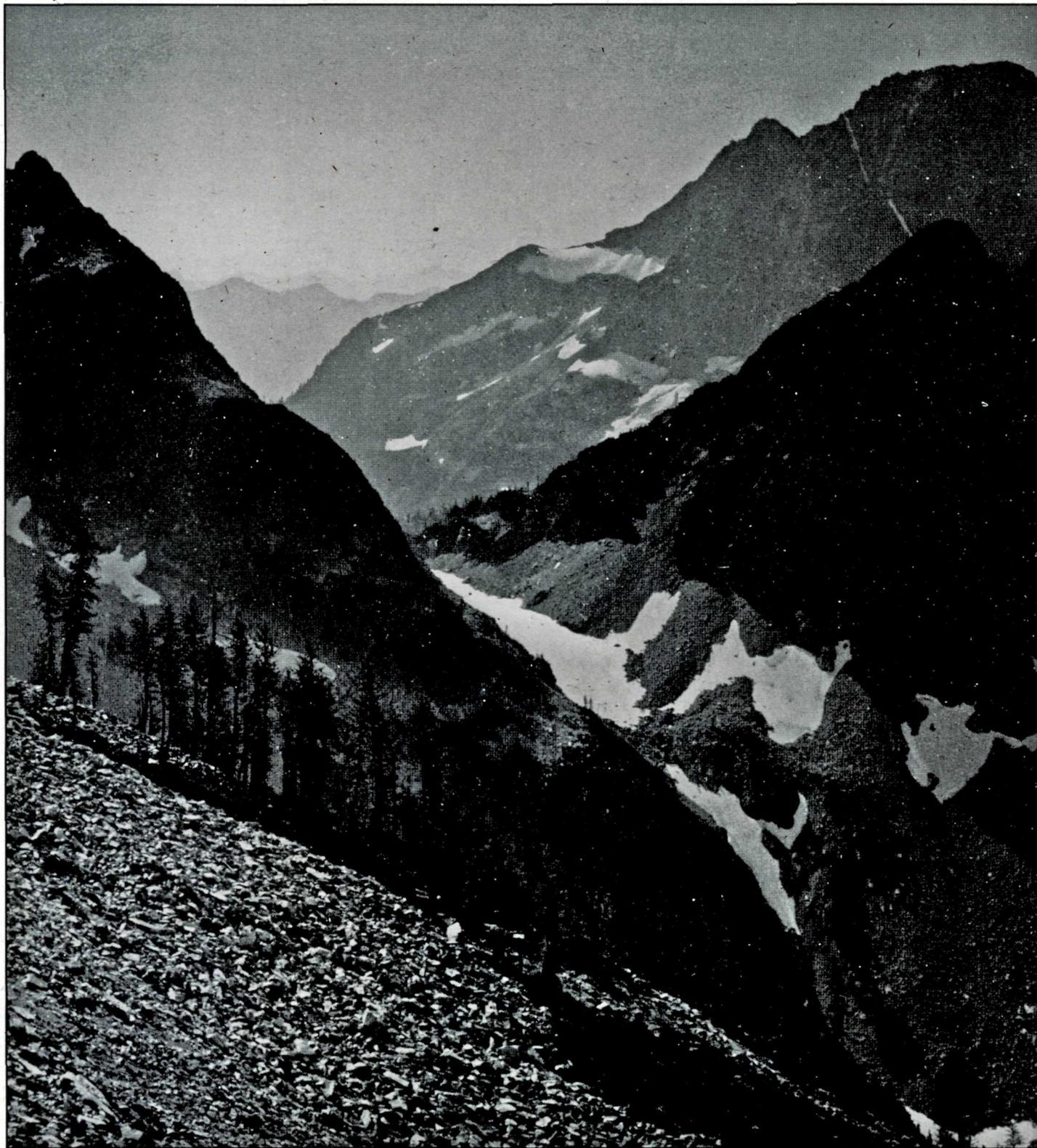

THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SPRING 1999



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PARK CREEK PASS AND MT. BOOKER
— TOM MILLER PHOTO

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITOR: Betty Manning

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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 nonpolitical 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 NCCC mailing address:

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North Cascades Conservation Council

Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Spring 1999

I suppose most of the civilized world can see the case for minimizing pollution, global warming, and the waste of natural resources. We in the North Cascades Conservation Council have specialized in the "not so clearcut" issues such as logging, mining, dam- and road-building, and species protection. We have had some success. While these problems have certainly not disappeared or become less important, it seems the affluence of the 90's has spawned another set of worries. It is ironic that the root cause of this latest dilemma is probably the biggest reason we got interested in the North Cascades in the first place.

I'm talking about RECREATION. Our old friend, a part of our reason for organizing, has suddenly mutated to a form that we old-timers would have never thought possible. Recreation has suddenly become the proverbial 800-pound gorilla swinging rudely through the public land management agencies. As always, money talks. And this money, in huge quantities, is winning the hearts and minds of the managers and politicians with eyes ever on their budgets. Boating, skiing, RV's, snowmobiles, trail bikes, summer homes and the like have well-heeled advocacy groups and a very vocal constituency.

A very large part of the NCCC energy is now focused on damage control of recreation-based situations. We have filed suit against the USFS to minimize trail bikes in the Mad River area. Rafting and boating on our rivers and lakes demand more and more facilities, demands for more and wider roads in our National Parks and Forests are continual; snowmobiles and airplanes, both locally and nationally, are more than just a headache; and of course there is Stehekin where most of the demand for construction is for accommodation of summer-cabin and recreation-based development. More and more, foot-powered people seem to require wilderness amenities such as bridges, trailhead expansions, hardened sites, permits, user fees, and high-standard trails. On a positive note, the National Park Service has recently decided to regulate jet skis.

I don't have the complete answer, but in the new millennium look to see a lot of emphasis on eliminating machines from the backcountry. I expect a struggle between us good guys and a different bunch than we are used to trying to manipulate the use of public land. I think we will see more people and corporations with expensive tastes demanding to use the commons for a playground. The rest of us, of course, will stand up for ourselves and for Mother Nature.

Marc Bardsley

Mad River: Motorcycle Romper Room

Resolution Trail Use in Mad River Portion of Entiat and Rock Creek Roadless Areas – Wenatchee National Forest

WHEREAS, motorized use of trails in the Mad River portion of the Entiat and Rock Creek Roadless Areas, Wenatchee National Forest Washington, causes environmental degradation, wildlife impacts and user conflicts; and

WHEREAS, user conflicts caused by motorized use, including noise, dust, non-motorized user safety, deep, muddy ruts in wet areas, rutted and eroded trail tread, and general annoyance, act as a barrier to non-motorized users' use and enjoyment of these trails and the surrounding environment; and

WHEREAS, the Mad River portion of the Entiat and Rock Creek Roadless Areas is one of the largest unprotected roadless areas in Washington, and has unique national and scenic values including spectacular ridgetop views from Glacier Peak to the Stuart Range, gentle terrain for hikers of all abilities and ages, and broad meadows rich in wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, The Mad River portion of the Entiat roadless area will be eligible for evaluation for recommendation for wilderness designation during the coming Wenatchee Forest Plan revision process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT to protect the Mad River area, we oppose the reconstruction or re-routing of existing trails to

facilitate motorized use, or any construction of new motorized tie-trails in the Mad River area; and

To protect the Mad River area, we oppose the use of any Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) funds from the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grant program, or any other source, to plan for or make trail modifications to facilitate motorized use in the Mad River area; and

To protect the Mad River area, we oppose the use of volunteer trail maintenance and construction work by any ORV or other motorized trail recreation organization on trails in the Mad River area that would facilitate motorized use and give such ORV organization a sense of ownership of the trails; and

To protect the Mad River area, we oppose the authorization of any mass motorized recreational activities on trails in the Mad River area; and

To protect the Mad River area, we support closure of trails in the Mad River area to motorized use; and
We support recommendation of the Mad River area for wilderness designation as an addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Land Exchange Update, Western Land Exchange Project, PO Box 95545 Seattle, Washington 98145-2545.

