there is no second growth ready to be cut.

This is an historic battle. Our behavior on the ancient forest issue may strongly influence the environmental movement of the 1990s. A united front, formed from an ecological position with national efforts representing local goals, would engender hope and success. Anything else will bear the same old failures

#### ANCIENT FORESTS: LIFE IN BALANCE

Now available, this dramatic 4-color poster captures the majesty and grandeur of an ancient forest. Measuring 26" by 40", the poster is an image by celebrated photographer Daniel Dancer, with a brief text by Mitch Friedman. Proceeds benefit the Ancient Forest Rescue Expedition.

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# BOOKS

## FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATIONIST

DAVID FLUHARTY

A remarkable variety of valuable new books is available to those interested in developing a deeper understanding of many issues facing wildlands protection and management. Most of these are available through local bookstores and the publishers at reasonable cost, in paperback.

David J. Simon, ed., Our Common Lands: Defending the National Parks, National Parks and Conservation Association, Island Press, Covelo, California, 1988.

This book focuses on the legal background for protection of lands administered by the National Park Service. It provides a great introduction to the laws that apply generally to national park management and administration. This is followed by a series of chapters detailing how specific park resources - water, animals, cultural properties, air - are dealt with under the law. Finally, it looks at regulation of development in and around national parks - mining, oil and gas drilling, geothermal steam, hydropower and surface mining. Truly a valuable reference for all interested in protecting parks from development.

James Agee and Darryl R. Johnson, eds., Ecosystem Management for Parks and Wilderness Areas, Institute of Forest Resources Contribution No. 65, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1988.

Consideration of management of wildlife in and around the North Cascades National Park has shown that the Park and National Recreation Areas are inadequate to ensure year-around protection of sufficient habitat for a viable population of some species. The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service sponsored a workshop on this topic which was organized by the editors from the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. In a series of fourteen chapters, each contributed by an expert in the field, the book explores issues and options relating to management of ecosystems mostly from the western United States. From the discussion, it is obvious that simply drawing lines around areas for preservation and management of wildlife is only a start toward providing protection of the habitats needed, but it is not enough. The book provides possible directions and options for cooperative management of Cascade ecosystems. The NCCC will be watching to see if the soon to be released Forest Management Plans from the national forests in the Cascades attempt to implement any of these ideas.

### ANCIENT FORESTS

Four new books are available that address the all-important questions of ancient forests. The controversy that rages in the news and in Congress is usually reduced to the absurdly low common denominators of spotted owls vs. logging jobs. In reality, groups like the NCCC have been trying to raise this issue in much more complex ways over the last 30 years. However, even though we have argued that logging on private and federal lands is not sustainable and that other values need protection, there is much to learn from the research done during this time. Much of what is now known confirms what we have known from intuition, empirical observation, and just plain feeling of "rightness". All of these books are written for persons like us who want to know more about issues so that we can be more effective in advocating appropriate management measures.

Chris Maser, The Redesigned Forest, R. & E. Miles, San Pedro, California, 1988.

Maser, who has worked for the Bureau of Land Management, suggests that we reexamine the way that we manage the forest. The forest evolved over thousands of years to cover a landscape in a diverse mosaic of habitats. Present management aims at converting these forests, fit to live 500 - 1200 years into forests that seldom last even 100 years. He advocates a new look at the forest in which all values that it supplies, including commodity uses, are treated in a way to maintain the diversity, the beauty, and the integrity of these areas. While one might not agree entirely with all of Maser's ideas, they suggest many improvements over current practices and hold the seeds for alternative management approaches.

Chris Maser, Forest Primeval: The Natural History of an Ancient Forest, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1989.

In the style of the famous and well-loved "Year in the Life Of" books written by Victor Scheffer. Maser takes on the entire life of an ancient forest. Starting from the ground-up, the reader learns how conditions favorable to the development of the forests of the Pacific Northwest came into being. We see the sprouting of the trees ( 987 AD ). We pass through the growth of the young forest ( 1020 - 1099 ) into the development of a mature forest ( 1112 - 1228 ) and finally the emergence of the ancient forest ( 1988 ). This is still the forest of the Hoh River inside Olympic National Park. It was the forest of the lower Suiattle River, of the lower Whitechuck River, of the Snoqualmie at North Bend, and of the Duwamish in Seattle. It is a fascinating environment and one well worth learning about and protecting.

Elliot A Norse, Ancient Forest of the Pacific Northwest, The Wilderness Society, Island Press, Covelo, California, 1990.

