
The Wild Cascades

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SPRING 1995



LCNRA EIS DECISION EXPECTED IN JUNE

The Wild Cascades - Spring 1995

In This Issue

- 3** The President's Report
- 4** News Update
- 11** International Park: A Plot?
- Kevin Herrick
- 13** Mountain Loop Highway
- Rick McGuire
- 14** Land Trusts
- Phil Zalesky and Carolyn McConnell
- 17** North Cascades Glaciers Retreat
- Mauri S. Peltó
- 23** Letters
- Letters to NCCC and Response

Cover: Luna Cirque and the Pickets
- Walt Sellers Photo

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

Editor: Betty Manning

Editorial Committee:

Dave Brower

David Fluharty

Kevin Herrick

Carolyn McConnell

Jim McConnell

Phil and Laura Zalesky

Printing by EcoGraphics

The Wild Cascades is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall). NCCC members receive this journal. Address letters, comments, send articles to *The Wild Cascades* Editor, North Cascades Conservation Council, 1516 Melrose, Seattle, WA 98122



The Wild Cascades is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

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, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past third of a century the NCCC 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 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.

• Membership •

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These support publication of *The Wild Cascades* and lobbying activities. (NCCC is a non-tax-deductible 501(c)4 organization.) Membership dues for one year are: \$10 - low income/student; \$20 - regular; \$25 - family; \$50.00 - Contributing; \$100 - patron; \$1000 - sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500.

The North Cascades Foundation supports the NCCC's non-political efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization.

Please make your check(s) out to the organization of your choice. The Foundation can be reached through the NCCC mailing address:

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

The North Cascades Conservation Council Office is located at
1516 Melrose, Seattle, WA 98122
1-206-343-2312
Kevin Herrick,
Special Projects Coordinator



Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

NCCC Board

President - Marc Bardsley
Board Chairman - Pat Goldsworthy
Vice President - Charles Ehlert
Treasurer - Tom Brucker
Secretary - Phil Zalesky

Bruce Barnbaum
Dick Brooks
Dave Brower
Polly Dyer
Dave Fluharty
Mitch Friedman
Peter Hurley
Conrad Leovy
Harvey Manning
Betty Manning
Carolyn McConnell
Jim McConnell
Rick McGuire
Steve Ralph,
Ken Wilcox
Laura Zalesky

The President's Report

Spring 1995

We have all probably heard and read enough about the November election to last a lifetime. Mercifully, I have a different topic to run past you: the touchy subject of closing existing roads. Are we handling this correctly? I can't think of a more divisive topic. Everyone seems to have a slightly different opinion. NCCC in the past has generally favored pulling back roads when the occasion arises. Two major instances come to mind: the Suiattle River Road washed out a few years ago, leaving about 10 miles of the old road for foot, horse and bicycle traffic only. The controversy over reopening this road was very acrimonious, with the recreational and environmental community noticeably split. The road has since been opened by the U. S. Forest Service.

The Stehekin Road is a subject dear to us all. The decision on closing the upper part of this road has not been finalized by the National Park Service. Anything can happen, but our position has been for closure. The Mountaineers Board of Trustees voted to leave the Stehekin Road open despite their Conservation Committee recommendation for closure. After testifying at the hearing, a person I have climbed with and known for years, actually cursed at me in public because of our position on the road. I can handle it, but it does make you wonder. It seems like the subject of limiting existing access brings out emotions in people unlike other subjects — except maybe their taxes.

More road-closing scenarios are coming up in the near future. Is NCCC ready to deal with this? Some say that keeping access easier for recreationists creates more advocates for preservation of natural values. Many NCCC members want to begin the process of establishing "deeper" wilderness by closing off existing roads and allowing the roads to revert to trails. Others think that we should limit usage of key areas to protect the resources. Is our effort on other problems being degraded by these situations? NCCC membership needs to continue speaking up on this issue, as well as many others.

My point is this — How can we be more aggressive in advocating wilderness protection? Since we can't use "talk radio" to easily air our opinions, please write to the editor of *The Wild Cascades* with your ideas.

Marc Bardsley

NEWS UPDATE

EIS Public Hearing for LCNRA Plan Noisy

In scenes some NCCC veteran campaigners found familiar, the NPS heard from a strident public concerned about the future of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. NCCC, the local Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, National Parks and Conservation Association and many other organizations and individuals came to the Seattle hearing to ask the NPS to do all it can to protect and restore the Stehekin Valley.

In response, a number of property owners, airplane pilots and interested folks spoke in favor of more development and freedom from regulation. Senator Gorton was represented at the hearing by an aide with a letter from the Senator in which the common theme was "the Senator believes local interests should carry much greater weight than long-term national interests supporting protection of the valley."

New ALPS Trails to be Open to Mountain Bikes

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has released a set of alternatives under consideration for the new Beckler Peak-Alpine Baldy trail system. This project is intended to provide new hiking opportunities and alternatives to heavily used trails in the ALPS. Unfortunately, some of the alternatives under study would allow mountain bike use on part or all of the new trails to be constructed. Mountain bikes damage trails and present great hazard to hikers. The Skykomish district needs to hear from the public that we need hiker trails, not biker trails. Write. Address: U.S. Forest Service, Skykomish Ranger District, Skykomish, WA., 98288.

Skagit Hydro Development Threat

Nine small hydroelectric projects have been proposed for construction on tributaries of the Skagit River. Three of the projects, on Rocky, Diobsud, and Irene creeks, would intrude into roadless areas on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. All nine projects would divert free-flowing creeks into pipes to generate just a few megawatts of power, which could be obtained through conservation measures causing far less damage to the landscape of the North Cascades.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) held a hearing in Mt. Vernon on January 13, 1995 to receive public input on the

projects. A draft EIS has been issued covering the nine projects. A large number of people turned up at the hearing, and except for one hydro developer, testimony was strong and unanimous in opposition to all nine dams.

FERC staff have recommended against licensing four of the nine dams, a remarkable change for an agency which only a few years ago had never met a dam it didn't like. However, construction of any of these small hydro projects will open the door to more and more dams as years go by. If this process isn't stopped, we could wake up one day and find the North Cascades looking like the European Alps, where virtually every stream goes into a pipe. NCCC believes water should flow over rocks, not through pipes. Efforts must be made to stop these projects and keep our streams wild. A final EIS should be out later this year. NCCC will need to be closely involved.

Support Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Cascades— Oppose SB5106

—The choosing of appropriate wildlife management technique is a biological decision. SB5106 would circumvent technical experts. This is bad legislative practice and decision by amateurs.

—There is no reasonable expectation of increased migration of grizzly bears from Canada into Washington's Cascade Mountains.

—As written SB 5106 is an oxymoron. This bill would direct the WDF&W "...develop management programs that will encourage the natural regeneration of grizzly bears in areas of suitable habitat. Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state...(emphasis added). There is a very small resident population of grizzly bear in this area—estimated at only 10-20 animals. These same studies have shown this is NOT a viable population and is at serious risk of extinction. The population is so small its natural reproductive rate cannot keep up with natural mortality rate. Natural regeneration is not possible!

The only technique currently feasible for preventing extinction of this population is augmentation....This would mean a maximum of 10 bears in a ten-year period...and is likely more than could be done.

— We are all dependent on our natural resources for both economic and biologic survival. The presence of threatened or endangered wildlife species is clear indication of non-sustainable land use practices. Protecting threatened and endangered species is a act of self-preservation. Actively oppose SB5106.

Growth Management Ruling in Chelan County

The long campaign to protect Chelan County's critical habitat and agricultural lands reached a milestone in January when the Hearings Board found the county's agricultural and critical areas plans to be out of compliance with Washington's Growth Management Act.

County attorney Susan Hinkle offered a spirited but meager defense at the compliance hearing in the face of strong testimony from the Icicle Canyon Coalition, the state of Washington, the Yakama Indian Nation, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's Stephan Volker who represented NCCC and three Chelan County organizations. At one point during the hearing, Hinkle admitted that some of the county's arguments, "may sound pathetic to some people." Apparently the hearings board agreed. They upheld our arguments on critical lands and agricultural areas while allowing some very weak mineral and forest land plans to stand.

The board's ruling will now be passed on to Governor Mike Lowry who holds the power to impose sanctions on the county. Whether he does this is up to high politics. Some Republican politicians have vowed to roll back the Growth Management Act. At least one of the Chelan County Commissioners has clearly decided to hold up work on growth management in the hope that the act might disappear. If it does, we will be seeing more wetland and riparian areas disappearing through uncontrolled development.

Firewood Roads in Stehekin

In the October issue of *The Wild Cascades* we produced a map showing a number of roads leading into the proposed firewood cutting areas. The road locations were based on our past experience with National Park Service woodlots, National Park Service willingness to fund road improvements but not rehabilitation, and because the Draft General Management Plan fails to cover road-building and restoration issues, all of which led to the original NCCC lawsuit.

Since then, we have heard from NPS Chief of Resource Management Bruce Freet that new roads will not be constructed. However, the NPS leaves the door open to using old roads. Old firewood trails still cover the valley.

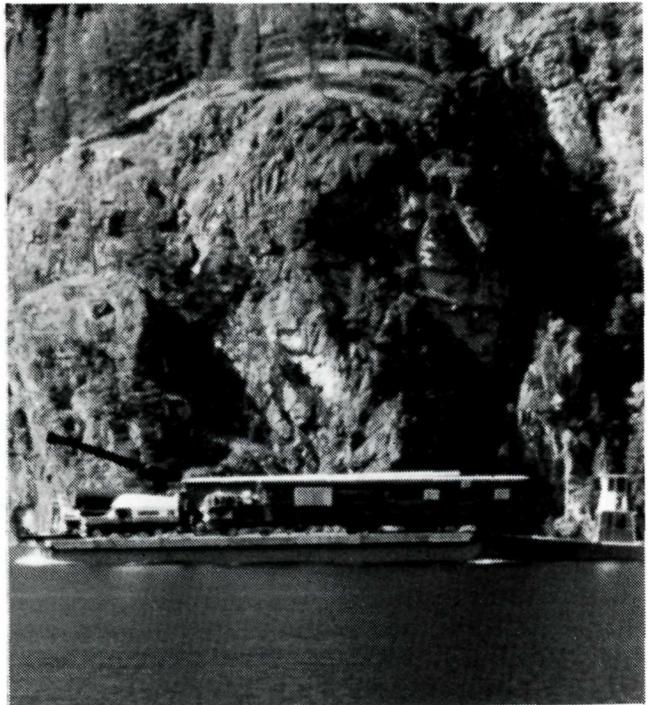
Dog Trekking Update

In the last issue of *The Wild Cascades*, we reported on the illegal but no doubt enjoyable trip a dog and his man took up to Cascade Pass last summer. The NPS has since explained why the dog failed to collect a citation for his journey into no-dog territory. Superintendent Bill Paleck told NCCC that law enforcement rangers

were distracted by the forest fires burning in the region at that time.