The hottest spot in the Thirty (or Forty) Year War on National Forest trails between feet and motorized wheels has just gotten a quantum leap hotter, and more quants to come.

Our Summer/Fall 1997 issue of *The Wild Cascades* took the campaign through the Environmental Assessment of the Goose-Maverick Tie-Trail Project, the Finding of No Significant Impact by the Lake Wenatchee Ranger District, and the appeal to the Regional Forester by the North Cascades Conservation Council, Washington Trails Association, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, and The Mountaineers. — To cut to the chase, what this "Tie Trail Project" is about is an insistence that against all reason and law the Mad River meadow country is intended by the Black Leather Jacket Gang in the Forest Service to be the sort of place where, when your children walk a trail, you warn them, "Look both ways for traffic." That, however, is only the tip of the iceberg. What the gangsters are trying to sneak through, piece by piece, is a world-class Motorcycle Grand Prix from the Chiwawa valley over the Mad River highlands and down to the Entiat valley and then over the Entiat Mountains and down to Lake Chelan.

HOWEVER...

In another part of the war zone, in 1992 Susan Saul drafted the Dark Divide Roadless Area Resolution that was endorsed by 24 organizations. Herein is the text of the similar resolution that as of June 18, 1999, had been endorsed by the North Cascades Conservation Council, the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter, the Washington Trails Association, Wilderness Society, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and The Mountaineers. (Other organizations are engaged in review; the endorsement list will grow.)

or Addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness?

For many years the Forest Service, insisting with straight face that "there is no conflict between boots and motorcycles," has flagrantly violated the law embodied in NEPA and orders by Presidents Nixon and Carter. We have long known we would be forced ultimately to seek justice in the courts. On May 14 a draft complaint was completed by Steve Davis (Lane Powell Spears Lubansky), reviewed by Karl Forsgaard (Vice President of Legal Affairs, Optiva Corporation), Andy Salter (Miller Nash), and Ira Spring.

As the draft was circulating among organizations, Karl Forsgaard sent out an alert May 27:

"After weeks of phone tag I reached Roger Ross, the Goose-Mav project person at the USFS Lake Wenatchee Ranger District. He said that despite the snow on the upper slopes, and the washout of the Maverick Saddle road, they want the contractor to get started NEXT WEEK on the lower end of the project. Thus we'll have to move into the expedite mode to get one or more plaintiff organizations to approve the filing of the lawsuit in the next few days."

Time was a-wastin', so on June 3 the historic (so it will be recognized) Goose-Maverick ORV lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court, initially with only the two plaintiffs who had acted swiftly enough, the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Washington Trails Association; other organizations joining as plaintiffs by June 18

were Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and The Mountaineers; more will be signing on, as formal approval comes from their national offices.

June 18, Judge Barbara Rothstein entered a temporary restraining order — STOP WORK.

We rejoice — but we do not relax. It was only a 20-day restraint. The court set dates for the government to lodge administrative record; plaintiffs to file motion for a preliminary injunction; government's opposition papers due; plaintiff's papers due. The last action took place Tuesday, July 6. The judge extended the restraining order and set a hearing for August 4.

Much will be happening after we go to press. Watch for the next issue!

A concluding word (for now) from Karl Forsgaard:

"We've got a lot more work to do to get a preliminary injunction. The Mad River country will make an excellent addition to the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and you've gotta start somewhere."

—H.M.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; THE HONORABLE DANIEL R. GLICKMAN, in his official capacity as Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture; THE HONORABLE BRIAN DOMBECK, in his official capacity as Chief,

U.S. FOREST SERVICE; THE HONORABLE ROBERT WILLIAMS, in his official capacity as Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region; THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. FERRARO, in his official capacity as Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region; THE HONORABLE SONNY J. O'NEAL, in his official capacity as Forest Supervisor for the Wenatchee National Forest; THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. SHEEHAN, in his official capacity as District Ranger, Lake Wenatchee District of Wenatchee National Forest Defendants.

VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court: A. Determine and declare that the Forest Service's decisions approving the Goose-Maverick ORV Tie Trail Project are in violation of NEPA, 42 USC & USC & 4321 et. seq., and its implementing regulations; and the APA, 5 USC & 706(1)&(2); B. Determine and declare the Forest Service's decisions approving the Goose-Maverick ORV Tie Trail Project are null and void;

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - 9

Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP Suite 4100 1420 Fifth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101

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Hot Flashes From Other Fronts

On June 6 the NCCC board discussed and took action on a number of issues in addition to those reported at length in these pages, or that will be in time to come. The notes here are merely to keep you awake.

Granite Falls Quarry

A gigantic excavation of glacial drift is proposed along the Mountain Loop Highway east of Granite Falls. Four times the Snohomish Citizens Alliance, of which NCCC director Bruce Barnbaum is a leader, has appealed rulings of the Snohomish County Council, and four times has been supported by the hearing examiner, John Gault. Having put itself in a quasi-judicial position, the County Council has not been legally able to talk to any person of the Citizens Alliance. However, the wannabe digger, Associated Sand and Gravel, has taken Council members to dinner. The Alliance has filed suit and the case will be heard in superior court. The NCCC, which has standing in the case from past actions, has voted funds for the litigation. Aside from concerns over effects on the ground water that supplies local wells, not to mention the Stillaguamish River (fisheries), the Mountain Loop Highway is a gateway to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness and the Glacier Peak Wilderness and the Boulder River Wilderness.

Enlargement of Mount Rainier National Park

Certain private properties bordering the park in the Carbon River valley are for sale. The NCCC supports extension of the park into the Carbon River as opportunity presents itself.

A Gravel Pit (Another) and an Interstate Highway (Another)

Thanks to the Northern Pacific Land Grant, Weyerhaeuser "owns" the bulk of Grouse Ridge, a terminal moraine of the glacier that came from Canada in the Pleistocene. The Canadian gravel is the gold wanted to be dug by a Belgian corporation, the Cadmium Company. The land in question being "private," who's to say no? Not free-enterprise America, nor any of its states or counties, surely. Subject not to human morality but only the "higher morality" of the bottom line, Weyerhaeuser sees the opportunity to play still other profitable tunes on the same fiddle. In corporate headquarters at Federal Way a scheme is brewing to run a new interstate, I-605, from there to the gravel, as well as to the 80,000-100,000 acres of its Snoqualmie Tree Farm (sic). Further, there is on old maps (and some not so old), a thoroughfare called the "Lake Dorothy Highway." It never was built, but highway schemes never die, they are just filed away to bide their time. The I-605 is envisioned by some at Federal Way as cutting through the Alpine Lakes Wilderness (Senator Gorton could help) to Snohomish County. Weyerhaeuser advertises itself as "the tree-growing company," but "tree farms" are less profitable than "house farms."

Middle Fork Recreation Coalition (MidFORC)

The NCCC has joined the coalition of conservation organizations seeking sensible and sensitive management plans for the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. NCCC Director Rick McGuire is a leader of MidFORC. This is, of course, an area of long and continuing intense interest to us. Indeed, the very first publication of the proposal for an Alpine Lakes Wilderness, prepared by the Conservation Committee of The Mountaineers under the leadership of John Warth, came in our Wild Cascades. The problems and opportunities of the Middle Fork will be regularly discussed in these pages by Rick. To cite just one that is current, the federal highwaymen are seeking from Congress \$6,000,000 to "upgrade" the Middle Fork road all the way from North Bend to the National Forest boundary. In the bible-manual of the feds, "upgrade" means high-speed freeway-style pavement. The 6M could more appropriately be spent to add more chuckholes (if any un-hole space can be found) to further reduce the speed, perhaps to the extent of making walking a viable alternative.

North Fork Skykomish River

The board is planning an inspection tour of this very important yet often overlooked wilderness-edge valley. Proposed timber sales, developments on private property (patented mining claims), and candidates for Research National Area status will be examined. Conway Leovy, NCCC director, lives part-time at Index and will keep watch for us.

