



Summer 1977

THE WILD CASCADES

'Good news in this late communique, chaps. She's not holding any of our tourists down there as hostages.'

IN THIS ISSUE

Ross Dam again occupies our correspondents, and this issue of *The Wild Cascades* should provide an article on our favorite engineering proposal to suit every taste.

We have facts, we have figures, we have fulmination. We have documentation of American and Canadian response to Duxy Lee Ray's reversal of state policy on raising Ross. See pages 9-16.

We bring you fascinating analyses of two principal characters in the saga of Ross. See pages 3 and 20.

Read it in our governor's own words on page 18.

On page 17, the N3C's attorney, Ric Arambure tells what our next step will be in our battle to save Big Beaver Valley.

And there's more, more, more inside, on scenic rivers, inventory of roadless areas, and other subjects.

DIXY HEATS UP ROSS DAM ISSUE

by the kaopectate kid

Well, it finally happened! Our governess, Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, after five months of beating on the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the Wilderness Society, Washington Environmental Council and various other groups of "people-haters", has turned her attention to N3C and its overriding issue, High Ross Dam.

On May 27, 1977, the same lady who insured the future preservation of Washington's billboards threw the weight of her office behind raising Ross Dam. This is the same scientist who legalized extract of apricot seeds for the treatment of cancer, that eminent marine biologist who believes oil tanker traffic through the San Juans can do no harm to marine organisms, that consummate politician who thinks government should not protect poor people against loan sharks.

Surely a governor of such multifarious talents would not reverse the State's position on High Ross Dam without a careful reevaluation of the issues and the trade-offs involved. Might there even be some public input? If you believe that, Mac, you're smoking something stronger than Winstons!

Governor Ray's letter to the Federal Power Commission, reprinted in this issue, seems to put the monkey on the back of the Department of Ecology. She supports their "Modification of the Position of the State of Washington", implying that DOE has come up with new data making High Ross power more valuable and environmental impact less significant.

What are the facts? Well, DOE's notice to FPC is only 37 lines long. The only part of it that gives any explanation for the change in position is the following paragraph:

"The Department of Ecology, on behalf of the State of Washington, has reevaluated the application of the City of Seattle relating to Ross Dam and, based upon an evaluation of the needs for power of the applicant, the additional power produced if the application is approved and the Ross Dam is raised, the environmental impact of such a modified project and international relationships, concludes that under conditions as they now exist, the application of the City of Seattle should be approved." (underscoring ours)

Now, let's go back a few years in this long drawn-out hassle over High Ross--to March 3, 1971, to be exact. John Biggs, director of our new Department of Ecology, the first in the nation, announced DOE's intention to intervene before the FPC as the official representative of the State of Washington. To help determine the department's position on High Ross Dam, Mr. Biggs requested his advisory body, the State Ecological Commission, to hold public hearings.

Two full-day hearings were held in Seattle and Mt. Vernon on March 16 and 17, 1971. Proponents and opponents of the project, including numerous Canadians, testified on engineering, economic and environmental issues of the proposal. In December of 1971, after still another meeting of the Ecological Commission, director John Biggs announced DOE's opposition to the project.

DOE also prepared a massive environmental assessment of High Ross Dam. This document, which reflected work of the department's own staff as well as input from local, state and

federal agencies, concluded that the additional power to be generated by the high dam could not justify the destruction of wild lands. The assessment particularly pointed out that the environmental impacts in Canada overruled any justification for flooding the Canadian Skagit Valley.

We invite you to contrast this thorough and painstaking approach by the old DOE with that of the new department under the reign of Queen Dixy. Director Wilbur Hallauer asked for no public input. He says they have reevaluated the application. Where's the documentation? What has changed? Certainly not the environmental impact. If anything, it would be greater now than back in 1971 because infinitely larger numbers of recreationists are visiting Big Beaver Valley and the Canadian Skagit. That old chestnut about a larger reservoir serving more recreationists has been put to rest this year when we saw what a drought can do to "beautiful Ross Lake". A high dam would just mean more and uglier mud flats whenever Ma Nature turns off the snow.

The only thing that has changed is that City Light is having to buy additional energy to supplement its drought-starved Skagit projects. So, to produce an extra 274 MW of peaking juice, Hallauer and Ray have decided to pressure the FPC into letting City Light spend another \$110 million on this destructive white elephant. Yeah, that's what we said! \$110 million! Remember just a few years back when High Ross seemed a poor bargain at \$40 million?

Hallauer implies that DOE has evaluated the international relationships of High Ross. Mebbeso, but the furor he and Dixy stirred up in Canada appeared to surprise him. "Just trying to help out Seattle and City Light", he said. "We've tried to get them into a better bargaining position."

We recognize that Wilbur Hallauer just follows orders. Probably Dixy saw the High Ross issue as another opportunity for her to lambaste the environmental movement, the *bete noir* of her administration. A quick phone call, "Wilbur, how about having DOE reverse that Biggs-Evans stand on Ross Dam?" and the deed was done.

What makes our Dixy Dumpling act the way she does? That's the question that has political scientist all over the state scratching their heads. A friend of ours, who had best remain nameless, says Dixy's big problem is that she's a Social Darwinist. Social Darwinism, now a largely discredited theory, was at its peak in the American and British industrial societies during the late nineteenth century. The Social Darwinists, taking their lead from the theory of natural selection, contended that, just as the "fittest" organisms survive in nature, the "fittest" people in society also thrive and rise to the top (Pirages and Ehrlich, 1974). We can probably attribute Dixy's adherence to conservative dogmas to her belief in Social Darwinism. Some of her quotes, printed elsewhere in this issue, are classic examples of nineteenth century beliefs that the poor, weak and unsuccessful are the way they are because they are too lazy and shiftless to better their condition.