Tin Can Trailers Make Exit

At no cost to taxpayers, Superintendent Paleck managed to move the 1960s vintage trailers formerly used to house Park Service personnel out of the Stehekin Valley. A construction company repairing the Stehekin road bought the trailers in 1994 to house their employees. The sale agreement required the contractor to take the trailers when he left.



Barge carrying trailer downlake
—Dave Fluharty Photo

Condominium Cabins Proposed for Head of Lake Chelan

William Stifter of Spokane, owner-developer of the Loggers Point property at the head of Lake Chelan, has submitted designs to Chelan County Planning Department for building 14 condominium cabins on the property. Mr. Stifter's condominium project is a perfect example of why the free market never has and never will take care of our national heritage.

Loggers Point sits in middle of one of the premier views in the North Cascades. High glaciated peaks tower over the forested Stehekin valley. Stehekin is the end of a boat or float plane journey that takes people deep into the wild Cascades, and gateway to the heart of the North Cascades wilderness. At the moment condominiums and tennis courts are a safe 55 miles downlake in Chelan, and that is where they should remain.

The site is exceptionally steep. Preliminary maps show the deeply cut switchback road will have a grade reaching or exceeding 40 per cent. Fourteen condominium units will be sited at the head of the lake and there will be possible additional units and a lodge. The complex will be supported by a marina and a system that will pump sewage uphill to a drainfield.

To the Park Service's credit, Superintendent Paleck sent a letter to the Director of the Chelan County Planning Department outlining a number of concerns. The letter noted that "most of the upland portion of the property has a slope of 70-75 per cent. Only 2 acres appear to be in the 20-45 per cent slope class." Also noted were the lack of soils appropriate to large scale construction. Paleck concluded with, "As presented, we do not see how this proposal can be considered compatible with the purposes for which the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area was established."

—Kevin Herrick



Loggers Point, Stehekin —
Possible condo site?
—Kevin Herrick Photo

Congressional Parks Sellout?

After the November elections, Alaska Congressman Don Young and his Interior Committee, with support from organizations such as the Cato Institute, a free market think tank, have already laid plans to condemn parts of our national parks and wild areas by handing them over to private caretakers and underfunded local government.

His supporting cast includes Congressman Hansen of Utah who recently suggested that Congress create a "Park Closure Commission." Ron Arnold who directs the Bellevue, Washington, Center for Defense of Free Enterprise chimed in with the helpful suggestion that, "Up in Stehekin, for example, you might find a congressional mandate ordering park managers to repatriate land to the original owners." If talk radio politics maintain momentum into the summer, we could be facing a fight that will make the recent Lake Chelan General Management Plan look like a squirt gun fight.

The parks-for-sale plan is not the work of a few wacko politicians who slipped into Congress. Representative Young and Hansen are part of a well organized effort that binds local state and regional groups together under the common banner, Wise Use Movement. The movement has experienced phenomenal success on the county level, and during the November election it made impressive gains on the state and federal levels. Representative Young and Hansen's opening salvo aimed at parks is part of the radical right's attack of the very foundation of our public lands policy.

Two basic premises of the movement are that government should not regulate private lands, and, that public lands should be made private. James Watt, head of the the Department of Interior under the Reagan administration, proposed this move it was rejected. Today, the Watt gospel is being spread again.

—Adapted from Joel Connelly, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 1/3/95

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1995

National parks aren't for profit

The new chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee that oversees national parks is taking a confused approach to his responsibilities.

His task is to preserve the public's patrimony, not sacrifice it to private interests. But that's where he seems headed, and he, unfortunately, seems to be taking some members of this state's delegation with him down that foolish path.

Rep. James Hansen, R-Utah, has told private-property advocates that the nation's park system can be saved only by closing parks that "do not belong in the national park system." He wants to create a "Park Closure Commission."

Hansen didn't name names, but it's clear that little agreement will be found on which park is, as he put it, "the most deserving" of tax dollars. He notes that it costs \$900 million to provide visitors' services at the parks but the service only collects \$100 million in fees.

The idea, it appears on the surface, is to make the park system pay for itself. That will never happen. It was never intended to happen. The United States' national parks are its crown jewels, held in trust by the government. The parks belong to each citizen.

Furthermore, it would be a false economy to shove some parks or historical sites off onto the states, as Hansen suggests; it will not save taxpayers any money and he must well know that few states have resources to take on such an "unfunded federal mandate" — a practice, incidentally, that Hansen's party has vowed to end.

But he ignores all that in a letter he sent to members of the so-called "Wise Use" movement, which aims to end what, in an aberrant twist of logic, it likes to call the "lockup" of lands for public purposes — i.e., not their own private economic purposes.

None of this is to say that the Park Service cannot increase its entrance fees — or write even better contracts with its private concessionaires to bring in more revenue to Uncle Sam. If Hansen and his colleagues truly are determined to make the park service more profitable, ending government giveaways to concessionaires is an excellent place to start.

But it's more likely, as Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., contends, that quite another agenda is at work here: that of dismantling the public lands in the West to benefit private interests.

History of Holden Mine

Joe D. Dragovich

[Excerpted from *Washington Geology*, March 1994]

"In 1887 a rusty gossan, or area of weathered and oxidized metallic minerals, was observed by Major Rogers while searching the area west of Lake Chelan for a route for the Great Northern Railway. Rogers described the gossan to Mr. Denny of Seattle, who in 1892 outfitted J. H. Holden to evaluate the site. Holden staked claims in July 1892. . . In 1928, Britannia Mining and Smelting Co., a subsidiary of Howe Sound Co., took control of the property, which was explored and developed by another subsidiary, the Chelan Copper Mining Co. The subsidiary relationship was dissolved in 1937 and the Howe Sound Co. began production in 1938.

The Holden mine produced 10 million tons of ore, from which 212 million pounds of copper, 40 million pounds of zinc, 2 million ounces of silver, and 600,000 ounces of gold were extracted. . . The average ton of ore yielded 21.2 pounds of copper (1.06 per cent), 4 pounds of zinc (0.2 per cent), 0.2 ounces of silver, and 0.06 ounces of gold.

The mine was closed in 1957 when costs of operation exceeded the value of minerals recovered. The property was donated to a Lutheran church group in the early 1960s, and the town of Holden is now a church retreat group. . .

The Holden deposit. . . is only one of the known or potential such deposits in Washington. . . However, complex folding and metamorphism of the host rocks has precluded tracing (or even finding) individual deposits for great distances. New mapping by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Division of Geology and Earth Resources is helping identify some of the terranes that have potential. . ."



Holden Mine tailings (early 80s)
—Dave Fluharty Photo

Demos call for end to mining subsidies

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Several House Democrats yesterday proposed balancing the federal budget and helping the environment at the same time by ending \$3 billion in annual federal subsidies to the mining, livestock and timber industries.

"It is time for the resource industries to grow up and get off the federal bottle," Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., said in introducing the Public Resources Deficit Reduction Act of 1995.

"At a time when Congress is debating a balanced-budget amendment and threats to Social Security and Medicare, I am offering an opportunity to slash the budget by billions of dollars a year through elimination of federal subsidies that are long overdue for termination."

The bill would charge fair-market prices for grazing on federal range land and logging in national forests, to be phased in over five years.

Miners for the first time would pay a royalty for hard-rock minerals and irrigation farmers would face new restrictions on eligibility for other farm subsidies. Federally generated hydropower also would rise to market rates.

"We're going to end this Western welfare system and bring it into the reality of the free-market system and the balanced budget," said Miller, former chairman and current ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee.

Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the committee, already has voiced his opposition to Miller's bill. Similar reform proposals have failed in the Senate in recent years.

But Miller said yesterday majority Republicans in Congress cannot ignore the potential budget savings given proposed cuts in important government programs.

"They don't want to subsidize rent for poor working families but they will subsidize rent for cows on public lands," Miller said.

Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., a co-sponsor of the bill, said a balanced-

Estimated savings

Rep. George Miller of California, ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, estimated the following savings:

- Setting a hardrock mining royalty and severance tax, \$1.7 billion
- Terminating helium program, \$7 million
- Increasing grazing fees, \$150 million
- Stopping grazing fee rebate, \$6 million
- Eliminating free livestock feed, \$100 million to \$500 million
- Stopping below-cost timber sales, \$350 million
- Timber fund budget reforms, \$400 million to \$500 million
- Stopping subsidies for water for surplus crops, \$85 million
- Charging market price for communication sites, \$23 million
- Increasing oil and gas rental fees, \$6 million
- Establishing national park concessions policy, \$25 million
- Total: \$2.9 billion to \$3.4 billion

budget amendment to the Constitution would cause a \$50 million cut in Aid to Families with Dependent Children for his home county, while the federal grazing program loses more than \$50 million a year.

"Let's get our priorities straight," Vento said.

Miller proposed an 8 percent royalty on the hard-rock minerals, which he said would raise \$1.7 billion a year. He proposed a savings of up to \$850 million annually in government logging operations, partly by halting all timber sales that end up costing more than the revenue they return.

Miller said his committee last year identified a "cornucopia of subsidies showered on natural resource industries," some created a century ago to promote Western settlement.