Teaway River

Boise-Cascade is selling its Cabin Creek holdings to an Oregon firm, US Timberlands. The I-90 corridor and the Teaway are involved. Any government acquisitions will have to be negotiated with the latest heir of this portion of the Northern Pacific Land Grab.

Tieton River

After the I-90 Land Exchange is a done deal, a Phase II Exchange will be studied. On the list of areas under consideration is "Tieton River." No details. Important lands bordering the Goat Rocks Wilderness along the South Fork Tieton River cry out to be purchased. Boise-Cascade is the main holder of the NP Land Grant booty here, but an individual "owns" a major portion of Conrad Meadow, the largest mid-montane valley-floor meadowland in the entire Cascades, and what that individual and Boise-Cascade have been doing is a shame of the nation.

Holes in the Ground

Discovering Washington's Historic Mines, volume 1, West Central Cascade Mountains, by Northwest Underground Explorations, Oso Publishing, 31328 North Brooks Creek Road, Arlington 98223. Ask for it at your local library. Fascinating stuff.

Mine Claim on Thunder Creek

On the high ridge at the head of Thunder Creek is a patented mining claim (the "Webster property"), which had completely slipped our mind until last summer when a Boy Scout troop was taken there by helicopter (private property!) couldn't find the trail out, and had to be rescued. The "Webster owners" (courtesy of the 130-year-old Mining Laws so ably defended by Senator Gorton) have blasted 20,000 tons of "ore" and want to helicopter it out this summer for assay. We'll have the full story of the Websters in the next issue. Director Dave Fluharty expresses hope the Park Service can acquire the stolen property (pay the ransom) in the next couple of years.

Mountain Loop Highway

The Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration have proposed to pave the unpaved portion of the highway. The public has consistently and vociferously opposed. The Forest Service keeps coming back, hoping the people will "get it right." Now, apparently, the Forest Service has little hope. The FHA long since has given up on the people.



Canadian News Update

Our Canadian Correspondent reports in the P-I that British Columbia is planning 240 more acres of clearcutting in Depot Creek, which headwaters in icefields of the North Cascades National Park. Prior to the building of the logging road the full length of Chilliwack Lake, with a spur up Depot Creek, the vicinity of the headwaters was often cited as a candidate for the "pole of remoteness" of the Cascades. The logging destroyed groves of super-ancient western redcedar which forest ecologists rated more impressive and significant than any of the sort then existing in the United States. Additionally, Vancouver climbers exploited the logging road, roughed out a trail from its end to the high country, and made Redoubt, formerly done only on "semi-expeditions," a weekend romp.

The North Cascades Conservation Council and allies in British Columbia had a heart-to-heart with the climbers, who cooperated with the National Park Service in abandoning their bootleg shortcut trail, or so we were told. The renewal of logging in this sensitive area will certainly not enhance the reputation of the British Columbia government.

Neither will its plans to allow logging of Eighteen Mile and Twentymile Creeks, tributaries of the Skagit River just north of the border. Logging is already in progress on the Pasayten River, just over the border from the Pasayten Wilderness.

Whatever happened to the "Greater North Cascades Ecosystem" concept? The proposed international wilderness park? The Northwest Ecosystem Alliance says, "It's pretty grim along the border."

Bad News for the Beckler

The Skykomish district of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest has recently released a document called "Beckler #2 Decommissioning and Stormproofing Roads in the Upper Beckler River Watershed." This unfortunate plan represents a missed opportunity to fix some of the worst water quality problems in the Cascades, in the Beckler valley north of Skykomish.

The Beckler valley was one of the premier timber mines on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie and was extensively roaded and logged from the 1960's into the 1980's. Mile after mile of logging road was blasted and carved into steep, unstable mountainsides, leaving a legacy of slides, blowouts and sedimentation which has left the Beckler and south fork Skykomish rivers very unfriendly places for fish.

Congress has appropriated money to the Forest Service to fix these problems, but, sadly, the definition of "fix" is left to the Forest Service. Rather than decommission the roads and put them to bed, the Forest Service has instead chosen to use this money to once again repair the roads, and even upgrade them in some cases. They have coined a new word, "stormproofing," and have convinced themselves that by using this new term they will make this latest fix into something different from the many which have come before.

Rainstorms, however, care little about buzzwords and are unlikely to recognize any differences between this latest round of fixes and the previous ones. So, once again the bulldozers and backhoes will be deployed to do yet another fix on these roads which will never be stable no matter how much money is poured into them. And

we will see another opportunity wasted, with the monies which could have gone toward repairing this much damaged watershed going instead to keeping these roads open, until the next November rainstorm washes them out yet again, sending tons more sediment into the already choked Beckler - Skykomish river system.

The Skykomish district was once one of the more enlightened outposts of the Forest Service, but that era is now long forgotten.. Scarce money which could have gone toward fixing the problems from the past is instead being spent to keep the maximum number of miles of road open. Any real solution to the problems of the collapsing roads and silted up rivers of the Skykomish district will have to wait for a new generation of leadership from the Forest Service.

— RICK MCGUIRE

Decision time nears for Middle Fork Snoqualmie

The North Bend ranger district of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest is expected this summer to release an Environmental Assessment for an "Access and Travel Management" plan for the Middle Fork Snoqualmie river valley. This "ATM" document and decision will greatly affect the Middle Fork valley by designating where new trails might be built and which roads might be converted to trails.

The Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition, or "MidFORC," of which N3C is a member, is a group of conservation and recreation organizations which has been working for over ten years to protect this 110,000 acre valley and to promote environmentally sensitive recreational

development. The valley has long been plagued by uncontrolled shooting, dumping and vandalism. Much progress has been made in recent years against these problems, but much remains to be done. A good decision by the Forest Service in the ATM plan could do a lot to further improve the situation in the valley.

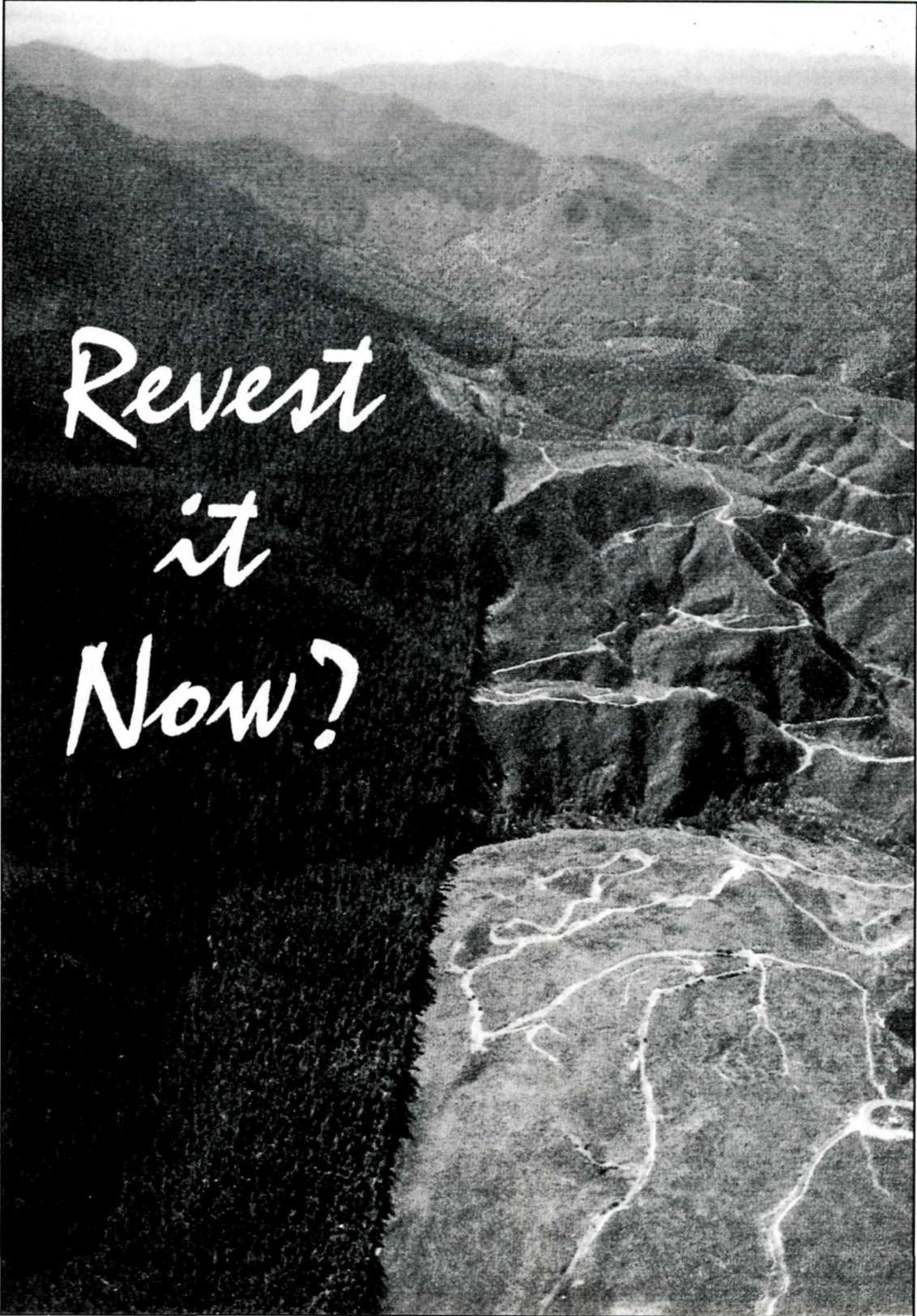
MidFORC is proposing that the Middle Fork road be gated and turned into a trail above Taylor river. This would instantly create a huge area of backcountry in the upper valley and turn a tortuous driving experience into a wonderful hiking or mountain biking experience. MidFORC is also proposing a number of new trail developments in the lower valley, and fighting against a proposed Federal