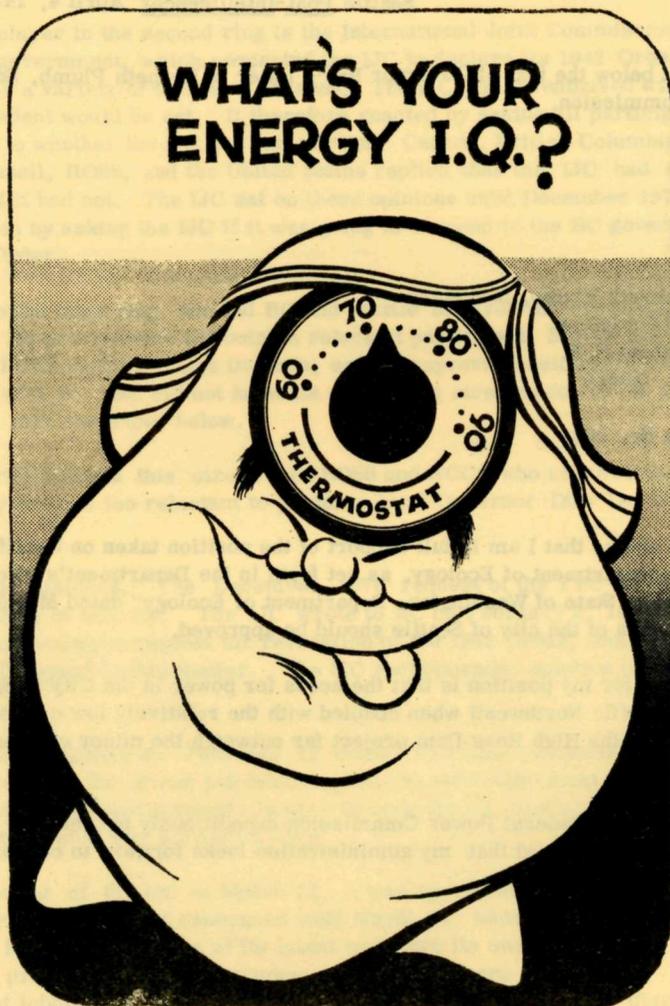
Dixy's own life has been eminently successful. She went to a good school, became a well-known professor of marine biology, was a successful director of the Seattle Science Center, a rather less successful Nixon appointee as director of the Atomic Energy Commission and, upon her first entry into elective politics, won a smashing victory as Washington's first female governor.

How could such a favorite of the gods fail to believe in her own infallibility? This undoubtedly accounts for her intolerance of criticism, either by press or public, her fumbling attempts to dictate state policy rather than administer it, and her failure to explain to the people her reasons for her actions. As the Seattle P-I editorialized in April after her closed-door meeting with the Northern Tier and Western governors,

"Such conduct, at its best, is nothing more than closed government in what is supposed to be an open society."

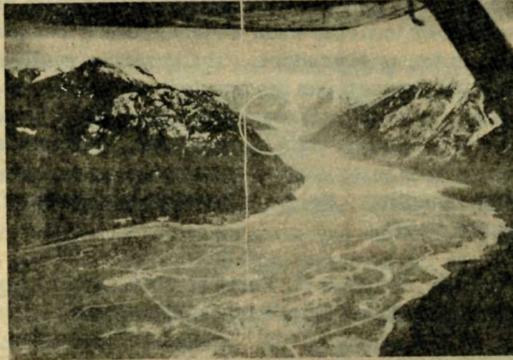
What does Dixy's action mean to N3C and its long-standing commitment to saving Big Beaver Valley of the North Cascades National Park Complex from flooding by Seattle City Light? Not much, really. Just mark it up to another venting of spleen from an old-time environmentalist-hater. She first took after our clan when we successfully bucked her on the Golden Gardens aquarium, and she's had it in for us ever since. The governor really doesn't have any substantive role to play in the negotiations between the province of British Columbia and Seattle City Light. And these negotiations are what will eventually save Big Beaver and the Canadian Skagit. N3C's role has been to buy the requisite time to permit the negotiations to come to fruition. Has it been worth it? You really have to go visit one of the valleys to make up your own mind. That's a privilege denied our Dixy Dumpling. She isn't very welcome in the Canadian Skagit, and she'd have to WALK up Big Beaver Valley!

Reference: Pirages, Dennis C. and Paul R. Ehrlich, 1974. Ark II, Social Response to Environmental Imperatives. The Viking Press. New York.



Collins

Six Miles of Power Problems



THE DROUGHT has caused this area of the Rain Lake reservoir on the Skagit River in Whatcom County to remain in record lows. This area

about 1000 feet dry, is usually full at this time of year. The photo was taken from directly over the Canadian border looking south. The nearest

water, in which it is 1000 feet away. Powerhouses that feed all the reservoirs are facing problems. See Page A-4. — P-I Photo by Cary Tolson.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer April 4, 1977

We reprint below the text of Governor Ray's letter to Kenneth Plumb, Secretary of the Federal Power Commission.

May 27, 1977

The Honorable Kenneth Plumb, Secretary
Federal Power Commission
825 N. Capitol Street N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20426

RE: FPC Project No. 553

Dear Mr. Plumb:

This is written to advise that I am in full support of the position taken on behalf of the State of Washington by the Department of Ecology, as set forth in the Department's "Notice of Modification of the Position of State of Washington, Department of Ecology" dated May 27, 1977, that the subject application of the city of Seattle should be approved.

The primary reason for my position is that the needs for power in the City of Seattle (as well as in the rest of the Pacific Northwest) when coupled with the relatively low cost of power which would be produced by the High Ross Dam project far outweigh the minor environmental losses involved.

I therefore urge that the Federal Power Commission expeditiously process the City of Seattle's application. Please be assured that my administration looks forward to cooperating with you on this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Dixy Lee Ray
Governor

a canadian view: ken farquharson

skagit update

To understand where the Skagit issue is today, consider yourself a spectator at a three-ring circus in which none of the participants desires to perform.

In the first ring we have the Federal Power Commission. While Administrative Judge Lande asked that someone else settle the issue of raising Ross Dam, he nonetheless approved the project and so recommended to the FPC. The FPC was a little nervous about the issue since after allowing Canadian intervenors to appear and then neglecting to consider their unanimous opposition it has created many opportunities for precedent setting appeals, which it would rather avoid. The Run Out Skagit Spoilers Committee has always argued that the FPC does not have jurisdiction in the issue and that the case should rightfully be before the International Joint Commission. Certainly the FPC would have been very happy to have the tiger move out of its ring, but more of that later.

The lead player in the second ring is the International Joint Commission, forced into the arena by the BC government, which requested the IJC to declare its 1942 Order authorizing the project invalid for a variety of technical reasons. The IJC was not enthused with this request as an awkward precedent would be set. It therefore reacted by asking all participants in the issue their opinions as to whether the IJC had jurisdiction. Canada, British Columbia, North Cascades Conservation Council, ROSS, and the United States replied that the IJC had such jurisdiction, while Seattle said it had not. The IJC sat on these opinions until December 1976 when the FPC poked it into action by asking the IJC if it was going to respond to the BC government request to cancel the 1942 Order.

Coming to the third ring, we find BC and Seattle involved in negotiations to settle the issue. Each has its own reasons for being a reluctant participant: Seattle did not want to negotiate until it had FPC approval to raise the dam, as that approval would strengthen the city's bargaining position with BC; BC did not know its negotiating strength due to the peculiar actions of the IJC in March 1977 described below.

Other participants in this circus are ROSS and NCCC who act as stimulators to the FPC and BC when they become too reluctant to perform; and Governor Dixy Lee Ray, featured as a clown.