NATIONAL PARKS

Congress must be stopped from selling off our land

I'm glad your editorial page is shining a spotlight on far-out ideas emerging from some of the new powers in Congress ("National parks aren't for profit," Jan. 11). The public will need that sort of service to make sure the lands that we hold as an American birthright are not deeded away from us in some Capitol Hill meeting room.

Rep. James Hansen, R-Utah, with his now-notorious proposal for a parks closure commission, is not the only one to watch. At a House of Representatives hearing recently, Rep. Joe Skeen, R-N.M., contended that Bureau of Land Management areas are not the property of all Americans and should be transferred to the states or even sold to those cattlemen using them for grazing. At a hearing last week, a series of witnesses from right-wing think tanks advocated selling off large chunks of our public lands, and Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., chairman of the Appropriations Committee, thanked them for their "eloquent" testimony at the "historical" hearing.

Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, is hoping to realize one of his dreams: turning the oil industry loose in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His allies include fellow Alaskan Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Drilling there would turn a coastal plain known as "America's Serengeti" into a sprawling industrial complex.

There is no factory producing land. As our population continues to grow — with a 50 percent increase projected over the next 45 years — our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges and other open space will become more precious than ever. Let's make sure we don't allow them to be dug up and sold off by a short-sighted government.

Steven Whitney

Northwest Regional Director

The Wilderness Society

Seattle P.I. 1-30-95

Seattle Times
Jan 28 1995

Travel Alert: Bring ID, Birth Certificate, or Passport when hiking in Okanogan County.



S.P-I 2-11-95

Okanogans thwart invasion

The Russians are coming! The... er, the United Nations is coming!" In a perfect sendup for a Hollywood comedy film, the patriots of paranoia up in Okanogan County sounded the call to arms to repel an armed invasion of U.N. troops coming across the border to undertake a house-to-house confiscation of citizens' guns.

Well, what was really going on up there Labor Day weekend was not so sinister, but perhaps as silly.

The Border Patrol was conducting a "secret" maneuver, using Army soldiers, to help do surveillance work for illegal border crossings.

But the project was secret no more when locals spotted a large encampment on the Similkameen River.

"It doesn't take a mental giant," county Sheriff Jim Weed said, "to figure out that people dressed as fishermen with all new equipment, out-of-state plates, new flannel shirts, clean baseball caps, all males with a good shave... are probably cops or the military."

Paranoia apparently ran deep in Okanogan that weekend. Ed Nelson, assistant chief of the regional Border Patrol office, at first

refused to believe it was really Weed on the phone demanding to know what was going on up on the Similkameen, until Weed told him, "Look, Ed, I've got a bunch of guys who want to go up and meet your guys with their guns... If you've got something going on, you need to let me know, because your super-secret sting is up."

And the paranoia lingers still. Bill Shoenmaker, commander of the new Lake Chelan Citizens' Militia, declares to reporters that there really were U.N., one-world-government troops "getting ready to run a house-to-house search up there, which apparently they gave up because it was exposed before it happened... We have photographs!"

But he won't show them to reporters.

Right. You can sleep well tonight, Washington state, knowing the good folks up in the Okanogan are armed to the teeth and ready to repel the U.N. hordes should they clamor across the border to take away your Uzis.

But then again, as Sheriff Weed says, "If you were going to invade the United States, why the hell would you start in Okanogan County?"

Pasayten — Harvey Manning Photo

International Park—A United Nations Takeover Plot?

Kevin Herrick

The environmentalists and bankers are plotting with the UN to take over the North Cascades, kick everyone out of their homes and towns, and only let the bright and wealthy people in to play. Don Kehoe, anti-park activist, has been telling crowds from Everett to Omak that this is true. For environmental activists and a few reporters covering the story, the only thing more bizarre than Don's story is that some people seem to believe him.

Last fall, I sat in a middle school cafeteria filled with people drinking in Don's every word. I suppose I could have told everyone what was really up. But the open microphone, red hot from talk of the need to form a militia to protect good people from the invasion led by the coalition (George Bush, the Jews, the bankers, the UN and the duped enviros), wasn't too inviting to a lone enviro. And the three guys sitting behind me kept talking about organizing to kick enviro-butt each time the orators on stage talked about organizing to win politically. So, I sat tight and brought home a commemorative bumper sticker that said, "A vote for a Democrat is a vote for a Socialist."

About the international park, Mr. Kehoe is about 1 per cent right. A group of citizens are forming an ecosystem protection plan, but it has little to do with the United Nations, electric fences, or a cabal of bankers. A coalition of U.S. and Canadian environmental groups, the Cascade International Alliance (CIA) is very interested in pursuing a 100-year-old idea, a Cascade International Park. The CIA's goal is to recognize the common treasure we share in the North Cascades and to ensure that we take care of our treasure to the best of our ability. A number of U.S.-Canadian international parks are already in existence. Glacier/Waterton International Park in Montana is the most famous.

The International Park and Special Management Area Plan for the North Cascades is still in the formative stages. The focus is to get the governments and bureaucracies to coordinate their differing land management practices under the common understanding that together they are all taking care of our North Cascades ecosystem.

Canada and the U.S have hammered out some basic foundation points recently.

- Only publicly owned lands will be included.
- Land will continue to be managed by present land management agencies (i.e., the NPS will not take control of Forest Service areas).
- An international park-core -protected area (mostly present park and wilderness land) will maintain basic habitat needs for wildlife.

— A surrounding special management area (Forest Service and Crown land) resource extraction will be conducted in a manner that is sustainable and not harmful to the long term health of the North Cascades plants and wildlife.

In terms of public use and recreation of the North Cascades, this is not a radical plan. People will continue to hike, horsepack, and yes, hunt and ATV. In terms of overall land management, the international park and special management strategy is revolutionary.

The CIA proposes a holistic approach: viewing the North Cascades through the eyes of the wolf, bear, lynx, and salmon. A unified agency is not needed; a unified understanding and vision of the North Cascades is.

Support for the plan is growing. The Ecology-Theology Task Force of the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle recently endorsed the international park and special management area concept. Once a draft plan is completed interested groups can move beyond concept endorsement toward action.

The last 50 years of park and wilderness work has left us with the basic building blocks to protect the North Cascades ecosystem. Today, it is ours to keep or lose.



Activists New Tune In the West: This Land Is Our Land

By Brad Kalcherbocker

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

ASHLAND, ORE.

VOTERS in Coos Bay, Ore., soon may get the chance to decide whether to take over federal land and arrest government employees for trespassing.

"We don't want to be a colony of the rest of the United States," says John Shank, head of the ad hoc group Empower US that gathered signatures for such a ballot initiative in this coastal community traditionally populated with loggers and mill workers.

While congressional Republicans and President Clinton jockey over the transfer of some government programs to the states, many out West are pushing for something far more radical: control if not outright ownership of hundreds of millions of acres of territory owned by Uncle Sam.

Western lawmakers are drafting bills in the US House and Senate that would offer hundreds of millions of acres of federal land to their states.

Another proposal in Congress could lead to a "Park Closure Commission" similar to the military base closure commission. This envisions focusing federal resources on some national parks while turning others over to state control.

Legislators in five states (most recently California) have passed resolutions citing the US Constitution to assert sovereignty over federal land. About a dozen more states are moving in this direction.

See LAND page 5

Some Western States Seek Sovereignty Over US Land

LAND from page 1

Several hundred Western counties have passed "home rule" resolutions forcing federal agencies to pay more attention to local customs and economic interests in managing federal land.

"It's really getting to be a powerful movement," says Mike Kelley, a retired police officer from Oroville, Calif., who pushed for home rule of federal land in Butte County.

In some rural areas, this has led to confrontation in meeting rooms and out in the countryside.

A commissioner in Nevada last March used a gentle persuader - a county bulldozer - to knock down three miles of fence around federal land.

The Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, a reform-minded group of whistle-blowers and

retired naval officer who heads the effort in Coos County, Ore., which is 51 percent federal land.

"We're satisfied that we are as capable of managing the lands in our county as anybody in Illinois or Delaware or New York," says Shank. "This is an issue whose time has arrived."

Across the West, federal agencies control much - in some cases most - of the territory within state borders. Some of this is in national parks, wilderness, and other areas set aside for conservation and public enjoyment. But most of it is held by two agencies that trace their roots to westward expansion.

These are the US Forest Service (part of the Agriculture Department) - which oversees forested areas for timber production, recreation, and environmental protection - and the Bureau of Land Management (part of the Interior Department), which got the arid land left over after homesteaders picked the best range land and railroads chose their routes.

Between them, the Forest Service and BLM are landlords for some 700 million acres.

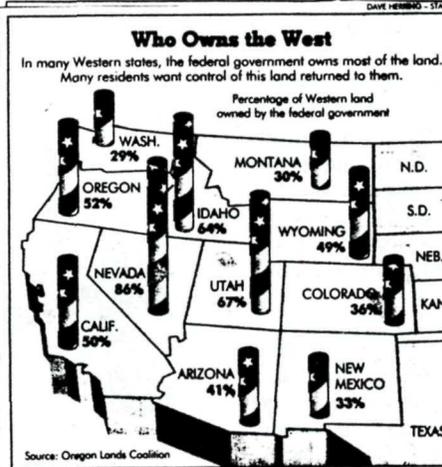
Control of such lands became a political big deal when Congress started passing major environmental legislation about 20 years ago, after which federal-land managers began imposing new regulations on such traditional activities as logging, mining, and ranching.

'As we looked at what was happening [in] the West, we didn't just want to make a statement, we wanted to make something happen.'

- John Shank

other federal workers, has filed suit in federal court challenging a home-rule ordinance in Walla Walla County, Wash.

"As we looked at what was happening throughout the West, we didn't just want to make a statement, we wanted to make something happen," says Mr. Shank, the



For the most part, environmentalists say, agencies like the Forest Service and BLM have stayed too cozy with the industries they're supposed to oversee. (Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recently backed off a proposal to raise grazing fees on federal land.)

But many rural Westerners feel corralled by federal bureaucrats' efforts to protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems. And they resent the heavy hand of Uncle Sam felt particularly in the West. "Other states aren't half-owned by the federal government," complains a

congressional aide from Wyoming.

For the moment, it seems that most historical thinking and case law is running against home-rule activists.