Highways Administration project which would turn the Middle Fork road into a wide, straight high speed highway.

As one of the member organizations of MidFORC, N3C will be sending out an alert to all its members once this ATM document is released. It will be necessary for the conservation community to generate lots and lots of letters to push the Forest Service to do the right things in the Middle Fork. So please be prepared to take a few minutes to write the Forest Service when the alert shows up in your mailbox. It will be make or break time for the Middle Fork.

— RICK MCGUIRE

The Northern Pacific Land Grant



*Revest
it
Now?*

Northern
Pacific Land
Grant Boundary
Clearcut

— PHOTO © DANIEL
DANCER

Let's Be Practical: The Pragmatic Crusade

There can be no doubt that the 1864 Northern Pacific Land Grant has left one of the most devastating legacies to the Northwest environment of any law ever enacted by Congress. The massive giveaway of "public" lands whose original native residents were still being driven to death and misery to enrich a gang of freebooting speculators will always stand as one of the darker chapters of the carving up of the North American continent. Yet it is only one of many such shameful chapters. They began with the initial extermination of the Native Americans of the Atlantic coast to the final destruction of the Plains tribes, and on through all the subsequent frauds and crimes which privatized the vast majority of what is now the United States. And the process continues to this very day, under the cover of such laws as the 1872 Mining Act which still allows huge corporations to steal much of what little remains in the public domain. Looked at through such a lens the history of the American land can seem very sordid to say the least.

But what can be done now to stop or reverse the process? We can, and must, end the continuing disgraceful loss of what little remains by repealing the mining laws, and by stopping the timber program on the National Forests, which has never been anything more than a giveaway to rich corporations, no matter what kind of Orwellian "ecosystem management" rhetoric the Forest Service timber bureaucracy may now try to disguise it with. We can do our best to keep the oil drillers out of such places as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And we can do our best to stop the ruinous destruction of public fish and wildlife which has resulted from the weakness or entire lack of laws which should restrain the harm caused to others by the heedless destruction which is usually the norm on private lands - what economists sometimes call "negative externalities," like the landslides from blitzkrieg logging

operations which kill not only downstream fish habitat but downstream human residents every year now.

But can we really turn back the clock and undo the wholesale privatization of North America? Can we re-vest the 1864 Land Grant? Probably not anytime soon. Much of the land has passed through many hands by now, leaving a tangled trail of land titles that could perplex the most dedicated searcher. A huge proportion of the original land grant is now broken up into small holdings, and a very conservative estimate would be that there are now hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people now living on and believing that they own pieces of the former land grant. There are now entire cities sitting upon former NP land. Will we see Congress passing a law evicting and repossessing the lands of large numbers of people living in the suburbs of Seattle? If such an unlikely event were to come about, would we see these people who thought they bought and paid for the land they live on go quietly? It doesn't seem very likely.

So can we just take back that portion of the land grant now owned by huge timber corporations, those whose panzer style leave-nothing-standing logging operations during the last few decades have caused the most anger over the 1864 giveaway? Probably not, at least not without taking away all those other people's small holdings and houses as well. The U.S. Constitution has usually been interpreted to imply equal protection under the laws, and the Supreme Court has ruled that corporations enjoy the same rights as citizens. It's doubtful if even the most environmentally friendly judge would agree that some but not all of the holders of NP land grant land must surrender it back to the public.

And even if such were possible, who would decide who gets to keep their land and who loses theirs? If there were a Communist or other politically radical takeover or overthrow of the existing U.S.

Government, it might just be possible. But the examples from the past are a mixed lot, at best. The French Revolution did in fact manage to confiscate the huge properties owned by the Catholic church and some of the aristocracy and distribute them among the people who actually lived on them. But the parallels between it and any conceivable NP re-vestiture are limited. A better example might be some of the Communist revolutions of the twentieth century which set up systems of "People's Commissars" who wielded absolute power to decide who stayed and who went.

But does anyone seriously believe that any of these scenarios, mild or radical, is really likely to come about in the U.S. anytime soon? How much support is really out there for any of these alternatives? "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." Anyone who "owns" any sort of property just about anywhere has a collection of sins in their land title if one looks back far enough. Most, if not all of Seattle and its environs, passed into the "public domain" of the European race as a result of the 1853 Point Elliott treaty. How many of us would be willing to defend the fairness of that or virtually any other of the treaties between the whites and the Native Americans? What about the Donation Land Act, and the Homestead Act, which were perhaps even greater frauds than the NP land grant, and which underlie many of the land titles of the Northwest?

Few if any societies in human history have ever willingly undone centuries of shady dealings in the interest of fairness. Nor are we, as conservationists, likely to build much support for our goals by raising the specter of throwing people off land which they fully believe, rightly or wrongly, is theirs. We can and will protect those lands which are still public. And although it will be a long difficult struggle, we will eventually regulate the use and abuse of private lands so as to prevent the "owners" from passing

Volley and Thunders

the costs of their misdeeds to everyone and everything else around and below them. But we are unlikely, short of revolution, to revest the Northern Pacific land grant after 135 years. Far better for us to concentrate on what is truly possible than to put energies into a cause which, however noble and just, has virtually no likelihood of going anywhere in this all too imperfect but all too real world in which we find ourselves.

— RICK MCGUIRE

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Rick McGuire is a board member of the North Cascades Conservation Council, president of ALPS, and active in MidFORC decisions.

*Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered.*

Forward the Light Brigade

Cato the Censor is remembered as a tiresome old crab who invariably ended every session of the Roman Senate by crying, "Carthage must be destroyed!" Largely to shut him up the Third Punic War was waged, though little was left to do after the First and Second except plough the site of the destroyed city and sow it with salt.

The Irate Birdwatcher of the 1960s was wont to cry out at assemblies of the North Cascades Conservation Council, "The Northern Pacific Land Grant must be revested!"

Surely, few of those who understood the reference to Carthage and Cato supposed that Irate literally was calling for the plough and the salt. After all, a couple of Punic-like wars would be needed first, and the Hannibal-likes and their elephant-likes were — and are — formidable foes. The point was — and is — that no matter how ancient a wrong may be, time doesn't make it right.