But back to business. The December 1976 request of the FPC for an opinion from the IJC initiated a flurry of activity. The IJC wrote to BC on February 3, 1977 asking whether BC was serious in maintaining its request for revocation of the 1942 Order, and asking to be informed by March 1st with regard to this matter. The IJC recommended solution by negotiation between BC and Seattle.

BC's angry response on February 11 denied that little progress was being achieved in negotiation and rejected the March 1st deadline, but offered no statement as to whether BC would pursue its request. A BC government attorney did call the IJC to discuss the issue on February 25th, but accounts of what was agreed on vary.

At a meeting of the IJC on March 12, it was agreed that the IJC had jurisdiction in the case. This agreement was not announced until March 24, when the IJC informed BC that since BC had made no formal declaration of its intent to pursue its own request, the request was "dismissed without prejudice", but continuing negotiations were encouraged. It is reported that Seattle City Light lobbied the US Section of the IJC heavily at this time for dismissal. In a letter to the IJC of March 1, Superintendent Vickery of City Light states: "We have always had the

understanding that any discussions with BC were not to delay in any way the proceeding before the FPC whose licensing action is essential before the city has a firm basis for negotiations."

In the meantime the Canadian government had taken some action on behalf of BC. Trudeau raised the issue with President Ford, and an "aide-memoire" reiterating Canadian opposition and requesting that the IJC not alter the status quo was sent to the US Department of State. The IJC ignored this request in its dismissal but did reaffirm its desire to see resolution through negotiation between BC and Seattle.

At this time BC felt it had been roughly handled by the IJC as conversations with IJC staff on February 25 had given BC the feeling that the IJC would not set policy on the BC request without further contacting BC. City Light too had been devious, denying to the IJC and FPC that the series of meetings between BC and Seattle in 1976-77 could be considered as "negotiations".

However, BC has stuck to its guns and is doggedly pursuing a settlement. ROSS members met with the Hon. Jim Nielsen, Minister of External Affairs for the House of Commons, and his staff on May 6 and were pleased to find that the Minister was taking a strong line and on that day had made a definite offer for a settlement based on providing Seattle at cost the increment of energy that could be obtained from the Seven Mile project on the Pend d'Oreille River, a Canadian project that would potentially back up into US territory. The net result would be that Seattle would get 19 MW of energy instead of 38 MW from High Ross, at only one-third the cost. Seattle did not reject the offer but was trying to improve its bargaining position by obtaining a favorable FPC decision.

Enter Dixy Lee Ray, changing the official position of the State of Washington on the issue without debate. Wilbur Hallauer, Director of Washington's Department of Ecology, admitted to the BC Deputy Minister of Environment that her stance was taken purely to help Seattle in its position relative to the FPC. Canadians, like residents of Washington, are going to have to learn to live with Dixy for awhile. When it's our gas she wants, Canadians must be neighborly. When it's High Ross Dam she wants, Canadian objections are not to be considered. I hope Dixy will remember that this issue has outlived many politicians. Her role in this circus will be remembered as that of a clown rushing in to a pratfall over an issue she had not taken time to understand.

Seattle City Light's license to raise Ross Dam was finally approved by the FPC in its order of July 5, 1977. This approval will be appealed by NCCC and ROSS within the thirty day limit. If the appeal is denied, as is anticipated, the appellants fully intend to take the case to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

* * * *

Ken Farquharson is secretary of ROSS.



Hard fight needed to save the Skagit from flooding

The Ugly Canadian Who Isn't There

Consider the ugly Canadian. He's been around a lot lately.

He is the fellow who raises our natural gas prices.

He is the one who's causing the Washington State Ferry System problems by wanting to travel from Sidney, B.C., to Anacortes, Wash.

He is being difficult about the division of fish in the Frazier River run.

He doesn't want to let supertankers bring oil to Kitimat, B.C. He would rather we soiled our waters bringing the crude oil from Alaska.

He is apt to shut off the oil flow in any pipeline we might build from Alaska across Canada to the Northern Tier states.

And he won't let us flood his land so that we can raise Ross Dam and thus generate more electricity.

You have met the ugly Canadian. Politicians and public figures here talk about him and tell us he's to blame for our troubles. There is the rhetoric that has been passing as reason.

Their irresponsible assessments are poisoning relationships with British Columbia.

And it's all so much hogwash.

The truth is that Washington State and British Columbia have more in common than this state does with most other U.S. states. British Columbia is a closer partner than, say, Alabama or Mississippi.

And we have much to gain from cooperation with B.C. Our goals are similar; our economies have a symbiotic relationship.

What is true of the relations between Washington and B.C. is equally valid for the U.S. and the Canadian nation.

This country and Canada share far more than the longest continuous border in the world. We share a common defense, we share the human and natural resources of a continent, and we share a commitment to democracy, personal freedom and world peace.

In many national endeavors, our destinies parallel. Take trade, for example. The volume of trade between the two countries is immense.

In 1976, Canadians purchased U.S. products valued at \$25.6 billion — far more than the combined purchases of

our two next largest customers, Japan and West Germany.

As a supplier, Canada provided more than one-fifth of U.S. imports — \$25.1 billion last year.

Both Canada and the U.S. rate energy as a high priority problem. Here, too, goals are virtually interchangeable. Canadians are striving for conservation, appropriate pricing, increased development, new delivery systems, emergency preparedness and more research and development.

Canada supplies 2 to 3 per cent of all U.S. petroleum needs and 5 per cent of our natural gas. U.S. capital contributes greatly to the pace of Canadian energy development.

One area of potential cooperation in energy between the two countries concerns several plans under consideration to transport North Slope energy resources to market.

These include the proposed Alcan Pipeline project, which received approval last week from Canada's National Energy Board. If okayed by President Carter and the Trudeau government, the pipeline eventually will deliver Alaska's gas resources to markets in the East, Midwest and western U.S.

Canada and the U.S., rightly, are often cited as the standard for enlightened international relations. When J. H. Warren, retiring Canadian ambassador to the U.S., visited Seattle recently, he said:

"Whether we begin with similar or very different domestic priorities, the remarkable thing about the Canadian-American relationship is that two distinct sovereign nations are able amicably to resolve so many of their problems."

What Warren said about Canada and the U.S. can and should be said about Washington State and British Columbia. Warren's words carry hope for dispelling the specter of the ugly Canadian. This spurious skeleton should be buried. Responsible leaders in both countries should find more ways to work together, more ways for this state to cooperate with British Columbia.

The Canadians, in general, and the British Columbians, in particular, are among the best friends we have or that we are ever likely to have.