"I recognize that those are publicly owned lands," Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt (R) reportedly told a recent meeting of the Western Governors Association, which he chairs. "The argument has passed us in terms of who owns the lands."

But others insist that the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution (reserving to the states "the powers not delegated to the United States") opens the possibility of a state takeover.

"The 10th Amendment movement may be America's last chance to peacefully get Congress to obey the Constitution," conservative economist Walter Williams warned

in a recent syndicated column. "Politicians have seriously underestimated public anger and are blind to the rebellion spreading across the land."

While home-rule activists in the West are eager to disengage from Uncle Sam, their representatives in Congress are moving more deliberately.

One concern is the potential loss of federal revenue from natural resources at a time when the push is on to balance the US budget. Says one Republican congressional source: "That's a key question, a really key question."

MOUNTAIN LOOP: Child of North Cascade Highway?

Rick McGuire

Visitors to the Darrington Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest may one day have a more high-speed forest experience if the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Forest Service have their way and pave, relocate, and "improve" the Mountain Loop road.

The Mountain Loop road (or "highway") as the Forest Service and D.O.T. prefer to call it) runs from Verlot to Darrington. The portion between Verlot and Barlow Pass was paved decades ago, but the route from Barlow north to Darrington remained for many years an unpaved forest road tunneling through the trees. But in the early 1980s the Forest Service and D.O.T. relocated the stretch from Darrington to the Whitechuck River, building an entirely new highway on the west side of the Sauk River, wide, straight and open, with huge swaths cleared on either side. The speed limit signs may say 35 m.p.h., but everything else about this road says 60, and few vehicles travel slower.

Now the Forest Service and D.O.T. are proposing to finish the job and build the same kind of highway from the Whitechuck River south to Barlow Pass, a distance of about 15 miles to enhance motorized recreation, and be a "net benefit," to the environment.

This will no longer be a quiet forest road, but a true highway, with major impacts on the landscape. One need only look at the Darrington-Whitechuck segment to see what the Forest Service and D.O.T. would build. As well as removing or altering thousands of acres of habitat (apparently home to a sizable number of marbled murrelets), the whole character of this still quiet valley will be changed, bisected by yet another, wide, high-speed asphalt corridor.

Even the supposed benefit of relocating the road away from the river may not materialize. Some Forest Service personnel have indicated their desire to retain the present road in addition to the new one, to create more opportunities for "roaded recreation."

Another unknown factor is cost of maintenance once this highway is built. The new pro-development Snohomish County Council has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Forest Service that the county will take over and maintain the road, once built. The dollar amount is sure to be substantial.

NCCC opposes the transformation of this peaceful valley into one more highway corridor. This will not be an easy project to stop. Much of the area to be traversed is a "late successional reserve" under the Clinton Forest Plan ("Option Nine"). Just what this designation does or does not mean will be tested by efforts to stop the road. The ripping up of so much known marbled murrelet habitat may offer grounds for opposition if the Endangered Species Act survives.

The surest way to stop this road would be to organize a groundswell of public opposition. The Forest Service and D.O.T. have been slowed down in their efforts to expand the Mather Memorial Parkway near Mt. Rainier by a determined band of citizen activists. That project is also within a "late successional reserve," and is currently being challenged in court on that basis. The outcome of that case will bear greatly on whether the Mountain Loop project can be stopped.

Somewhat stung by the ferocity of the opposition to the Mather project, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor Dennis Bschor has given verbal assurance to conservationists that "serious consideration" will be given to the no-action alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mountain Loop project. Time will tell if he really means it. While perhaps not quite of the earth-shattering magnitude of the North Cascades Highway, the Mountain Loop could turn into its direct descendant. The release date of the EIS is uncertain at present, but it will be up to NCCC and other conservation groups to vigorously oppose this project when it comes out. Watch these pages for further updates.



Land Trusts: Do They Work?

Phil Zalesky and Carolyn McConnell

The inadequacy of the old remedy of setting aside park enclaves for protecting ecosystems is becoming ever-more apparent. Man-made borders look increasingly ridiculous and irrelevant as environmental damage swells to global proportions. The threats to Yellowstone's geysers and the air pollution that fills the Grand Canyon demonstrate how illusory park borders are.

It is a cruel irony that at the same time that the need for solutions to environmental problems is exploding, money for these solutions is drying up. Funding for federal land acquisition is shrinking, while population growth and land scarcity put increasing development pressure on open lands. Park set-asides and government land acquisition cannot meet the need for protection of whole ecosystems.

As the title of the recent conference on the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem implied, nature doesn't know from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, Canadian Provincial Parks, and private lands. The bureaucratic morass is difficult enough for a lawyer to negotiate, let alone a grizzly.

A crucial element in the movement to recognize the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem and designate a North Cascades International Park, along with developing cooperation between a multitude of government agencies on both sides of the border, is protection of private lands throughout the ecosystem. The restoration of grizzlies in the North Cascades, for example, requires land corridors linking grizzly populations in the Selkirks in British Columbia with Washington's Cascades, but it is unrealistic to expect the federal government to buy up the private lands to complete these corridors. Notwithstanding Chuck Cushman's claims to the contrary, the Greater Ecosystem Alliance and supporters don't plan to see that the government buys up all the land within the Greater Ecosystem and kicks all humans out, but neither do they mean to allow the sacrifice of the non-government components of the ecosystem.

Among other innovative solutions are land trusts. A land trust is a private, non-profit organization which serves as a land saving partner of the public through land purchase, conservation easements, and land management.

Bonnie Cohen, assistant secretary for policy, management, and budget for the Interior Department, called land trusts "the most significant development in recent federal land acquisition practices" — even though land trusts are private, non-governmental organizations. In a time when the federal budget climate is dour and worsening, yet the concept of ecosystem management is finally being beaten into thick bureaucratic heads, private land trusts offer partnerships to a federal government that is finally willing yet unable to do what it ought in land set asides. While the federal government has yet to do so, ten states have formalized their partnerships with land trusts by setting up programs to provide direct funding to these non-profits.

The expanding importance of land trusts marks a growing awareness that local participation is a crucial element of preservation. While national parks are established federally from Washington, D.C. and administered by bureaucrats whose tenure in each park is usually only three to five years, land trusts are locally run and focused. "Land trusts represent a movement from the bottom up, communities and individuals organizing to preserve their own particular natural and cultural heritage," said Cohen.

The most common tool used by land trusts is the conservation easement. A conservation easement is a restriction on development of a property designed to protect natural qualities of the land. Conservation easements can establish buffers along waterways, provide for public access to open space, or set the density and locations of buildings. When an easement is established, the land remains fully private but the easement ensures that the land is protected no matter who buys or sells the property. With a land trust holding the conservation easement, the land is preserved forever (or as near as humanly possible).

Land trusts can also be active land stewards, inventorying populations of crucial species, restoring native species and eliminating invasive aliens, and otherwise caring for the land. As part of permit agreements, developers can pay land trusts to manage the restricted portions of land.

Land trusts also purchase property, fee simple, when government money is lacking, and/or hold land until the government funding becomes available. Land trusts are unencumbered by the bureaucratic red tape that mires government land acquisition even when money is available.

In other cases, landowners may sell or give land trusts property while holding a life tenancy, saving themselves considerable taxes.

What is so unique about the land trust idea is that it sees development — profit — and preservation not as contradictory but going hand in hand. A successful land trust settlement allows the developer to develop, the public to enjoy open space, and preserves ecosystems. Preservation of natural qualities can increase the value of the remaining unrestricted portion of the land, both of individual parcels and of neighborhoods, since lovely lakes, meadows, forests, clean water, birds, and wildlife are all desirable amenities.

At a recent land trust conference, Stephen J. Small, author of *Preserving Family Lands*, shocked the audience when he said, "For the first time in the history of the United States, the family that just wants to leave the land to the children may not be able to do so." The drastic rise in land values, a rise which has been especially dramatic in North Cascades areas such as Snohomish County, not only provides massive temptation to cash-poor but land-rich farmers and children of landowners, but incurs staggering federal and state estate taxes. On land worth over \$600,000, heirs must pay confiscatory inheritance tax rates of 15 to 20 percent. That money must be paid within nine months of close of probate, but may seek an IRS extension. Many heirs could not possibly pay these taxes. For example, a private forest property worth \$2 million will lead to inheritance taxes of \$588,000. The children can't come up with that money within a year, and the land is sold in sections, or whole hog, to a developer to meet the estate tax demands. The family may later be shocked to see forests give way to clearcuts, and then to bleak commercial developments or dense rows of tract homes.

But by giving a conservation easement to a non-profit land trust, landowners can avoid not only estate taxes for their heirs, but a portion of their own income tax. They can reap tidy tax breaks by reducing the taxable value of the land, ensure that their children retain their patrimony, and protect the land from development. In addition, recent changes in the tax law, abolishing the Alternative Minimum Tax, make these gifts even more attractive, in some cases doubling the tax savings.

Land trusts recognize that landowners and developers are not necessarily rapacious, greedy capitalist pigs. They may want to preserve the land but be unable to, or at least only require a little incentive to make preservation worth their while.

An example of what can be done with land trusts is the settlement recently negotiated between the Snohomish County Land Trust and landowner Mark Tipperman. Tipperman purchased 102 acres on the Little Pilchuck River. The property encloses two beaver ponds, and, according to an inventory by Ruth Milner of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Stewardship Program, contains a large variety of trees and plants and over 100 species of mammals and birds.

Tipperman plans to sell the land in five 20-acre lots with one home on each lot. The easement he negotiated with the Snohomish County Land Trust spelled out precisely where the homes could be built and the boundaries of residence areas. He placed approximately 70 acres around and including the ponds and stream in a "native growth conservation area." This is part of the restricted land use of each owner's 20 acres and helps to make the entire easement a wildlife preserve. For example, the beaver have a 300-foot buffer next to the ponds to permit undisturbed use of the deciduous trees they need. The sole access roads to the lots have been designated in the easement. Other restrictions placed limits on tree cutting, grazing, and other exploitative uses of natural resources.