Yet that is precisely what is being claimed by the kleptocracy which rules America today. Indeed, Alan Greenspan, maestro of the current superboom of the free market, is an avowed disciple of Ayn Rand, the Social Darwinian who wrote *The Virtue of Selfishness*. Her "objectivism" declaims that not only is wealth a measure of virtue, poverty of vice, but that the duty of today's Robin Hood is to steal from the poor to give to the rich.

Truly, the brass balls of Weyerhaeuser and Burlington Northern Resources are flagrantly displayed in demanding \$4,200,000 for geothermal "rights" to Mount St. Helens — "rights" dating from the Northern Pacific Land Grant, "rights" the two companies admit they never planned to exercise! (The gift was paid up!)

If you've got it, flaunt it, no matter how you got it, that's the motto of Port Blakeley Properties, a family-owned firm which advertised a residential development on Bainbridge Island as "lands still held by the original owner." (Chief Sealath, stop beating that drum! We can't hear ourselves steal.) Those particular stolen goods were from other capers than the railroad grant, but Port Blakeley since has acquired a tract of Northern Pacific booty east of Lake Sammamish and thus is a certified member of the Robber Baron gang.

Radical reactionaries have succeeded, by their thunder on the right, in shifting America's political climate so far off-center that "liberal" is an epithet which can fatally smear a candidate for public office. What Irate was getting at when he staged his Cato act was that thunder on the right must be matched by thunder on the left.

Revestment!

It will not be done soon, and never down to the last of the 38,600,000 Northern Pacific stolen acres. However, no more than the Scots forgive the insolent Sassenachs, nor the Saxons the grasping Normans, nor the North the South for winning the post-Appomattox Civil War, can we forgive the monstrous crime committed against the people a century and a third ago.

Thunder on the Left!

We here present two views on how much thunder is proper and useful about land thefts of the Gilded Age, the era of the Great Barbecue, during which Billy Vanderbilt, the Commodore's little boy, when asked by a journalist the benefit a certain of his projects might have for the public, bellowed, "*The public!* The public be damned!" A century and more since Billy was stuffed underground, his bellow echoes on in Congress, the Bellevue City Council, and the Rainier Club.

— HARVEY MANNING



The Railroad Land Grants Are Not History

The contentious checkerboard land exchanges which have recently taken place in the Northwest are a symptom of the 19th century railroad land grant policy of the U.S. Congress. Ten percent of the continental U.S. was supposed to be sold to homesteaders and other settlers in order to raise funds for the construction of the national railroad and telegraph systems. Instead, the railroads sold millions of acres of land to timber, mining, and real estate corporations, including Anaconda Copper, Weyerhaeuser, Boise Cascade, Potlatch, Burlington Resources, Meridian Minerals, Great Northern Coal, and Trillium Corporation.

Land exchanges are not the only symptom of the land grants. Weyerhaeuser owns more than a million acres in Washington State, purchased from the Northern Pacific Railroad for \$6 per acre (about ten cents per thousand board feet of timber). Plum Creek Timber owns 1.5 million acres in Montana State — more than 90 percent of the timber industry land in Montana — also acquired from the Northern Pacific land grant. These two corporations have been liquidating the native forests of the Northwest, exporting raw logs and jobs from the region, and putting small mills out of business.

Land exchanges are a natural reaction to the problem of the checkerboards, but the symptoms of the railroad land grants will never be relieved until the underlying problem is addressed. Of course Congress will have to be pressured to reopen the land grant issue; Congress always has to be pressured to do anything meaningful. And when the land grant laws are (again) amended to recover wrongfully acquired grant lands, the corporations involved will likely go to court to defend their property claims. Some of us look forward to that day.

The corporations, and unfortunately many environmentalists as well, will argue that taking back the land grants would mean

taking people's land away. But no one is suggesting that we take people's land away. There's a fundamental difference between a person who owns a house on a city lot or a few acres, and Plum Creek and Weyerhaeuser owning millions of acres. Let's talk about reclaiming huge corporate holdings over 100,000 acres or so - reclaiming the land for people.

The corporations will claim that they were innocent purchasers, and that they

*"History
isn't dead;
it's not even
past."*

— WILLIAM FAULKNER

haven't broken the law. But the corporations which bought millions of acres from the Northern Pacific Railroad were not innocent purchasers. Frederick Weyerhaeuser and other prominent purchasers sat on the boards of the railroad corporations. They willfully and repeatedly violated the letter and spirit of the law — and bribed and threatened settlers, local officials, Congressmen, and federal land agents so that they could get away with it. This is historical fact, and it used to be common knowledge among the American people.

The land grant-based corporations will then claim that even if their predecessors had broken the law, well, that was a long time ago. But lo and behold, the assets were passed along without the public duties that had been attached to them. These "heirs of thieves," as Harvey Manning accurately

refers to them, still profit from the crime. The land is still being damaged. The communities are still being held hostage to monopoly power. Despite the ongoing problems, we're supposed to forget the crime. But many of us remember.

And the last refuge of scoundrels is concocted rights. The corporations will claim that they are just people, and that they have rights. But a corporation is not a person. "Corporate personhood" is an absurd legal fiction, applied in the 1880s by judges with land grant railroad interests, and still used today to shield corporate power from public accountability. Power without accountability is tyranny. Ultimately, this is a battle between the public interest and corporate power. Environmentalists are doing immense battle against that power. But it's just not realistic to fight corporate power without bringing up the real issues. It's been the corporate agenda all along. It's no wonder that people are losing their power, while the corporations get stronger every day.

Congress used public laws to create the railroad land grants, and Congress will forever have the ongoing duty to oversee and amend those laws. The land grant policy, and Congress's public interest duties, should be part of the public debate. Congress, the courts, and the public have avoided the real issues. Yet taking back the land is hardly out of the question. Over the past 130 years, Congress has recovered 40 million acres from 26 railroads which violated their land grant contracts with the public. Congress has the power to amend the land grants — and has done so dozens of times, whenever it was provided the gumption through public pressure.

The land grant laws were public laws aimed at a public policy for governing public lands. That this policy has never been fulfilled is not mere historical curiosity. It is a living tragedy with environmental and social consequences for all of us. In a 1944 poll,

only half of the American public had even heard of the railroad land grants. More than 50 years later, even fewer of us remember, and we're so busy fighting the little battles that we keep delaying the real debate. Even if you remember history, if you don't do something to change it, you're condemned to repeat it.

—GEORGE DRAFFAN

Editor's Note: George Draffan is a historian and librarian who provides research and information support services to citizens and public interest organizations. He is the co-author of Railroads & Clearcuts: Legacy of Congress's 1864 Northern Pacific Railroad Land Grant (available from your local bookstore, or for \$18 postpaid to Public Information Network, PO Box 95316, Seattle WA 98145-2316). He also has written "Taking Back our Land," a 50-page history of how railroad lands have been reclaimed many times.

TO LEARN MORE. . . .

Cascade Checkerboard News

Newsletter of the Cascade Checkerboard Project, sponsored by the Sierra Club, directed by Charlie Raines; editor Amy Gulick.

8511 15th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Free on request; write to be put on the mailing list. Contributions are appreciated and should be directed to the Sierra Club Foundation at the above address.

Land Exchange Update

Newsletter of the Western Land Exchange Project, a non-profit charitable organization conducting research, outreach, and advocacy for the reform of federal land exchange policy. Rachael Paschal, president; Bonnie Phillips, vice-president-secretary; Martin L. Rand, treasurer. advisory board, Dr. John Osborn, Roy Keene, Laura Weeks. Staff, Janine Blaeloch, director; Joseph Cunningham, program coordinator. To receive the newsletter and support the program of "fighting bad trades threatening our public lands," become a member for the regular (tax-deductible) dues of \$25, student/optional low rate of \$15.