State Drops Opposition To Raising Ross Dam

By BRUCE SHERMAN

The state Department of Ecology yesterday reversed its long-standing opposition to raising City Light's Ross Dam, and Gov. Dixy Lee Ray gave her support to the department's new stand.

According to a brief filed with the Federal Power Commission, the state ecology agency based its re-evaluation on Seattle's need for power the dam would produce. The environmental impact of the project also was re-examined the agency said.

Ray, in a letter accompanying the brief, said she was "in full support of the position taken on behalf of the State of Washington by the Department of Ecology."

She said the need for power, "when coupled with the relatively low cost of power which would be produced by the High Ross Dam project, far outweigh the minor environmental losses involved."

Former Gov. Dan Evans opposed the project, which has been before the FPC since City Light applied for permission to raise the dam in 1969.

Former Ecology Director John Biggs, expressing the state's opposition to the project in 1973, said:

"... our examination indicates that substantial and serious environmental disruptions of an irrevocable kind would result from the project."

The long controversial proposal would raise the dam 122.5 feet, providing an additional 274,000 kilowatts of power to the city.

But the project also would increase the size of Ross Lake, the reservoir behind the dam on the Skagit River. Big Beaver Valley in Washington and 5,000 acres of the lower Skagit Valley across the Canadian border would be flooded.

Environmental groups here and in British Columbia have opposed the project since its inception, and the new position of the governor and her Department of Ecology drew immediate fire yesterday.

"This is like the 'rider from the night' approach that we've seen from this administration before — when something materializes out of thin air," said Seattle attorney Roger Leed, who represents a group of Canadians opposed to the dam project.

He said the governor's brief explanation of her support for the project "shows a hasty and embarrassingly shallow approach to a very complicated problem." He continued:

"She seems to be under the impression that we are prepared to destroy our fisheries . . . She wants to see what's left of our fisheries totally destroyed in the name of the need for more power."

Leed, whose group is called ROSS (Run Out Skagit Spoilers), said the governor's stand might have been more credible if public opinion on the issue was sought. "But it wasn't," he said.

Agreeing with Leed was Tom Brucker, an attorney for the North Cascades Conservation Council.

He said the areas the raised dam would flood are some of the most unique areas of wilderness and wildlife habitat in the Pacific Northwest.

"It's sort of a slice of salami approach," he said of the governor's attitude. "We've always got one more piece so lets just take this one."

The FPC has given no indication of when it would make a final ruling on the High Ross Dam project. Construction at the dam has been an issue before the International Joint Commission, a group formed to discuss cross-border problems between the United States and Canada.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Sat., May 28, 1977

Ross Dam plan opposed in Ottawa

OTTAWA — (AP) — Canada's House of Commons passed a motion yesterday reaffirming its opposition to an American plan to flood the Skagit Valley in British Columbia and the State of Washington.

Stuart Leggatt, the New Democratic member for New Westminster, said the Commons needed to reaffirm a stand taken in 1973 against plans to flood the valley as part of a project to increase hydroelectric power.

Leggatt said Washington Gov. Dixy Lee Ray favors raising Ross Dam, which would lead to the flooding. Her predecessor, Dan Evans, opposed the project.

The Commons asked that the measure be sent to President Carter and Governor Ray.

Asked his opinion of Gov. Dixy Lee Ray, Reagan said "I find myself in great agreement with many things Gov. Ray says . . . I don't know all about her record but she may be one of those people who is close to the Republican philosophy but doesn't know it."

Seattle Post - Intelligencer June 28, 1977

High Ross Dam

The surprising thing about the High Ross Dammers' revival ("Price of City Hall's wishful thinking," Ross Cunningham's column, *The Times*, April 14) is how long it took them to get back into action.

High Ross is not an economically attractive project, except in the one or two times every 50 years when we have a dry year.

Had the dam been raised a few years ago, we all would be paying higher rates, because it is not a cost-effective project. Even a second-grader would probably choose to pay a 50 per cent higher rate for six months than a 10 per cent higher rate for 50 years.

City Light has more effective places to put its resources than in raising Ross.

It should be installing equipment to switch off water heaters at peak times, or storing heat at off-peak hours to reduce generating capacity.

It can encourage the installation of waste-heat recovery systems from oil or gas furnace flues to supply nearly all hot-water requirements in the winter months.

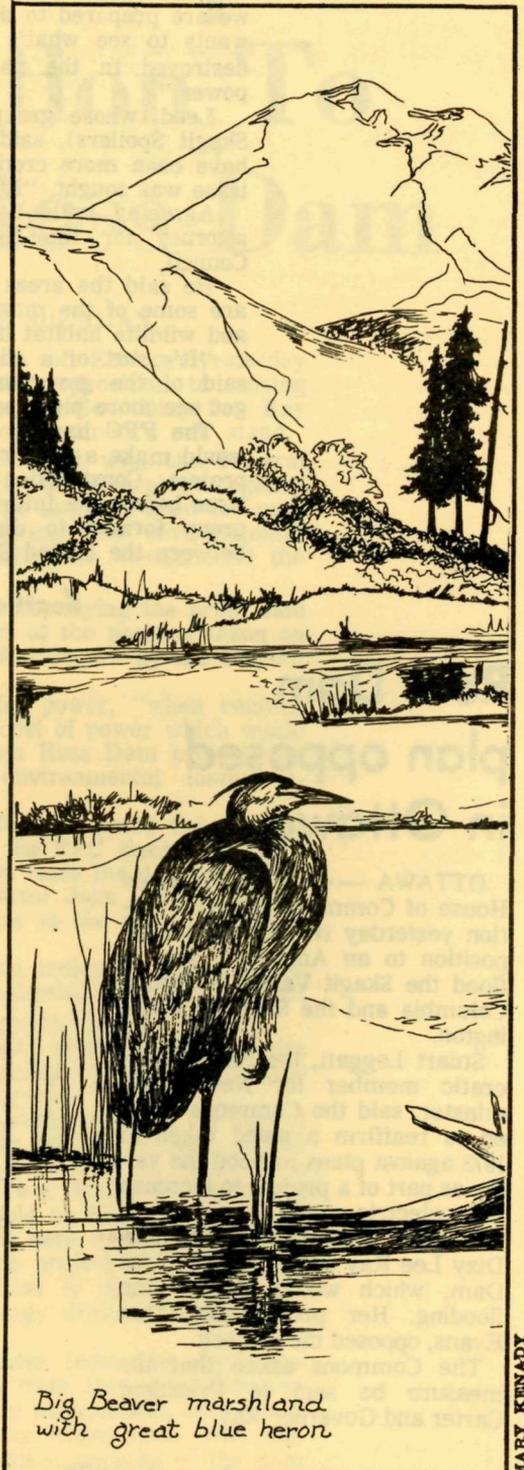
It can help people finance heat pumps to replace resistance heating.