We may know what we mean but when it comes down to defining it in management terms and in terms of inventories of forest types, there is a great debate. Norse has attempted to turn down the volume on the rhetorical debate by systematically researching ancient forest issues and separating fact from fiction. In a highly readable series of chapters, he discusses the ancient forests of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California in their global, national, and local significance. He addresses the biological value of the ancient forests and examines in detail the effects of timber operations and other threats to these forests. He then outlines a scenario for sustainable forestry in the Pacific Northwest. Needless to say, his vision is quite different from what we see driving through private, state, and federal forests areas today.

Keith Ervin, Fragile Majesty: The Battle for North America's Last Great Forest, The Mountaineers, Seattle 1989.

Ervin writes for The Weekly on natural resource issues. He brings his finely-honed journalist's skills to play on the difficult and quickly evolving story of the fight for protection of Pacific Northwest forests. Ervin does not neglect the biology and ecology of the ancient forests but his main emphasis is on what they have meant and mean to people through time. He not only brings the current controversies alive through interview with all the key persons but he weaves together the convoluted threads into a thoroughly informative and well-balanced story. This is a tremendous service to those who want to make sense out of the disjointed bits and pieces that are served up in piecemeal in the daily news. If you read any one of the books reviewed above, make it this one.

# AN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Grant McConnell, *Stehekin: A Valley in Time*  
The Mountaineers, Seattle, Washington, 1988

The Stehekin Valley is a special place for many NCCC members. For Grant McConnell, the river valley that runs from Cascade Pass east to the shores of Lake Chelan is more than that. In his reminiscence of years spent living in the valley he conveys his personal sense of place and time for a unique part of America's heritage. His is an invaluable perspective for those visiting, managing and living in the Stehekin Valley today.

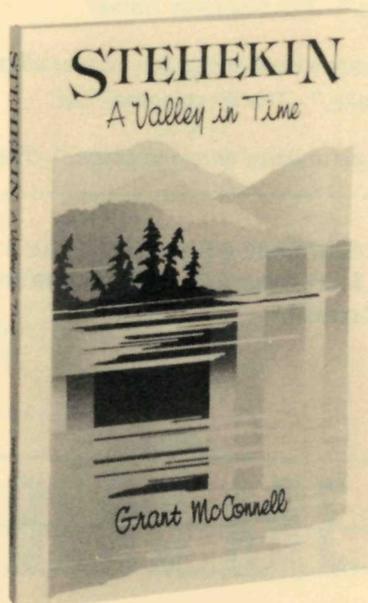
One can never return to Stehekin after reading this book without feeling humble about the history of the land and the people who occupied it over several generations. It is as though McConnell has given the gift of magic glasses to allow us to see beneath the waters and to read the deep pools, to see through the shadows and into the forested glades. He even brings the high peaks surrounding the valley into our vision.

Most importantly, McConnell establishes a visual and a cultural baseline from which to understand the mechanisms and impacts of change in the Stehekin Valley. His retrospective leaves off about the time the USFS began making proposals to log in the valley. The response was immediate, both locally and nationally. What was happening in Stehekin was a micro-cosm of the events incubating the birth of the environmental movement country-wide.

"The catalyst was direct experience of the degradation that was taking place.... Where before, the changes were so gradual that it was possible to be ignorant of what had been lost - and so not to miss it - the pace quickened so that it was visible.... In one place after another - places of special quality that spoke of timeless things - the assault came close. And spontaneously, it aroused an indignation of deep intensity."

The indignation over Stehekin initiated the North Cascades Conservation Council and then launched its efforts to protect the "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin". The rest is history. The rest is the future.

David Fluharty



## **STEHEKIN: A VALLEY IN TIME**

By Grant McConnell

McConnell captures with warmth, thoughtfulness and humor the unique people and quality of life he found in his early days in the valley. This is also the story of the valley itself, a sequestered beauty holding out against the ravages of time and progress.

**\$14.95**, clothbound

208 pages, 6" x 9"

Published by The Mountaineers, September 1988

### **Treat yourself or a friend and support the North Cascades Conservation Council.**

The Mountaineers will donate \$3.00 to the North Cascades Conservation Council for each copy of *Stehekin* ordered by or for a member.

**N3C Board Member Grant McConnell's bittersweet account of Stehekin's struggle for survival is receiving national acclaim:**

*"...An intimate portrait that tells of a Stehekin that is virtually a vanished world, but one worth defending from extinction. McConnell's books makes a vivid and compelling case for the values of wild places." --The Monterey Herald*

*"An ideal introduction to a rare locale and to the frontier ethos that held out there long after it had vanished downlake." --The Washington Post*

*"Finely written chronicle of an unusual time and place." --The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

Send me: \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *STEHEKIN* at \$14.95 each, plus \$1.50 postage per address (Washington residents add \$1.21 sales tax). Please make checks payable to **North Cascades Conservation Council**.

Ship book to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail to:** N3C, P.O. Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-1980; please allow two weeks for delivery.

# HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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

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

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

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