A particularly dramatic land trust negotiation was recently settled in the Santa Lucia Mountains near Monterey, California, where the Trust for Public Land and a private developer agreed to set up an 18,000-acre private reserve as part of plans to develop one of the few remaining open spaces in an area with some of the highest land values in the country. Purchase of the land by the government or a land trust was simply not feasible, but the establishment of the easement and preserve protects 90 percent of the property and provides for public access, while the developer can build 300 homes on the land, selling each for a whopping \$1 million because of the prestige and beauty of living in a nature preserve.

This example demonstrates the difficult issues raised by land trusts. In becoming a part of development plans, is the Trust for Public Land supporting development? Is the Trust participating in creating more exclusive havens for the super-rich? Perhaps, but without this partnership the entire property would have been built up without concern for wildness or public access and the possibility of preservation gone forever.

In King County, bonds were recently issued to fund preservation of open space by purchasing development rights. This is another means of preserving land short of outright land purchase.

The NCCC is already playing a role in these innovative land protection programs. As part of Seattle City Light's settlement with the NCCC, state and federal agencies, and tribal interests, the utility agreed to spend \$17 million to acquire wildlife habitat on the Nooksack and Skagit Rivers in mitigation of the dams which the utility is seeking to relicense. Seattle City Light last year spent a portion of that money purchasing 1,061 acres of eagle habitat from Crown Pacific to add to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area, a preserve established and managed by the Nature Conservancy, a land trust, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Following City Light's purchase, the Nature Conservancy purchased another 320 acres from Crown Pacific. This land was originally part of the purchase agreement between Crown Pacific and City Light, but the utility could not buy the property at the time and asked the Conservancy to buy the land, which will be transferred to the utility this year.

The ecosystem concept is a new one, and as organizations such as the NCCC and the Greater Ecosystem Alliance fight to put the idea into practice, they need to focus on innovative, creative forms of land protection. A crucial new means is land trusts. Perhaps we need a Greater North Cascades Ecosystem Land Trust.

If galloping environmental destruction has taught us anything, it should be humility. We know so very little what reverberations through ecosystems each vaunted new solution will have that no new trick should be embraced as the end to all our woes. It is precisely the flexibility and modest aims of land trusts that make them so promising. In these times of tough choices, we have to try whatever works.

o o o

THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST

Box 327, Lopez Island, WA 98261 - 360-468-3202

Quoted from the Newsletter of the San Juan Preservation Trust: Fall, 1994

Land Preservation Briefs: . . . The Trust received a wonderful gift from a couple that just built a new house in the islands. They said, "We're sending the Trust a check for 1 % of the value of the new house we just constructed. By building a home in the islands, we know we take away some habitat and want to help preserve what's left. We hope this gift may be an example for others who build in the islands." . . . We continue to mail out *Voluntary Land Conservation in the San Juan Islands: A Landowner's Guide* to every new property owner. This program is done in cooperation with the Land Bank and generous support from Horizons Foundation. We plan to publish before year end our new booklet, *A Place in the Islands*. It shows how private landowners can and will shape the future of the San Juans. . . It emphasizes the importance of lines in the landscape, living with wildlife, marshes and ponds, island traditions, and careful home siting."

Vital Statistics

The San Juan Preservation Trust at Work

Number of Conservation Easements	80
Number of Parcels Owned in Fee	15
Total Acres Under Trust Programs	6078
Miles of Shoreline Protected	12.9
Members of the Trust (1993-1994)	997

o o o

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

In Washington the Trust for Public Land has conserved the following, according to its publication, *Land and People*, Annual Report, 1994.

Bogachiel River. 658 acres in Jefferson County to the Olympic National Forest.

Chuckanut Mountain. 122 acres in Whatcom County to the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Double Bluff (Whidbey Island). 3 acres in Island County to Island County Parks.

Guillemot Cove (east side of Hood Canal) 158 acres in Kitsap County to Kitsap County Parks.

Lake Cassidy. 188 acres in Snohomish County to Snohomish County Parks.

Long Lake (Spokane area). 663 acres in Spokane County to Washington State Parks. *Meadowbrook Farm*. 397 acres in King County to cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie.

Okanogan Mule Deer Corridor. 1,045 acres in Okanogan County to the State of Washington Mule Deer Winter Range.

Rattlesnake Mountain. 1,800 acres in King County to King County and the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources - the centerpiece of the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Squak Mountain. 320 acres in King County to Washington State Parks. A key link in the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Tukwila Pond. 25 acres in King County to city of Tukwila.

Recent Retreat of North Cascade Glaciers Affect North Cascade Rivers

Mauri S. Pelto

EDITOR: The work of the North Cascades Glacier Climate Project, established in 1983 by Dr. Mauri S. Pelto, geologist, is funded by grants from water resource users, private foundations and public interest groups. The project purpose is to support all water resource users. For more information on his project at Nichols College, including a list of bibliographic materials on his research, write Dr. Pelto at Nichols College, Dudley, MA. 01571.



Whiteout on Ermine Glacier, Glacier Pk.
Cliff Hedlund (left) and Mauri Pelto (1994)
— Pelto Photo

Dr. Pelto is collecting for a future record archive photographs with descriptions and dates, of glaciers in the North Cascades. He recently received 200 21"x 24" black and white photos of North Cascade glaciers from Austin Post, retired USGS glaciologist, as well as other photographers. Pelto writes that the collection is nearing completion, but still needs data and photographs from people who have hiked in the Snowking-Buckindy area during the 1960s. The location of the exhibit-to-be has not yet been decided upon.

Introduction

The North Cascade Glacier Climate Project (NCGCP) was established in 1983 to monitor changes in climate that affect glaciers and glacial runoff. As director of the project since 1983, I have had the opportunity to visit 143 North Cascade glaciers. I have focused my research on the North Cascades because of their economic importance. Each summer I hire several assistants from universities in the Pacific Northwest. The teaching, training, and working with new people each year is an important part of the work, and introducing others to the beauties of the mountains only adds to my enjoyment.

There are now approximately 725 glaciers in the North Cascades. The glaciers are unique in their high mountain settings because of their beauty, power, and inaccessibility. More importantly these glaciers provide 25 per cent of the North Cascade region's total summer water supply.

The primary goal of the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project today and the main reason for this article is to communicate to water resource managers changes now occurring in glacier runoff and why these changes have occurred. It is apparent that we can no longer manage our water resources without considering changes in glacier runoff.

During the dry months of June-September North Cascade glaciers release approximately 230 billion gallons of water annually. Today this water is nearly fully utilized for irrigation and power generation, and still the demands on North Cascade streams is ever increasing.

In the North Cascades a comparison of the long-term (1950-1980) and short-term (1985-1993) mean monthly temperature and monthly precipitation from the eight North Cascade mountain weather stations

illustrates three important climate changes for the 1985-1993 period: (1) The ablation season mean temperature (May-September) has been 1.9°F above the long-term mean. (2) Winter precipitation has been 1 per cent below the long-term mean. (3) Mean April-June temperature is 2.3°F above the long-term mean. This climate change has noticeably affected North Cascades glaciers and streamflow as review of data from the 1994 field season in the following pages will show.

1994 Field Season—The Expedition

Sweeping over the North Cascades the plane descends. My first glimpse of this summer's snowpack on Mount Stuart and Mount Daniels glaciers appear good. No blue ice is showing. Emerging from the plane in Seattle I search the gathering for that type of person willing to work three weeks in all kinds of conditions on glaciers. It is remarkably easy to pick them out of the crowd. We quickly escape urban Seattle and head to Monroe, where we buy supplies for the first week. It is interesting to go shopping for food immediately after first meeting someone.

In the cool of the evening, after ascertaining that our packs weigh less than 45 pounds, Cliff Hedlund, my new assistant*, and I head up the trail to Lake Blanca. Switchbacks are ignored by discussing any and every topic to get to know one another, and to take our minds off the effort. Mist and clouds veil mountain tops and darkness settles in as we reach Virgin Lake. We descend to Lake Blanca and set up camp. The peace and solitude of the high Cascades soothes away the hectic pace of the day. In the morning it's backpack biathlon (fallen tree hurdles, sapling limbo, slippery log balance beam) around the lake to base camp.

By afternoon we are at work on the Columbia Glacier. We first measure stream flow. This requires fording and refording the frigid stream, measuring stream depth every meter on several transects. The experience is made more bearable by neoprene kayak socks. The velocity, water depth, and stream width are all measured to determine total glacier runoff. Velocity in these turbulent alpine streams is best assessed using food dyes. Columbia Glacier alone yields an average of 8 million gallons each summer day, providing a substantial portion of the total flow of the North Fork Skykomish River. This morning flow is 160-gallons/second. Factors determining amount of glacier runoff are climate conditions, glacier size, and the extent and depth of snowpack. Identifying the latter two are the primary focus of our glacier measurements.

A photo is taken from a benchmark location to measure the change in glacier size, and terminus change. Terminus change is measured from fixed benchmark locations to the end of the glacier at three locations. This is the dirtiest task requiring scrambling across ice-cored moraines and through glacial "quicksand" (saturated glacial clay often deposited near a glacier terminus) and boulder hopping up the beds of the glacial outlet streams.

The most time-consuming task is measurement of the extent and depth of the remaining snowpack on the glacier, in order to determine the mass balance of the entire glacier. Mass balance is a comparison of annual snow accumulation versus annual snow and ice melt. With copper probes we measure snowdepth every 50 feet along specific transects across the glacier. This allows for a good rate of ascent. After 50 feet a rest is in order. One of us pounds the probe through the snowpack until last year's summer surface (or blue ice) is reached. In either case this icy layer cannot be penetrated, and in a matter of several minutes we can determine snow thickness at each point. Where crevasses appear, we drop a rope down the crevasse and measure the distance down to the first dirty ice layer — the previous summer surface. This is even faster for determining snowpack thickness than probing. We must appear a bit demented to occasional passersby, going from crevasse to crevasse, intently peering down into each one. It is a world apart here, working slowly across the glacier examining every area of the glacier's surface. We are not in a hurry; this is home. The day slips by. In the early morning we return to the Columbia Glacier, ascending the lateral moraine emplaced during the Little Ice Age. A cold night leaves the glacier surface frozen. Streamflow is again checked; it's 140 gallons per second. We climb the glacier again measuring snow depth as we go.