These measures are far cheaper than raising Ross and would do more for us.

But these arguments bypass the prime reasoning against raising Ross. That is the barbaric havoc it will place in the center of the finest national park in the nation.

— R.J. BROOKS,
3802 E. McGilvra Place

Seattle Times April 26, 1977



*Big Beaver marshland
with great blue heron*

Dixy Lee Ray stirs up storm in B.C. over Ross Dam plan

B.C. politicians and environmentalists united Sunday in expressing dismay over a decision by Washington State Governor Dixy Lee Ray to throw the power of her office behind proposals to raise the Ross Dam.

Some dam opponents threatened to block the loggers with an invasion of dedicated protesters.

Ray announced Friday that because of drought conditions she is reversing the state's position on the controversial project that threatens to flood 5,000 acres of the Skagit Valley.

Under former governor Dan Evans the state was opposed to a joint city of Seattle and Seattle City Light proposal to raise the height of the Ross Dam by 122½ feet, which would back up additional water north of the U.S. border.

Environment Minister Jim Nielsen, Liberal leader Gordon Gibson and Gary Gallon, B.C. executive director of the Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society (SPEC) said Ray's sudden about-face came as a shock.

Gallon, whose organization has fought the Ross Dam project for years, said Ray's stand "scares us quite a bit — we can't take her statements lightly because you can be sure she'll now put all the powers of her office in that direction."

But SPEC "will try to stop it every way we can — we will take the measures we were prepared to take on spruce budworm spraying if necessary."

(SPEC members said last week they were ready to go to jail to halt the government's planned spraying of forest lands in the Fraser Canyon. The program was subsequently stopped.)

Gallon said the upper Skagit Valley will have to be logged before any flooding takes place "and we will put people out there to disrupt that logging if we have to."

He said Ray's entry into the dispute should really not have come as a surprise because environmental groups in the U.S. "have had a lot of trouble with her before — they called her 'Mother Nuke' when she was with the Atomic Energy Commission (from 1972 to 1974) because she was totally oblivious to environmental aspects in promoting nuclear development."

Gallon questioned a Ray statement that the dam should be raised because of Washington drought conditions, pointing out that the project would take about three years to complete and would not help Washington with its immediate problem.

"I think it's a ruse," he said. "She's taking advantage of the water shortage to push this through."

Nielsen said he, too, thought the drought was being used as an excuse because "it will take a few years to complete (the dam project) and it could end up being built in a very rainy time."

Nielsen said he was both disappointed and surprised by Ray's support for the proposed height increase. Until now Washington State had not been involved in the dispute.

"It's hard to determine what weight that will have but it seems to give Seattle Light another partner in their corner, which distresses us very much," he said.

Nielsen said Ray's intervention came at an unfortunate time because his department had been working toward a settlement, with the Seattle agencies concerned, for over a year.

"I'm disappointed that they'd enter into it at this time," he said. "It's an unfortunate intrusion."

"I don't know how determined they believe the B.C. government is about this. I hope they don't think B.C. is holding out for a better price because I can assure them that that is not the case.

"The government of B.C. is very much opposed to the raising of the Ross Dam and we certainly don't intend to give up ... however, it's too simple to say we just won't let them do it."

In 1967, Seattle Light (a private utility) and the B.C. government, then headed by Premier Bill Bennett's father, W.A.C. Bennett, signed a contract permitting flooding of the Skagit Valley.

The power company has been making annual payments of \$34,566.21 to B.C. under the contract and, for a number of years, has been trying to go ahead with plans to raise the height of the dam and increase power production.

Since the NDP came to power, B.C. has been trying to negotiate an agreement with Seattle Light to prevent flooding of the valley.

Premier Bill Bennett has consistently stated opposition to the Ross Dam height increase. Last year Nielsen said he was pursuing new initiatives in trying to solve the problem.

"This has been an extremely complicated issue for a long time," said Nielsen, "because there's so many jurisdictions involved — and now we have another."

Nielsen added, however, that Ray's statements might make it possible for straight government-to-government talks on the issue, which could simplify the situation.

"Maybe we can turn this to our advantage," he said.

Nielsen said he would meet with a representative of Washington's department of ecology in Victoria today to clarify the department's position on the project.

The ecology department was opposed to the Ross Dam proposals originally but Friday said it had re-evaluated the matter and was withdrawing its objections. No details were given.

Liberal leader Gibson criticised Ray for entangling herself in the issue and said her statements that the project would cause minor environmental losses were untrue.

In voicing support for the project, Ray had said the drought situation and Seattle's need for additional power "far outweigh the minor environmental losses involved."

Gibson said the project would create major environmental damage and that the additional power being sought could undoubtedly be acquired elsewhere at a lower cost.

Vancouver Province May 30, 1977

Ray confronting B.C. on Ross Dam

OLYMPIA (AP) — Gov. Dixy Lee Ray has decided to risk confrontation with neighboring British Columbia and support proposals to raise Ross Dam.

Ray said she is reversing the state's position on the project because of drought conditions, which also prompted her Friday to request expansion of the federal emergency drought impact area in the state.

Ray said she is requesting federal drought assistance for 14 additional counties in both Eastern and Western Washington.

The British Columbia government has consistently opposed the Ross Dam project, which would add 122½ feet to the dam, which is in northwest Washington, and flood some 5,000 acres in Canada.

The state department of ecology announced Friday that it has reevaluated the City of Seattle's application to raise the dam and no longer opposes the project. Ray said she supports the new position.

The state's new position is a complete about-face from that under former Gov. Dan Evans' administration.

The reversal brought angered reaction from Gary Gallon, executive director of the B.C. Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society, who pledged that SPEC and other groups will do everything in their power to prevent flooding of the Skagit.

Said B.C. Environment Minister Jim Nielsen: "It's unfortunate they came out with that attitude because it would be nice if they were on our side, but it's not as significant as it may sound.

"It's the city of Seattle and Seattle City Light (a private utility) who are involved, and not the state."

"The primary reasons for my position is that the needs for power in the city of Seattle, as well as in the rest of the Pacific Northwest when coupled with the relatively low cost of power which would be produced by the High Ross Dam project far outweigh the minor environmental losses involved," said Ray in a letter to the Federal Power Commission.

A memo from the ecology department to the FPC and signed by Attorney-General

Slade Gorton said: "Based upon an evaluation of the needs for power of the applicant, the additional power produced if the application is approved and the Ross Dam is raised, the environmental impact of such a modified project and international relationships, (the department) concludes that under conditions as they now exist, the application of the City of Seattle should be approved."

The department's denial of Seattle's water right application in connection with the project is in the process of appeal before the state pollution control hearings board. The department's memo said that it will take steps to resolve that litigation, which would mean a review of the application and its probable approval.