Western Land Exchange Project
P.O. Box 95545
Seattle, WA 98145-2545

Transitions

Journal of The Lands Council, a non-profit organization working for sustainable forests and diversified economies in the Pacific Northwest. Editor, John Osborn; associate editor, Derrick Jensen; layout and design, Easy. Free on request; write to be placed on the mailing list. Contributions (tax-deductible) are welcome.

The Lands Council
S. 517 Division
Spokane, WA 99202-1365

The December 1998 issue contains Part 10 of the "Railroads and Clearcuts" series. George Draffan's article, "Taking Back Our Land," treats in detail

- (1) The Disposal of America's Public Lands since the Revolution;
- (2) The Railroad Land Grants, a series of federal and state acts between 1850 and 1871, giving away 130,400,000 acres, of which 38,600,000 were the Northern Pacific Land Grant;
- (3) The Movement for Forfeiture;
- (4) 75 Years of Land Grant Forfeiture ;
- (5) The Accomplishments and Failure of Forfeiture;
- (6) The Land Grant Legacy Lives On.

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— Washington Forest Protection
Association, 724 Columbia St. N.W.,
Suite 250, Olympia, Washington 98507 —
*"Managing the Northern Pacific Land Grab so
they enrich the stockholders"*

Some Mugwump Words

— H.M.

Under American law, corporations have the rights of persons, but are not required to behave according to the moral code expected of good, decent, God-fearing persons. The corporation is by legal definition amoral. Granted, to persons who strive to be moral, this seems the equivalent of immoral.

To be sure, the persons who operate the corporations must expect to be considered immoral by persons who do not operate corporations. Burning up children by failing to fix a faulty pipeline valve, extorting \$100,000,000 from the citizenry to cover "cost over-runs" on a stadium built for corporation profit and (personal ego) and "destroying an important ancestral transportation route of the Muckleshoot Indians" — these things are done by corporations and under our free market system are amoral and customary and expected. However, it does appear that the persons who give the orders to their creature, their Frankenstein Monster, their corporation, are in some sense not precisely moral. They must forgive the non-corporation-operating persons for tending to look upon them as BAD PEOPLE.

The reason we bring up the matter here is not to advocate overthrowing our government by force or violence (personally, I just hate violence, and am not awfully strong in the force department) but to stress that there is no disagreement on the fundamental "rightness" of the land-exchange question between the people leading and supporting the Cascade Checkerboard Project and those of the Western Land Exchange Project.

The "exchangers" are under no illusions about Weyerhaeuser & Company. Their position is that when the villain has your sweetie pie tied to the railroad tracks and is twisting his mustaches and chortling as the train draws nigh, your choices are limited. Our director, Rick McGuire, has painfully made the point in his article. I

know no one, myself, personally, who disagrees that forests cannot be left to the amorality of giant corporations, their management must be brought into the human community of values. One suggestion has been to revest the Northern Pacific Land Grant.

Another step is the emphasis of the Western Land Exchange Project, "Research, Advocacy, and Outreach for Land Exchange Policy Reform." The Cascade Checkerboard Project does not disagree with this. The two groups are working toward the same goal. The mugwump believes all us mugwumps ought to listen carefully to both.

The following headline and opening paragraph of the lead article in the June 1999 Land Exchange Update introduce a report of the current status of the Huckleberry exchange.

COURT HALTS LOGGING ON LAND TRADED TO WEYERHAEUSER

**Rachael Paschal, President,
Western Land Exchange
Project**

Testament to the destruction wrought by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Huckleberry Mountain is wasted with clearcuts and roads that have brought the Green River watershed to the very edge of ecological collapse. But a recent decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has afforded Huckleberry Mountain a temporary reprieve.

Also in this current issue are reports on exchanges in central Oregon, western Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Virginia, and California — the national context of our local situation.

New Books of Some Note

Reviewed by H.M.

The New Age Cometh

North Cascades Crest: Notes and Images from America's Alps

James Martin, Sasquatch Books, Seattle, 1999. 1328 pages, 8x10. 75 color photos. Trade paperback, \$19.95.

When James Martin “stumbled across Tom Miller’s *The North Cascades*” and thus discovered “America’s own Alps,” he moved from California to be near the “. . . wildness. I couldn’t live without it.”

Excellent! This was precisely why we (The Mountaineers) published Tom’s book in 1964. The wildness needed eyes to see, boots to walk, to save it for — well, for James Martin. So blessings on him. On his book, too.

However, not to be ignored is the difference. *The North Cascades* of 1964 had an agenda, and so did the Sierra Club’s *The Wild Cascades* in 1965, as did in following years a veritable library of books from these and other publishers, books that were baited with pretty pictures and useful information and that, when the fish nibbled, set the hook and demanded letters to Congress.

Martin does recommend that the hiker “should try to walk primarily on rock, camp on snow instead of meadow, and carry out waste.” He says a good word for grizzlies and a bad word for clearcutting and believes “the natural word deserves respect. “ Yet when the fishies of *Outside* and Amazon dot com are hooked by Martin’s pretty pictures, what does he expect of them? To flop around in the frying pan? He is aware there was a Great Year, 1968, but after 1964 is totally blank on that library of “agenda” books. He doesn’t even mention that 1984 was, itself, a pretty good year. In short, the sort of stuff the present journal has focused on since 1957 is of no interest to Martin.

The present journal therefore cannot express much interest in Martin’s text. The photographs, yes, because they all-too-vividly exemplify the latest technology of camera and darkroom, to us old trampers as incomprehensible as sending an expedition to Everest to dig up Mallory’s bones and sell photos of them to the media. The color! Oh the color! Poor Lady Macbeth, repeatedly washing her hands: “Who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?” Poor me, swirling in what feels like a bad acid flashback: “Who would have thought my black-and-white North Cascades. . . .?”

Technology is progress, you can’t fight it. Ethics, though, are in some measure eternal. Photographers of ancient times brought down commandments from Sinai: One, always tell where the camera is. Two, always clearly announce when it’s in the sky. Three, always be upfront about the telephoto. Violate these commandments of Jehovah and the world you “image” may be as mind-blowing as a bus trip with Ken Kesey but it is not the world experienced by a mind that sees through eyes that are connected to boots on the ground and are unable to zoom. Four, when “imaging” a wild creature, explain how you got close enough to look it in the eye, and if caught in a zoo in Clallam County or Africa established for professional wildlife imagers, be frank about it, as was Art Wolfe, the mentor pronounced by Martin to be “. . . by acclamation the world’s most accomplished outdoor photographer.”

In the book title, “crest” led me to expect step-by-step tracing of the wildland unity from Canada to Glacier Peak, an expectation reinforced by the back-cover encomium that credits Martin with knowing “these reclusive mountains as few others do.” But the text describes a half-dozen or so day or overnight trips to the wilderness edge, and only two routes (that he, himself,

walked) in deep wilderness, the “reclusive” sort.

As for that classic unit, the crest, the book omits these indispensable pieces: Redoubt-Custer Ridge; Northern Pickets-Picket Pass-Southern Pickets Traverse; Snowfield-Klawatti Traverse; Eldorado-Forbidden-Boston-Sahale. The Ptarmigan Traverse is sampled from the north end, the south end, and the middle. For his “complete” he cops out halfway, failing to do the classic finish of the First, Second, and Third Traverses by, respectively, the Ptarmigan Climbing Club, Tom Miller & Company, and Ira Spring & Company.

These lapses might charitably be attributed to a late-arriving and hungry publisher, and/or a writer-photographer trying too hard, too soon. My hardball-ethical judgment is that these folks haven’t paid their dues, are motivated by something other than whatever it is that drives the NCCC.

You can’t beat the price. The color hysteria and the winter aerials and the zoom-zooms — the fishies will bite bite bite — and flop flop flop. Exploiting the North Cascades as a commodity, the publisher and author will cash in big. Not to worry about Tom Miller. It was of no concern to him that in those early years of Mountaineers Books they were too poor to pay royalties; he had a good job at Boeing, weekends and vacations free.