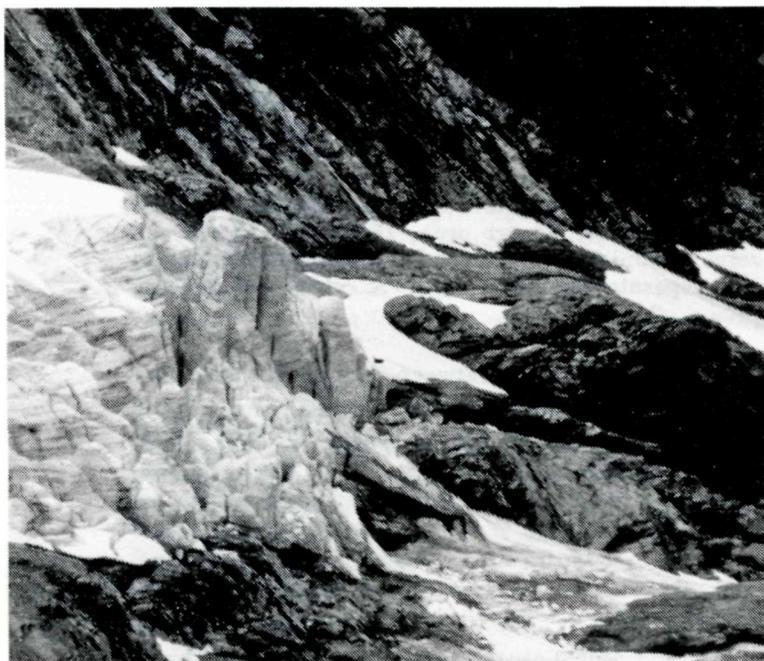
At the head of the glacier we practice climbing, descending, and self-arrest, all enroute to Monte Cristo Pass. I for one do not find ice-axe self-arrest a natural or intuitive motion and need to practice each year. Since we never rope up it is an essential skill. Over the pass we drop to the end of the Wilmon Glacier to check its terminus position. Glacier Basin appears below out of the mist, deserted for the moment. The solitude of the day has been refreshing. During the descent to the terminus we check the wooden stakes previously drilled into the glacier to measure the amount of icemelt that has occurred during the summer. These stakes are then repositioned, using an ice augur, to spend another year locked in the ice. We have now determined the size of the glacier, the depth and extent of the snowpack, and with existing climate records glacier runoff can be estimated. Our ability to accurately estimate glacier runoff is determined through comparison with actual runoff measurements.

The next evening finds us on Ptarmigan Ridge at Camp Kiser. I learned very quickly that all hikes into and out of the North Cascade alpine areas are best accomplished in the early morning or evening hours. Not only is the heat usually intolerable during the day, but the flies are often horrendous. Fortunately the flies go to bed about 6 p.m. and do not awaken until 9 a.m. or so, and are seldom found above treeline. The next morning we ski down the Sholes Glacier from Camp Kiser to check its rapidly retreating terminus. The suncups are still frozen, making turns difficult on our cross-country racing skis, so we opt for a rapid traverse.

Sholes Glacier is not so much retreating as it is thinning in place. Thinning is best identified using mass balance measurements, it is also evidenced by a reduction in crevassing. During the early stages of thinning a glacier's area is often decreasing only slightly. Thinning eventually leads to slower glacier movement, stagnation, and then the rapid loss of the entire terminus areas. This is currently happening on many glaciers including the Sholes, Whitechuck, Foss, and Three Fingers.

After ascending the Sholes to the Portals we ski down onto the Rainbow Glacier on Mount Baker. There are innumerable yawning crevasses on the upper Rainbow Glacier. We spend the rest of the morning skiing up, down and around its crevasses, approaching each one, lowering the rope and calling out the snow thickness. This usually requires a person on each side of the crevasses. I am glad to have skis on, given the number of snow bridges and size of the crevasses we must approach. I have two simple rules for my assistants: stay in my tracks and no falling allowed. By lunchtime we have measured more than 100 crevasses and it is time to descend toward the terminus. The cool down-glacier wind that blows unceasingly makes this a very pleasant area even on the warmest summer days. The wind also suppresses suncups making this the best summer skiing one can find. We do not interrupt our turns on the descent for measurements until the snowline is reached more than 1500 feet down-glacier.

Below the snowline running water courses everywhere across the blue ice of the glacier surface. Descending the Rainbow Glacier with crampons we are in an area others do not visit, being a relatively inaccessible valley well below any climbing routes. In some places glacier streams have cut channels 10-20 feet into the surface of the glacier, a good indication of a retreating glacier as is decreased crevassing. An advancing glacier would have more numerous crevassing and movement preventing the erosions of these meltwater streams.



Moderately active Neve Glacier (1991) — Pelto Photo

The terminus has much debris frozen into its surface and is a deadly area from rockfall. We quickly measure from the terminus to the moraine that the glacier made during its last advance which ended in the late 1970s. The moraine is identifiable by the fact that beyond it there is vegetation flourishing, and fine grained sediments are not coating most surfaces. Rainbow Glacier has retreated 116 meters since 1984 when it was still in contact with the advance moraine.

Each summer I examine one area that is not on my annual agenda. This year it is the north side of Glacier Peak. In the evening we hike into Kennedy Hot Springs without sampling the Springs. The next morning we ascend to the Ptarmigan Glacier region (not Ptarmigan Ridge) and set up base camp. In the ensuing four days we check the terminus position and snow depth on the Ptarmigan, Vista, Ermine, Dusty, Kennedy and Scimitar Glaciers. The most exciting discovery for me this day was of white flowering fireweed. I did not know this plant existed, and have since learned the Washington Native Plant Society had been looking for a specimen of it.

The Milk Lake Glacier is prominent on our maps, but in 1994 is just a group of icebergs floating in Milk Lake. The thinning glacier collapsed completely in 1992 or 1993 and the bergs will melt away in the

next year or two, another glacier gone. All the glaciers on Glacier Peak are retreating (Table 1). The snowline is high this summer at nearly 8500 feet, just as it has been the last two years, and it is obvious the rapid retreat will continue in the near future, just as has occurred on many North Cascade glaciers recently.

The usefulness of our copper probe for snow-bridge examination is borne out daily. We have found that ice axes are only moderately accurate at determining snow bridge viability. I demonstrate this to Cliff and Jarle Seche Jensen (who has joined us for a day in the field,) on a snow bridge showing that an ice axe thrust into it is stopped firm, but a 1/2-inch diameter copper probe plunges easily through the same snow bridge, indicating there is only 0.9 m of wet summer snow. Would it have held?

Our last destination is Mount Daniels. We reach camp just as darkness arrives; streamflow is measured by flashlight. We examine four glaciers on Daniels. The snowpack is poor on the Foss and Ice Worm Glaciers just as it has been throughout the North Cascades. Snowpack is surprisingly good on Daniels and Lynch Glaciers. Why just these two glaciers have good snowpack is not clear. When all the weather records arrive in six months maybe the answer will be there. Still, all of the glaciers for a third straight year have significant negative mass balances. The consequences of significantly more melting is thinning glaciers. In 1994, the lower third of the Foss Glacier has become separated from the upper section and is poised to stagnate quickly away. The lower 200 meters of the Daniels Glacier has also separated since last summer and is now stagnant. These glaciers are poised for the same rapid retreat that the Hinman Glacier experienced between 1975 and 1992. And this should concern water resource managers.

The field season concluded on Lynch and Daniels Glaciers. We watched several parties reach the summit of Mount Daniels doing their best to avoid stepping onto the steep crevassed glaciers. We did our best to not step off of the glaciers. It is apparent to me that the number and width of the crevasses on these glaciers is decreasing in recent years due to the glacial thinning. We were able to descend to the end of Lynch Glacier at the edge of Pea Soup Lake. Until 1993 this descent was not possible. I even saw a group of mountain goats fail in an effort to descend the glacier in 1988. Pea Soup Lake is only 12 years old and yet its color is no longer that of pea soup — three years ago it was jade, now it is aquamarine. Today changes in our glacier country are rapid, not glacial.

Research Data—Changes in Glacier and Alpine Runoff

The principal economic importance of glaciers is the late summer runoff they provide. In the Cle Elum River basin, already short on late summer water supply, the shrinkage of Ice Worm, Daniels, Chimney Rock and Lemah Glaciers are significantly reducing an already insufficient water supply. In August 1994, with the entire Yakima River system tapped to the last drop and still far short of meeting the desired flow rate for many irrigation districts, the Daniels and Ice Worm glaciers yielded 4.5 million gallons/day compared to 6.5 million gallons/day in the equally dry Augusts of 1986 and 1987. But are the area's water managers aware of the role that glaciers play and how their contributions are changing? It is doubtful.

Changes in glacier size are critical in determining glacier runoff. How fast have North Cascade glaciers been retreating? Examining the recent past in the Mount Stuart area, 15 glaciers existed in 1969; today 12 are left, and of these four are on the verge of vanishing. At the turn of the century, Snow Creek Glacier (Enchantments) comprised three ice masses separated by narrow bedrock ridges and covered 20 km². Today, there are nine ice masses covering just 0.4 km².

In 1958 Hinman Glacier on Mount Hinman was the largest glacier between Mount Rainier and Glacier Peak, with an area of 1.3 km². By 1994, the glacier had separated into three masses with a total area of 0.2 km², and these showed no evidence of movements and will quickly disappear. In 1965 Lynch Glacier on Mount Daniels had an area of 0.9 km², in 1992 the glacier had shrunk to 0.5 km². The former location of the termini of the Lynch and Hinman Glaciers are now occupied by significant lakes, not yet in evidence on maps.