Ray urged the FPC to process the city's application expeditiously.

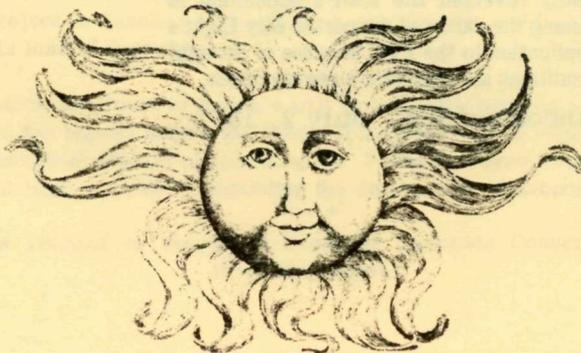
"She (Governor Ray) is not going to get away with it," Gallon said. "We will have people sitting in that valley if everything else fails."

Gallon admitted that the state faces serious power shortages in the next two years because of the drought but said the solution is energy conservation in a mandatory program if the state's current voluntary system does not work.

But he noted that in any case it will take about three years before higher water levels behind the dam would produce more electricity and he speculated that Ray is using the immediate shortage as a ruse to overcome environmental protests.

"If she can get everyone scared enough she'll get it built and add five per cent to the state's power grid," he said. "It won't help them in the next two years."

Vancouver Sun May 28, 1977



Power pact could halt dam raising

There is a good chance that an agreement to guarantee Washington state power without constructing another 122½ feet on the Ross Dam could be settled within two months, Environment Minister Jim Nielsen said Friday.

The U.S. Federal Power Commission Thursday gave Seattle City Light permission to raise the dam, which would flood about 5,000 acres in the Skagit River Valley.

Nielsen said provincial government officials have met with Seattle City Light in an effort to avoid the flooding and the latest outcome has been a complicated proposal put on the table about two months ago to guarantee peak load power at specified periods. A new dam proposed for the Pend d'Oreille River, to be completed in 1980, could serve as an alternate power source, B.C. officials said.

Seattle City Light's lawyer told Nielsen

recently there's a good chance a deal could be worked out in a two months on the basis of the proposal.

"If that's true it's pretty nice to hear," Nielsen said.

He added the proposal is "highly technical" and very involved.

Nielsen said the FPC ruling in favor of raising the dam was generally expected but noted an appeal to the ruling is also expected.

"The ruling hasn't changed anything," he said. "Perhaps it adds a little more weight to Seattle Light's position and it may provide Seattle with some ammunition."

An FPC spokesman said earlier the decision has no legal force and is subject to change until it is formally published.

But some Seattle officials viewed the decision as "the last administrative hurdle."

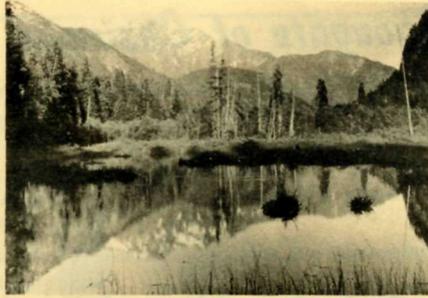
"We are extremely happy that after

seven years it has been approved," Tim Hilliard, an aide to Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman, said Thursday. He said negotiations are continuing with the Canadians.

The FPC decision also allows the city to raise the elevation of Ross Lake Reservoir to 1,725 feet.

Washington governor Dixy Lee Ray recently reversed the state's opposition to raising the dam and supported City Light's application to the FPC because of drought conditions and the state's energy needs.

Vancouver Sun July 2, 1977



Reflection of Jack Peak in pond of Big Beaver Valley -- J. W. Miller photo

N3C TO APPEAL HIGH ROSS RULING

by . richard aramburu

On July 5, 1977 the Federal Power Commission delivered its final decision in the application of Seattle City Light to raise Ross Dam. Ignoring the position of the North Cascades Conservation Council, Canadian conservationists, and both federal and provincial Canadian governments, the FPC issued the license with certain minor conditions.

The decision ends six years of protest by the conservationists before the FPC, generating some 10,000 pages of testimony over sixty-eight days of hearings. American and Canadian intervenors presented numerous witnesses who discussed the value of the Big Beaver Valley in Washington and the Skagit Valley in Canada. N3C attorneys, J. Richard Aramburu and Thomas H. S. Brucker, were not surprised by the ruling, as the FPC has historically approved even those projects causing the destruction of national and recreational resources of enormous value.

The N3C has determined to take all steps to appeal the ruling of the Federal Power Commission as far as the Supreme Court if necessary. Many significant issues regarding hydro power development and resource uses are involved in the case.

Before entering the courts, the statutes require that a "motion for reconsideration" be filed with the Commission pointing out the errors in its decision. N3C attorneys will file this motion in a timely fashion, though they expect it to be denied without comment. Following the likely denial of this motion, a petition is filed directly with the United States Court of Appeals, which will review the legal bases for the FPC's decision, either with the Circuit Court in San Francisco or in Washington, D. C. Major issues in the case will be how the FPC assesses alternatives to projects which cause irreparable damage and what consideration must be given to those impacts of the project in Canada, which takes a substantial burden of the flooding, but gets no benefits for this loss of resources.

The process before the Court of Appeals will be a lengthy one and no decision is expected until early 1979. While the appeal before the Court of Appeals will be expensive, N3C attorneys believe they have a substantial chance of upsetting the Federal Power Commission's decision and setting a significant legal precedent regarding the destruction of natural resources by a federal agency.

* * *

Ric Aramburu acts as counsel to the North Cascades Conservation Council in its Ross Dam appeal.

The Thoughts of Chairman Ray

"Environmental concerns have to be balanced against human concerns. The pendulum has swung too far in favor of the environment." Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 13, 1976

"If I do a bad job (as governor), it'll make it much harder for other women in politics, but if I do a good job, it should make it easier." Seattle P-I, November 15, 1976

"There is a cure for overpopulation, and it's called starvation." Seattle Times, Nov. 23, 1976

"Just look at this area (Prudhoe Bay). Sure, there's a pipeline laid here, a building there and a road going this way, but nobody in their (sic) right mind could call that a totally destructive thing so far as the natural environment is concerned. Seattle P-I December 22, 1976.

"I don't believe environmentalists are the people who beat their breasts and call themselves environmentalists and wave their arms--I think they represent only a very small percentage of the population.

"I would call them radical environmentalists. They are the ones who are heard. They are the ones who stand up and make statements and so on. And my impression of them is that they hate people.

"And the only way they like the earth is when it has no people on it. And they believe anything that human beings do is bad, and the only kind of proper environment is an environment without any kind of people in it, because people, of necessity, change the environment.. use its resources.