Geology of the North Cascades

Rowland Tabor and Ralph Haugerud, drawings by Anne Crowder, The Mountaineers, 1999. 143 page, 8-1/2x11, visuals, (maps, color photos, line drawings) galore. \$19.95 (a bargain!)

Continued on next page

Ninety years of North Cascade geologizing packaged in a “mountain mosaic,” and little more needs be said than that the “Tabor” of the authorship is half of the “Tabor & Crowder” who in 1965 gave us *Routes and Rocks: Hikers Guide to the North Cascades from Glacier Peak to Lake Chelan*.

That classic has been out of print for years, become a collector’s treasure, and perpetuated by photocopy machines by the thousands of pirate copies. The Crowder family happily is as involved in this book as in its predecessor, whose co-author is remembered in the dedication, “the late Dwight Crowder who knew its mountains and its rocks and would have liked to have written this book.” No review or description or recommendation is really necessary — a notification suffices. **YOU WANT THIS BOOK. And you don’t want just to library-borrow. BUY IT.** From a human bookstore, not a supermarket in a mall or in cyberspace. Even if you are geology-challenged, “Part I: North Cascades Geology,” will primer you in. Then you’ll be set for “Part 2: Geologic Notes for Points of Interest,” a rock-feast that will require the book to be permanently in your rucksack — as they like to put it nowadays, your “Eleventh Essential.”



Mount Rainier National Park Centennial

Mount Rainier enters its second century a national park with a suggested reading list handsomely augmented by several impressive new volumes. This is not to say the list was not already richly respectful. Some of my personal favorites have been (alphabetically by author) Aubrey Haines, *Mountain Fever*; William Moir, *Forests of Mount Rainier*; Dee Molenaar, *The Challenge of Mount Rainier*; and Floyd Schmoë, *A Year in Paradise*.

Newly we have Bruce Barcott, *The Measure of a Mountain: Beauty and Terror on Mount Rainier*, 1997, “Lighthearted personal account of trips to Mount Rainier; interviews with its aficionados and researchers.” And Tim McNulty and Pat O’Hara, : *Washington’s Mount Rainier National Park: A Centennial Celebration*, 1999, “Beautiful, informative portrait of the park and the Mountain, its history, geology, and ecology.” And finally, Ruth Kirk, *Sunrise to Paradise: The Story of Mount Rainier National Park*, 1999.

I’ve not read the Barcott and McNulty/O’Hara books, for two reasons: The publishers did not send me review copies, and in any event I’m really pretty filled up with the same old same old about The Mountain. Please, authors, my apologies. No disrespect meant. I know and admire your work and likely will get around to these books one day. When the price is right (free, that is).

Ruth Kirk’s publisher, the University of Washington Press, did send me a review copy. If they had not, I’d have borrowed from the library, because no matter how often a tired old field has been plowed, Ruth always turns up new stuff and serves it in high style.

The 150 pages, 8x11, offer a sumptuous spread. Ruth presents the vital statistics and the history. She spotlights The First People, the first botanizers, the (self-alleged) first climbers, the first woman on top, Fay Fuller, in “heavy flannels, woolen hose, warm mittens and goggles. . .” carrying “two single blankets containing provisions for three days and strapped from the shoulder under the arm to the waist.” Reaching “the tip top” at 4:30 p.m. she felt sick from exhaustion and fumes but “after vomiting. . . felt all right and ready to enjoy the night.” Ruth’s narrative is accompanied by “Voices of the Mountain,” a chorus including Schmoë and Haines and Molenaar and Spring and Levertov, as well as the less familiar names of folks who summered long

ago in fire lookouts and on trail crews, and sadly last, a survivor of the 1981 disaster on the Ingraham Glacier, eleven comrades dead, the most in American alpinism. The “Arkansas boys” of the Depression CCC are featured, and the Army ski-troopers of 1940-42, and the “big-time skiing” of the 1930s (Don Fraser, who won it in 1934 and 1938, tells about the Silver Skis race, from 10,000 feet at Muir to 5,000 at Paradise, in just over 9 minutes!).

Enough hors-d’oeuvres — pull your chair up to the table and go at it.

I haven’t counted the photographs and drawings, numbering somewhere in the hundreds: or the photographers and artists (Molenaar and Tsutakawa are here, of course); several dozen are named, the rest namelessly attributed to the National Park Service, University of Washington Libraries, and Washington State Historical Society.

The result is not only a pictorial history of the Mountain but the evolution of photography from the invention of the camera (virtually) to the up-to-the-minute color gaudies. Among my favorites: Alma Wagen, “our lady guide,” in pre-WWII riding britches and rattlesnake boots; Imogen Cunningham’s 1915 portrait of her new hubby Roi Partridge, a scandal at the time (her comment half a century later — “You could never chase a naked husband around Mount Rainier today.”); visitors arrived via the new (1906) Tacoma Eastern Railroad, captioned “Two ladies in elegant dress.”; Elcane Longmire and his beard; Chief Saluskin (1915); the “Dancing Girls” from Miss Mary Ann Wells School, come in 1931 to celebrate opening of the road to Sunrise; the Paradise Golf Course of the 1930s; John Muir sitting on the porch of the Kernahan log cabin, 1888.

The reader always expects (and gets) from Ruth the best and most accurate lowdown on scientific research. The geology of The Mountain has been a personal pet fascination. Often I’ve gazed out from the Issaquah Alps over the broad

expanse that only recently was identified as the Osceola Mudflow of some 5700 years ago, and mused "What if it came again, now?" For reasons having to do with urban non-planning, I've kept up pretty well with the on-going identification of the 60-odd lahars that have swept down every one of the Mountain's valleys. However, I'd fallen behind the data, my newest information being about the Electron Mudflow of 600 years ago. Ruth brought me into the current picture, which is such that geologists are more or less privately warning their friends to move out of Orting, to not invest in Puyallup real estate, or for that matter, Auburn or Kent or Tukwila. In the mid-1990s came the discovery of an eruption-triggered lahar of 1100 years ago which laid down sand 12 feet deep near the Port of Seattle's Terminal 107.

The Mountain (and the Seattle Fault) promise to give mankind a second chance at building a respectful Puget Sound City. Stick to the high ground and stay off the jelly-bowl soils and you may be able to enjoy it.



Addendum

You couldn't expect the Centennial to escape the notice of Ira Spring, could you? His tribute to the occasion is a Fourth Edition of 50 Hikes in Mount Rainier National Park — ALL THE 81 PHOTOS IN THE GORGEOUS SINGAPORE COLOR THAT IS BOGGLING AMERICA. If you thought the first edition, 1969, was something, be prepared to sit down while your head stops swimming. Says the back cover, "... Wondrous hikes around the Northwest's most beloved icon." It is hailed (if you can't trust a back cover, who can you trust?) by the *Seattle Times* as "invaluable," by *Sunset* as "Authoritative," and by *Summit* as "Outstanding." \$14.95 per copy. Ideal for Christmas stockings. The whole family will go blind.

Ira Spring having come up, have you seen his autobiography? *An Ice Axe, A Camera, And A Jar of Peanut Butter*, The Mountaineers, 1998. 239 pages (8-1/4x10-1/2), some hundreds of photos (b&w). Paperback, \$24.95.

Boy Scouts in the Olympics, photographing tourists at Mount Rainier, islanders in the South Pacific, girls rappelling for *Esquire* and leaping crevasses for the Sunday supplements, skiers at Chamonix, pilgrims on Fujiyama, Justice Douglas on the beach, Canadian Club whiskey drinkers for the national magazines, and Betty Manning on Eldorado. (The photo of the peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich is by his son-in-law, Tom Kirkendall.)



FROM THE WHULGE TO THE CASCADE CREST

Hiking Snohomish County, 90 Hike & Walks, Plus Parks, Viewpoints, Water Access & Campgrounds. Ken Wilcox, Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham, 1998. 260 pages (4-1/2x6-1/2), some 100 small photos (b&w), about 80 maps. Paperback, \$13.95.