From 1984 to 1993 Lyman Glacier on Chiwawa Peak shrank from an area of 0.4 km² to 0.25 km². Whitechuck Glacier on Glacier Peak had an area of 2.7 km² in 1969; by 1992 its area had been reduced to 1.9 km². Lewis, near Rainy Pass, David, near Glacier Peak, and Milk Lake Glaciers, to name a few, have already disappeared. Measurements of changes in the volume of snow and ice conducted each summer by NCGCP on ten North Cascade glaciers indicates that between 1984 and 1993 the average North Cascade glacier lost 3.0 meters of ice thickness. Given an estimated mean thickness of between 33 and 50 meters, this represents a 5-8 per cent loss in volume of North Cascade glaciers in the last decade.

Alpine Runoff

Changes in alpine runoff result from changing climate and glacier size. Three significant changes have occurred in summer runoff in the North Cascades. (1) A 30 percent increase in mean November runoff primarily reflecting two large storm events in 1990 and 1991. (2) An increase by 16 per cent of February-April runoff, despite below-average precipitation in the period, thus reflecting increased early season melting. (3) Decreased July-September runoff of 36 per cent in non-glacier basins, versus 13 per cent in glacier basins. The change in summer runoff is much less pronounced in glacier basins, demonstrating the critical role glaciers play late in the summer in moderating late summer low-flow periods (Table 2).

Measurement by the USGS in August from three glacier alpine areas in the North Cascades is 24 gallons/m² a month. Measurement of runoff at the terminus of ten glaciers by NCGCP indicates glacier runoff is 316 gallons/m² a month. This is a 1316 per cent increase versus non-glacier areas (Pelto, 1993). A small area of glacier cover is then important to total basin runoff. In Stehekin Basin, even though the glaciated area is only 3.1 per cent, glaciers provide 35-40 per cent of the basin's total late summer runoff (based on runoff measurements conducted from 1985-1989 below Yawning and Cache Col Glacier).

The observed changes in glacier and alpine runoff make it apparent today that we can no longer intelligently manage our water resources without considering the changes in glacier runoff. The North Cascades Glacier Climate Project will continue to monitor the glaciers and make available its data for all to use.

Table 1. Glacier retreat 1984 to 1993* or 1994 on Mt. Baker and Glacier Peak glaciers monitored by NCGCP.

MT. BAKER		Retreat in Meters		GLACIER PEAK	
Boulder	105	Ermine	065		
Coleman	135	Kennedy	103		
Easton	047*	Ptarmigan	057		
Mazama	092	Scimitar	062		
Rainbow	113	Vista	080		
Squak	038				
Talum	116*				

Table 2. Percentage change in mean monthly discharge on five North Cascades streams gauged by the USGS from the 1950-1980 to the 1985-1993 period.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Annual
Newhalem	-03	+46	-17	-08	+16	+15	+29	+08	-17	-33	-37	-37	-02
Skykomish	-14	+41	-32	-01	+04	+04	+18	-08	-25	-37	-35	-36	-08
Stehekin	-08	+56	-09	-22	+05	+28	+20	-03	-19	-21	-09	-13	-06
Nooksack	-06	+26	-25	-06	+07	+19	+34	+09	-05	-12	-06	-18	0
Thunder	-09	+37	-16	-02	+02	+19	+31	+12	-06	-13	-07	-20	-01

***Acknowledgments:**

This project has received essential support from the Foundation for Glacier and Environmental Research. Field assistants have been Kalman Barcsay, Zolt Barcsay, John Brownlee, Richard Campbell, Mike Carver, Joe Drumheller, Ann Fitzpatrick, Monica Gowan, Joel Harper, Mike Hyland, David Klinger, David Knoll, Bill Long, John Maggiore, Clifton Mitchell, Bill Prater, Lee Scheper, Cliff Hedlund, Don Sayegh, Jill Turner, and Dan Kaplinski

— Excerpts from Oregon Natural Resources Council
Newsletter, *Wild Oregon*, 1994 Annual Report issue

Oregon Natural Resource Council's 100-Year Plan

Andy Kerr - Executive Director

Environmentalists don't want to go back to the Stone Age. We simply don't want to go forward to another one. But that is where we are going.

In the words of that great environmentalist George Herbert Walker Bush, "We are in deep doo-doo."

You know it. I know it. Bill Clinton knows it. Probably even George Weyerhaeuser knows it.

We are in an unprecedented ecological crisis. We are suffering the loss of biological diversity at an astounding rate. We are losing not only massive numbers of individual species, but are losing whole ecosystems and the services they provide.

But we all know that.

We are consuming energy far faster than it is being produced and polluting our skies, our waters and ourselves in the process. But we all know that.

We are reproducing at astronomical rate, facing a doubling of the human population in just a few decades. But we all know what.

We just humans are living far beyond our means. We are so far beyond sustainable it is downright scary. We are robbing from our grandchildren to pay our bills and the bills of our grandparents. But we all know what.

The challenge is what to do about it. We know we have to change; and we generally know in the directions we must change, but we aren't changing much at all, and not nearly fast enough and far enough. As a society, we are paralyzed in a status quo that is killing us today and killing our hopes of any future tomorrow.

Environmentalists are often charged, rightly so, with just being against things. We have failed to articulate a vision of a sustainable, rational and just society. While criticizing the existing society as failed and failing, as a movement we haven't offered up an alternative.

Toward that end I want to outline ONRC's 100-year plan for restoring biological diversity, living within our ecological and economic means,

achieving a sustainable population, and restoring family values. . .

First, biological diversity:

We've lost too much wilderness. We must not only conserve every acre that remains, but restore much that was lost. . .

Second, living within our ecological and economic means

We have to use less. (Now, at this rate) we need another three Earth's, and that still wouldn't be sustainable. . . We can live, quite nicely, off solar income. . .

Third, sustainable population:

We have 6 billion people on Earth and 3 million in Oregon today. . . we can sustain 2 billion on Earth and 1 million in Oregon. . . . Yes, we can do it in 100 years. If we fail to limit population, we won't have any economic growth, no matter how much or how little we consume.

Fourth, family values:

Environmentalists must take this term back from the intolerant right. . . Our view . . . includes families that are child-free. . . In an effort to provide for their families, people are working harder. As we work harder, we consume more of the Earth's limited resources. . . We're working so hard to make it today, that we don't have time to think of tomorrow. . . We all need to work less. On the average, we're all working 160 hours more per year than 25 years ago. . . .

We've ended the dreaded communism; we must now end the dreaded capitalism. For capitalism to succeed today, it must learn how to make more with less. . . .

We may fail to save Earth and ourselves because our engineers say it is not feasible and our accountants say it is not cost-effective. Capitalism must be changed to recognize the true costs of goods and services.

We think oil is cheap at \$17 a barrel. When you add in the cost to the taxpayers of paying for the Department of Defense to get the oil through from Kuwait during Oil War I, the price goes up to \$92 a barrel. If you were to add the environmental costs, the price of oil would be much higher. . .

As a species, we are orders of magnitude more successful than any other species. We have, for the short term at least, transcended any limits.

But nature bats last.

LETTERS

[**EDITOR:** The following correspondence is self-explanatory. See *The Wild Cascades*, October 1994. The sequence is in reverse chronology. The font size is small because of lack of space.]



January 27, 1995
Dr. Fred T. Darvill
1819 Hickox Road
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Dr. Darvill

The Board of Trustees of the North Cascades Conservation Council met recently to discuss your letter of December 16, 1994 and other subsequent communications in which you take offense to certain statements in the "Irate Birdwatcher" article of the October 1994 edition of *The Wild Cascades*. After careful consideration, the Board offers to do the following:

1. Publish your entire letter of January 5, 1995 in the next issue of *The Wild Cascades*.
2. Print Joel Connelly's letter to the editor on the same subject in the next issue of *The Wild Cascades*.
3. Print the following in the next issue of *The Wild Cascades*:

—Irate Birdwatcher's column in the October 1994 issue of *The Wild Cascades* expresses its writer's opinions about the subject we all care about — the North Cascades. These are not necessarily the views of other members of the NCCC or of the organization itself.

While NCCC does not necessarily agree with all of Dr. Darvill's letter it is published here in its entirety to provide him an opportunity to reply. Readers can form their own opinions.

In fairness, it doesn't appear that Dr. Darvill either praises or criticizes the North Cascades Highway or other roads in his guide to hikes along the Highway or his other guidebooks. Also, it does appear that Irate Birdwatcher's statement that Dr. Darvill "took pains to inform the Congress and the press that he was a director of NCCC" contained an error, in that he did not specifically identify himself as a "director" of NCCC. What Dr. Darvill actually said, according to the published record of that hearing, May 27, 1967, was:

"Gentlemen. I am Dr. Fred Darvill from Mount Vernon, a physician practicing in this area, and though I testify for myself, I have had rather intimate association with a number of organizations that are concerned with the North Cascades for a number of years, including the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, North Cascades Conservation Council, the Skagit Alpine Club of this county and so on."

NCCC regrets this error and any hurt feelings or injury to Dr. Darvill from Irate Birdwatcher's article. It was not NCCC's intent to impugn Dr. Darvill's integrity or to denigrate his contributions to the North Cascades National Park —

I hope that the preceding items will prove satisfactory to you in resolution of this situation. It is my feeling and also that of the Board of Trustees that the intent of the article in question was not to attack your character but rather, was a method to point out our difference of opinion for management of the North Cascades National Park Complex. It is regrettable that this matter has gone as far as it has, especially since we all seem to have the same general desire to protect the North Cascades. Please call me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Marc Bardsley, President NCCC
16923 E. Interurban Blvd.,
Snohomish, Washington 98290 (360-668-2997)

[EDITOR: The following statement, written by Dr. Fred Darvill, is printed here at his request.]

(Jan. 9, 1995)

SUBMISSION FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WILD CASCADES

With respect to statements made about me headed Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy in the North Cascades in the October 1994 issue of the Wild Cascades by the "Irate Birdwatcher", I submit the following comments:

I did not write the PI report, nor review it before it was published. I have sent a copy of Irate's article to Mr. Connally for his information.

Over 25 years have passed since I served on the Board of the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C). My memory of what I said at board meetings has dimmed with the passage of time, but I think it unlikely I would have started a sentence with "My people..". I may well have said that "people in Skagit County...". In any event, this alleged comment seems a non-issue to me at this time.