"Ralph Nader is a total (sic) ignorant man. He has no credentials. He has no expertise in anything.

"Yes, there have been several tanker incidents. But to say they have been catastrophes, or there has been any ecology disaster... there has been no evidence of that as yet." Everett Herald, January 11, 1977

Regarding environmentalists as elitists: "As an example, the closing off of very large areas of the country to access for anyone but those strong enough to carry a backpack, and the excuse is that we have to keep people out of it."

"There should be a statute of limitations on environmental protests to major projects. Economic impact statements should be required to balance environmental statements." Seattle P-I, January 22, 1977

"Friends of the Earth, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club... I think all of those organizations have taken untenable stands.

"These are the people who brought us the big scare about DDT... cyclamates... and cancer-causing substances in the Mississippi River.

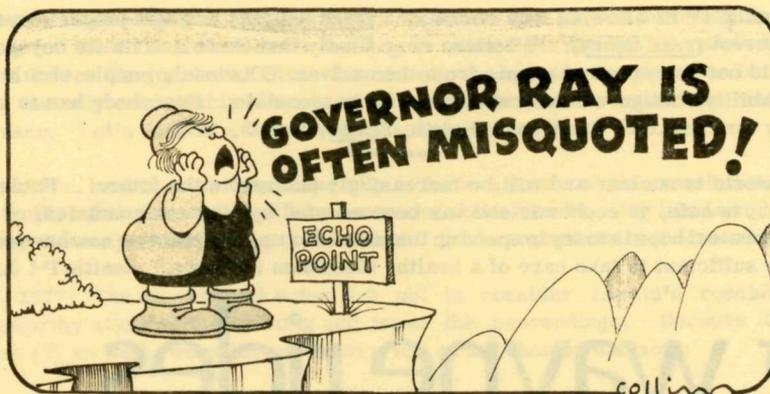
"Over and over we've heard these things. Why should we believe (these organizations)? I think they've cried wolf once too often." Seattle Times, January 26, 1977

"I have to say I don't think much of grandstanding. I don't think much of posturing. Now that's not to say that putting on a sweater and saying that I'm going to keep my office at such-and-such a temperature is necessarily only grandstanding or posturing or whatever."

"There are very few ways to store electricity. And using less electricity right now won't make any more in July or August or September.

"What is there to save by turning down the heat? We don't have a shortage of natural gas. We don't have a shortage of heating oil. When you ask for a sacrifice, let's make sure it's for a purpose. Seattle Times, February 4, 1977

"DDT is the most effective insecticide ever developed and largely harmless to human life. When it was banned because of presumed ill effects on birds, it was replaced by highly toxic



Seattle Post-Intelligencer March 11, 1977
 insecticides that killed and injured people and brought on an enormous increase in lawsuits." Seattle P-I, February 12, 1977

"I would like to point out that I never made that grandstanding statement. That was another misinterpretation by the press at the time that the subject was being discussed. I have never accused President Carter of grandstanding. I would like that record to be more accurate. Seattle Times, March 10, 1977

"Clearly its (oils) major effect is on birds... and that is not happy. I hate to say this, but birds die every day. In every marine oil spill, marine life has recovered in a year. Seattle Times, March 21, 1977

"From the international point of view, I think we are totally wrong. The President's position with respect to proliferation, as it is called, has taken the United States out of the world market, and that means we don't have any voice in the international nuclear force.

"You can make an explosive device from plutonium, that is true, if you understand the technology. But you can make a bomb from fertilizer, too, and people can be killed with both of them." Seattle P-I, April 16, 1977

"We have to have a more balanced, commonsense attitude about resources and their use.

"We have to realize that resources don't mean anything unless we're using them.

"The second thing we have to do, I believe we must have some modification of our legal practices. Now we have a situation where one person, if he's sufficiently determined, can hold up projects and delay them to the point where they become so costly that they cannot be done.

"And I would also include--I may be proposing this soon--that the Legislature require that the person who opposes something, after a reasonable period of time, when it's been deemed worthy of doing by a majority, then anybody who wishes to cause further delay should be required to post bond. Let him bear some of the financial cost to do that." Seattle P-I, April 17, 1977

In defense of automobiles: "There never was a better system of transportation. I love automobiles. Let's diversify fuels rather than thinking of getting rid of the automobile."

Regarding the danger of nuclear accidents: "There were only seven fatalities in the 20 years since 1956, but there were 850,000 auto fatalities in that time. Which is the dangerous technology?" Seattle P-I, May 20, 1977

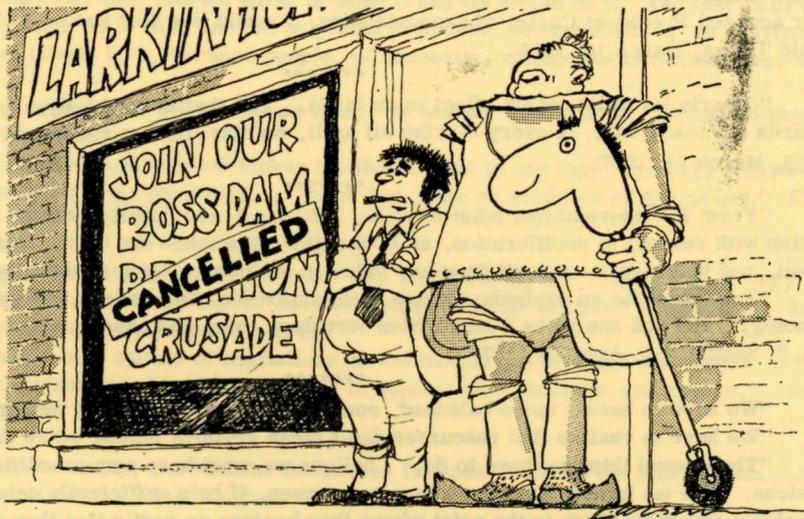
On signing the bill permitting the use of laetrile: "They (doctors) can't even tell me how an aspirin works." Seattle P-I, June 3, 1977

On signing a bill allowing loan companies (read sharks) to grant larger loans while charging higher interest (read usury): "I believe very firmly that there are limits beyond which government should not go to protect people from themselves. Obviously people should not borrow beyond their ability, but government should not be responsible. Everybody has to assume some responsibility for their own finances." Seattle Times, June 3, 1977

"The world is nuclear and will be increasingly nuclear in the future... Nuclear power is a reality today... is safe, is economic and has been adopted by nineteen countries.

"Our greatest hope is to try to speed up the six nuclear power plant we now have on the line... That would be sufficient to take care of a healthy aluminum industry." Seattle P-I June 25, 1977.

big wayne rides again



'Don't pout, Wayne. We'll figure out a new crusade.'