When the notion was floated of *100 Classic Hikes*, I alternately snorted and groaned, opining with some vigor that 100+100+100 etc. were enough of that. However, the publisher (The Mountaineers) drew attention to the horde of nibblers and proposed a Microsoft-like defense against "loss of market share." They sweetened the pot by suggesting we might have some fun with the text, adding personal experiences on the routes. A major inducement for Ira was coming out from black & white into living color. What won me over (aside from the impossibility of arguing with Ira the Smiling Steamroller) was that the publisher acceded to my demand that I be permitted frontmatter space for "Our Greenbooks and How they Grew" — stipulating no (zero, nada)

editorial censorship from Powers Above. To quote from my screed:

"If guidebooks were rare hereabouts in the 1960s, the same cannot be said of the 1990s. Ira and I take the precaution of not reading any of the row upon row of newcomers to bookstore shelves in order to avoid the ever-present dangers of unconscious plagiarism — and of repeating someone else's mistakes. I scan the forewords, though, because there, if anywhere, is the environmental conscience. I regret to say that in the forewords I have scanned I haven't found any to speak of. Which is not to say there isn't any. But the absence points up the reason Ira and I got into guidebooking in the 1960s and why we're still at it."

Ken Wilcox passes my test — with honors. I knew he would before ever I opened the book — which I had encouraged him to do because my old *Footsore* series was dying, leaving much fine walking in limbo, and because his close-up focus could provide finer detail than *Footsore* ever had. Reading the foreword was confirmation. However, I don't wish to give the impression the book is laudable merely because it's good for the land. It's also good for you, the pedestrian. The 300 miles of walking are separated into: The Coast, Urban Walks, Lowlands and Foothills, and North Cascades. All 90 hikes and walks are day trips, identified by one to four symbols from "Easiest" to "Most Difficult". Some dozens of "Other Walks and Hikes" invite exploration.

If you enjoy this volume (you will) you'll want the companions in the series; *Hiking Whatcom County* (1996) and ("coming soon") *Hiking Skagit County*, *Hiking King County*, and *Hiking the San Juans, Whidbey and Camano Islands*.



Land and Water Conservation Fund

Originally authorized by Congress in the 1960s, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established from revenue accruing from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leases, on a permanent basis, to ensure long-term funding for LWCF and an urban counterpart, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program. (UPARR). Unfortunately, since the early 1980s, the \$900 million annual OCS proceeds for LWCF have seldom been used for either the federal or state programs. At the federal level, approximately one-half, or \$450 million, was to be used for protecting natural areas, such as national parks, national forests, wilderness, and fish and wildlife refuges through the purchase of private inholdings from willing sellers. The other half was intended for a state matching grants program with funds appropriated to states for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas for state and local open space and natural resource protection, and recreation enhancement. Prior to the 1980s funds from LWCF had assisted Olympic National Park in a gradual purchase of private inholdings from owners willing to sell. A small amount recently became available for ONP.

However, since the early 1980s, most of the authorized \$900 million from OCS oil and gas drilling went into the federal treasury and was appropriated for programs other than the intended parks, conservation and recreation programs. Minimal amounts had been allocated for the federal LWCF program — not quite zero, but almost. Virtually no funds were allocated for the state and urban programs. Within the past year a new group, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, was formed especially to work on behalf of full and permanent funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. AHR recognizes the LWCF's original purpose as a long-term investment in non-renewable resources, specifically offshore oil and gas revenues, to protect America's natural resources and

enhance recreation opportunities. AHR opposes any legislation that would have incentives for additional offshore oil or gas leasing, as does Olympic Park Associates and other conservation/environmental organizations.

Several "funding initiatives" are now being considered by Congress. One is the Lands Legacy Initiative by the Clinton Administration which would allocate \$440 million to federal LWCF acquisition and \$150 million for a moderate state program but without any funding provision for recreation for states. The balance of the proposed initial \$1 billion would go towards various other protection categories, including, forests, habitat conservation, farmland protection, and coastal protection. Several bills now in Congress would reactivate LWCF from offshore oil and gas leasing income.

Polly Dyer of Olympic Park Associates attended a National Summit of Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation in Annapolis, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., in early June. She expects to keep up on these attempts to reinvigorate the Land and Water Conservation Fund, especially as it may help in protecting Olympic National Park and environs and its sister national parks in the North Cascades and Mount Rainier. Your voices can go far in telling your congressional representatives and senators they absolutely must take the lead in making Land and Water Conservation Funds a permanent and dedicated fund; that LWCF is every bit as important to include in the budget as anything else. Budget cuts are the general responses that they can't do anything about. BUT they can, if enough of you tell them so.

For details and keep up-to-date on the progress of the bills in Congress, contact AHR's Pacific Northwest Representative, Joe LaTourrette, 120 State Ave. N.E., Suite 256, Olympia, WA. 98501-8212; Phone 360-754-2324, FAX 360-754-2594; e-mail: dipodomoy@gte.net.

— POLLY DYER

Appropriations Needed for Land Acquisitions

The Clinton Administration recently announced its proposal for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire key lands. The Plum Creek land exchange bill stated Congress's intent to acquire additional Plum Creek lands to protect their natural and scenic values. There are about 16,000 acres of priority Plum Creek lands not included in the exchange, and the bill specifically mentions the Carbon, Yakima and Tieton Rivers, and Watch Mountain and Goat Mountain as key areas for acquisition. Another acquisition priority is old growth forest and roadless lands in the Skykomish valley. Top priority is a 640-acre parcel in Martin Creek adjacent to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, just above the Iron Goat Trail and a smaller piece on Gunn Peak near Index. These areas are threatened with logging and roadbuilding by Longview Fibre. Lands within Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge (actually once part of the checkerboard land grant) have also been identified as high priority by environmental groups for acquisition.

Call your senators and representative and urge them to include funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase Plum Creek and other high priority lands.

Senator Patty Murray, (202) 224-2621; Senator Slade Gorton, (202) 224-3441; Representative Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916.

The Cascade Checkerboard Project is sponsored by the Sierra Club. Director, Charlie Raines; Newsletter Editor, Amy Guilick. 8511 15th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115; (206) 523-2147; Fax (206) 523-2079; <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/wa/checkerboard/>. Contributions are appreciated and should be directed to the Sierra Club Foundation at the above address.

E-mail Addresses...

for Senators and Representatives - U.S. Congress

Rep. Jay Inslee—jay.inslee@mail.house.gov

Rep. Jack Metcalf—jack.metcalf@mail.house.gov

Rep. Brian Baird—brian.baird@mail.house.gov

Rep. Norm Dicks—e-mail him through his website: www.house.gov/dicks

Rep. Jennifer Dunn—dunnwa08@mail.house.gov

Rep. Adam Smith—adam.smith@mail.house.gov

Rep. Doc Hastings—no e-mail, 509/547-1972

Rep. George Nethercutt—george.nethercutt-pub@mail.house.gov

Rep. Jim McDermott—no e-mail

Senator Patty Murray (D)—senator_murray@murray.senate.gov

Senator Slade Gorton (R)—e-mail him through his website: www.senate.gov/-gorton/

Membership Application

Be part of the North Cascades Conservation Council's Advocacy of the North Cascades. Join the NCCC. Support the North Cascades Foundation. Help us help protect North Cascades wilderness from overuse and development.

NCCC membership dues (one year): \$10 low income/student; \$20 regular; \$25 family; \$50 Contributing; \$100 patron; \$1,000 sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with NCCC membership.

Please check the appropriate box(es):

I wish membership in NCCC

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.

I wish to support NCF

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

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Please cut, enclose check and mail form and check to:
NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Membership Chair L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Drive ▲ Everett, WA 98208



document!document!document!document!document!document!document!

Please document evidence of abuses to the Cascades backcountry this summer

Use your camera, pencil, paper to record questionable conditions: sheep, cattle, inappropriate camping, horse problems, etc. Send pictures and information to the NCCC.

Check the NCCC website:
www.halcyon.com/rdpayne/nccc

document!document!document!document!document!document!document!

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