I am attempting to locate a copy of my 1967 testimony at the Senate hearing chaired by Senator Jackson at Mt. Vernon (and the testimony of the then Chief of the National Park Service who testified at the same hearing). No one at the hearings had addressed the issue of the Stehekin community to the best of my knowledge, so I elected to confine my testimony to those concerns. I testified as an individual, not as a representative of the N3C. I do not remember the specific content of my suggestions, but will modify this paragraph as a postscript if this information can be obtained in a timely way. I do recall that my recommendations were not to any significant degree biased by my status as a Stehekin landowner as alleged by Irate.

I did not represent myself as having any connection with the N3C presently when telephone interviewed by Mr. Connally. I certainly agree that "it was my perfect right to dissent" with the N3C recommendations, and I see no ethical obligation whatsoever to advise Pat (Goldsworthy, the ex-president of the N3C) in advance of any positions that I might take with regard to the management of the North Cascades. From prior contacts, Mr. Connally was aware that I had served on the N3C board in the past.

While on the board, I had become concerned with the lack of democratic processes of the N3C and with the lack of "new blood" within the board. I felt that turn over on the board would be beneficial for the organization, and that the membership should have a voice in electing members of the board. It was my intention to resign after my 2nd term on the board in the hope that my action would add emphasis to this position. In short, the N3C board has always been intolerant of dissent, and since I felt it appropriate to speak out from time to time, parting company by mutual agreement took place many years ago.

I challenge Irate to provide any objective facts leading to his statement that I attempted to promote myself "to independent Emperor of the North". That statement is without validity!

I did not support the construction of the North Cascades Highway. However, when it was built, I felt that a guide to the highway and associated trails would increase the pleasure of motorists and hikers, hence the existence of the North Cascade Highway Guide, still in print. There is nothing in that booklet or in any of my publications or actions that would confirm that I "praised highways and lesser roads which made wilderness accessible", or that I "founded a new empire that nobody joined"!

The following is a passage from my 1981 book, STEHEKIN, the Enchanted Valley. This excerpt should lay to rest that I, in any way, claimed major or exclusive credit for the establishment of the North Cascades National Park. However, I did work very hard for the establishment of the park for a decade, and was present by invitation in the White House when President Johnson signed the bill creating the park.

The final successful effort began about 1956 with the organization of the North Cascades Conservation Council. This group spearheaded the 12 years of continuous effort required to create the North Cascades National Park and its associated recreational areas; assisting groups included the Sierra Club, the Seattle Mountaineers, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and its affiliated organizations within Washington. Many, many individuals contributed long years of unselfish effort; among those making outstanding contributions were Dr. Patrick Goldsworthy, Phillip Zalesky, Polly Dyer, Dr. William Halliday, Mike McCloskey, Brock Evans, David Brower, Harvey Manning, and Charles Hesse.

COPY

Stehekin, the Enchanted Valley
published in 1981

Written by Fred Darvill, M.D.

The quality of the hike between Bridge Creek and Cottonwood Camp is a matter of opinion! I have personally hiked the entire section of that road, and stand by my assessment of the character of the walk. I have walked several hundred foot-paths in the North Cascades, so believe that I have expertise with regard to assessing trail quality. Based on his subjective differing opinion of the quality of the walk, to accuse me of a "lie, damn lie, or a gollydang lie" is most inappropriate!

In my recommendations to the North Cascades National Park (NCNP) with regard to the road closure, I submitted 9 recommendations. Irate quoted only the least important one out of context.

The accusation that I have been "wheeling and dealing in (Stehekin) real estate" is untruthful! My Stehekin property is in "Open Space", and therefore not open to development legally. I have had no association whatsoever at any time with any organization or individual dealing in Stehekin real estate. Indeed, I have been urging the NCNP for a number of years to enforce their Compatibility Standards regarding development in the Stehekin Valley. The Stehekin property that I own presently has never been for sale and never will be!

In summary, scorn, ridicule, and vilification of an individual holding a different opinion than the N3C's is most inappropriate. Outright falsehoods

have no place in legitimate debate! Arguments should be limited to the issues, not to alleged defects of the adversary with a differing opinion. To quote David Broder, "Citizenship involves active interaction for the good of the community, and civility is the accepted and expected fashion in which citizens treat each other". Voltaire stated, "I may disagree with what you say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it". It is to be hoped that further personal attacks on individuals who disagree with N3C positions will not reach print in the Wild Cascades hereafter!

Respectfully submitted,

F. T. Darvill

FTD:ks

P.S. I have acquired and reviewed the testimony given in May 1967 before the U.S. Senate sub-committee on Parks and Recreation by George Hartzog, then Director of the National Park Service, and myself. Both of us agreed that the goal for managing the Stehekin area was to leave it as it is (ie: as it was in 1967).

Editor:

Dissenting voices are rarely welcomed by the North Cascades Conservation Council, but a response to your feuding, vitrol-spewing "Irate Birdwatcher" is in order.

Using an article I wrote on the Stehekin Valley road, the Birdwatcher has sought a convenient platform to resume (very) old feuds. Seventeen years ago, I penned a review criticizing one of his guidebooks. I took the author to task for excluding hikes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area once it had been created. The Birdwatcher is still convinced, in words recently spoken to a director of NCCC, that I am out to "get" him.

The feud with Dr. Darvill is apparently of longer vintage. The Doc committed a mortal sin in the 1950's when he bought a lot in Stehekin and built an A-frame cabin. He compounded the offense by befriending local residents and failing to follow the party line on park boundaries.

If the North Cascades Conservation Council wants to isolate and marginalize itself, it need only follow bitter people like the Irate Birdwatcher.

The conservation movement built support for parks and wilderness areas by building popular support and inviting the public to witness natural wonders of Washington. In the Sierra Club's film, "The Wilderness Alps of Stehekin," David Brower and his sons are seen camping at Park Creek Pass. The area is celebrated in a book by The Mountaineers.

Nowadays, however, the aging, interlocking directorates of our state's old-line conservation groups seem to have adopted a different motto: Keep everybody out but us. It applies to public lands, and to organizations which do not permit members to nominate or vote on their directors.

Although inaccurate in explaining how Darvill left the board, the Irate Birdwatcher gives a revealing testament on how NCCC does business: "No discussion about it. Independently we simply cast blackballs. He wasn't our sort."

The Park Service proposal is a legitimate subject for public debate. It would restrict public access to places used by the conservation movement to argue for creation of the park.

If the upper road is closed, Park Creek Pass would be a 24-mile round trip instead of the already-vigorous 15 miles. Horse-shoe Basin would no longer be a day hike destination for families with young children. No more would hikers be able to trek over Cascade Pass and catch the day's last shuttle.

Dr. Darvill is intimately familiar with the area. He has written guidebooks to its trails with nary a word in praise of highways. He was in the thick of the fight for a national park, and spearheaded opposition to Kennicott Copper's infamous proposed open pit on Miners Ridge.

It is disturbing to see him defamed. It is even more unsettling to witness the Irate Birdwatcher's myopia, insularity and sourness at a time when the conservation movement needs every old friend and new ally it can find.

Sincerely,

Joel Connelly

Joel Connelly

Connelly
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

P.O. BOX 1909, SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98111

Cache Col. Arnold Peak Napeequa Dome Goode Gothic
 Flower Dome
 Tomyhoi
 Harts Pass
 Luna Cirque
 Egg Lake
 Yellow Aster Butte
 Desolation
 Image Lake
 Prince Creek
 Copper Mt.
 Eldorado
 Hannequin Pass
 Pumice Creek
 Magic - Mixup
 Pasayten
 Hidden Lakes Peak
 Rainbow Trail
 Stehekin R.
 Billy Goat Corral
 Shuksan Arm
 Hono Kulahan
 Whatcom Pass
 Nooksack Cirque
 Whistler Basin
 North Cascades National Park
 Wilderness
 Chilliwack River
 Meander Meadows
 Henry M. Jackson Wilderness
 Sawtooths
 Summer Blossom Trail
 Glacier Peak Wilderness
 Alpine Lakes W.
 Devore Creek
 Mt. Baker

**Be Part of the North Cascades Conservation Council's
 Advocacy of the North Cascades
 Join the NCCC — The NCCC Foundation**
 —Help us help protect North Cascades wilderness from overuse
 and development

Check the appropriate box(es):

I wish membership in NCCC* NCCC Foundation** Both

This is a New Renewal Gift Memorial

Name _____ Address _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____

Please send a complimentary copy of *The Wild Cascades* to:

Name _____ Address _____
 (Compliments of _____)

Please give a gift membership to _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

This contribution is a Memorial to: _____
 from: _____

 Please cut here, enclose check and mail

Mail form and check to:

North Cascades
 Conservation Council
 Membership Chair
 L. Zalesky
 2433 Del Campo Drive
 Everett, WA 98208

*The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), formed in 1957, works through legislative, legal and public channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife of the North Cascades ecosystem. Non-tax-deductible, it is supported by dues and donations. A 501(c)4 organization.

**The North Cascades Foundation supports the NCCC's non-political efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization.

Membership dues (one year): \$10 - low income/student; \$20 - regular; \$25 - family; \$50 - Contributing; \$100 - patron; \$1000 - sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with membership.



The Wild Cascades, Journal of the
North Cascades Conservation Council
Post Office Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, Washington 98145-1980

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Wanted: Because NCCC Needs to Stop Supporting Kinkos

After struggling with a computer and printer not up to the task, the editor of *The Wild Cascades* needs help in acquiring a computer capable of using Aldus PageMaker software (which we have), and a laser printer. Kinkos is prohibitive costwise, not to mention inconvenient.

Can you help with this project by donating a needed computer - printer (user-friendly to a MAC person), or by a donation to the NCCC Foundation to help with the purchase? Please contact Marc Bardsley, President, NCCC, with your suggestions and help. 206-668-2997.

Tree drawings in *The Wild Cascades* from Timberline, Arno and Hammerly, *The Mountaineers*. With permission from the artist, Ramona Hammerly.

Big Beaver Valley — Sketch by Kristen Erickson, Northwest artist living in Seattle.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT No 8602