Seattle Times, July 21, 1977

It's hard to keep you current on this High Ross Dam hassle, what with agencies, regulatory bodies and assorted politicians making the papers almost every day with some dam news. Our clipping file grows apace. Looking over the last few weeks of Ross Dam stuff, we have to admit that erstwhile cop and present Seattle City Councilman Wayne Larkin has grabbed off more than his share of headlines.

Big Wayne first made the pages of this publication back in the spring of 1972 when as new head of the Council's Utilities Committee he chaired the notorious city council "non-hearing" on Ross Dam. This was our last chance to kill off the project at the city council level, and good ole boy Wayne showed his true colors by giving City Light three and one half hours to testify and N3C fifty minutes. He's been pushing the project and beating the Canadians and us ever since those early days.

To bolster his campaign for Seattle mayor, Larkin in late May of this year introduced a resolution calling for the council to commit the city to raise Ross Dam if it received a permit from the Federal Power Commission. Since the council was already on record as being in favor of the high dam, the only conceivable purpose of the resolution was to embarrass his opponents in the mayoral race. Let's look at a few of Wily Wayne's moves since then.

June 21, 1977: Larkin tries unsuccessfully to force a vote on his resolution. Council President Sam Smith rules discussion will be postponed until June 27. Phyllis Lamphere, also a council member and mayoral candidate, and Larkin trade arguments in their escalating feud.

June 27, 1977: The city council votes 6-2 not to consider Larkin's resolution. N3C President Goldsworthy attended the meeting and taped the proceedings. Because they depict Larkin's thinking (?) so well, we print verbatim a few of the choicer extracts:

Larkin: "As far as this resolution is concerned, we agreed to take the resolution up before this council meeting today and vote it up or down. It isn't that I'm ignoring their reply (i. e., that of Arthur Lane of Seattle City Light), I think there's just a lot more to it than they are relating.

"The word 'negotiate, the word 'alternatives' have been kicked-around consistently during all this problem with the High Ross area.

"Again and again I hear the word 'alternative' used by council members, and it really confuses the issue because as far as I am concerned, there are no alternatives. The only alternative you would have would be negotiating with Canada, and BC, has signed a contract with us. Ottawa is unanimously, as late as June 9th of this year, stated that they are opposed to the raising of Ross Dam. They say they have control over BC, and whether that treaty would be valid or not. . . I don't think we should put our electrical energy resource in this city when we're responsible for the source of energy for our rate payers, we should put it in the hands of a foreign government and allow them to tell us what our rates are going to be in the City of Seattle in future years. I don't think a negotiated contract with them with changing conditions as rapidly as they are today is nearly as beneficial to the rate payers as if we move forward with our own energy source."

"How do you get out of a regional power agreement that we are now faced with and we don't know which way to go? Where private utilities are now dictating that they need certain forms of energy. . . If we were energy-independent in the City of Seattle, we wouldn't even be dealing with these people now. We would have our own energy, and we would be calling the shots ourselves, not letting somebody else dictate what we're going to do, the Federal government, the private utilities, etc, etc. We would have our own energy. So I'm saying this resolution is not controversial at all. I just simply says, FPC, you know you've had ten years back there to fool with this thing. You sent out a hearing judge. He horsed around here for about a year and then he finally went back and studied and studied the thing and gave you a recommendation to raise Ross Dam and since that time for two years you've been sittin' on it, now certainly it seems to me that the FPC can get off the dime now and give us that permit. We're just saying give it to us, we need it now, and when they give it to us, we'll accept it. . . "

Smith: "The chair wished to rule on this resolution, and I'm speaking as a person who voted for raising Ross Dam when it came before the city council, I believe the action dates back as far as 1969. The chair wishes to rule this resolution out of order. It's tantamount to reconsideration, and it's far past the time when we could reconsider our action pertaining to Ross Dam. We feel that the city has taken its position, and it has passed the proper resolutions and ordinances that state that it is in favor of raising Ross Dam, and as a great man, a great city should keep its word and stand there. Since the process has gone through the FPC, we have spent over \$100,000 and others have spent large sums of money. We think the reconsideration at this time could not be proper plus the fact I fear it's lending itself to pure politics at this time because of our emergency relating to power, and we do not wish the proceedings of this council to engender themselves to the rate of just plain political consideration."

Larkin: "I wish to appeal the chair's ruling. You bet this is political and it has been political for the seven and a half years I have been on this council, and it's about time we got it out of there. If I'm voted down today, I'm requesting the chairman, Mrs. Williams of H. R. & O., to put this Bill 98516 on her agenda for next week so that we can put this issue to a vote of the people of this city. They've decided. It's the people on this council that can't seem to decide, and we'll go to a vote of the people."

Smith: "Mr. Larkin, I wish to inform you that I will make the same ruling when and if the bill comes back before us."

Larkin: "If you carry it on that, Mr. Smith, I will go to an initiative of the people with 21,000 votes and put it on the ballot."

Smith: "The chair's ruling has been appealed, the question before you is, shall the chair's ruling be sustained in ruling the consideration of Ross Dam out of order? Those in favor please raise your hands. The chair votes to sustain. The chair's ruling has been sustained."

June 28, 1977: Rebuffed by the council in his efforts to put them on the spot, Larkin files his initiative and accuses his fellow council members of deceit and dishonesty, saying the city application for a Ross Dam permit "is going to be in the hands of the FPC for the next hundred years" unless the city exerts new pressure on the agency.

June 30, 1977: The FPC issues verbal approval of the city's application for a permit to raise the dam. This should have stymied Larkin's initiative, but he says he will push ahead with it. Even the Seattle Times, which has been pushing High Ross for the past eight years, accuses Big Wayne of dragging a red herring across the "delicate negotiations" between Seattle and the BC government. For the very first time, the Times admits that an equivalent amount of power would be just as good for Seattle as High Ross.

July 1, 1977: BC Minister of the Department of Environment, Jim Nielsen, sends Seattle a proposal for an alternative to raising Ross Dam. "The combination proposal would try to alleviate some of those power shortages Seattle believes they will be seeing in the future," Nielsen says. "We're trying to work out some kind of compromise package that would give them the necessary power, thus making it unnecessary to raise Ross." He states the complex plan details an agreement in which British Columbia would guarantee peak-load power for specific intervals.

July 9, 1977: Big Wayne's initiative picks up support from organized labor. Not unexpectedly, the Seattle Building Trades Council, whose former secretary, Austin St. Laurent, beat the drums for High Ross at every public hearing, endorses the initiative. The King County Labor Council and the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council also vote for the initiative. JOBS, you know, and the environment be damned! Especially the Canadian environment!

July 18, 1977: Sam Smith derails Wayne's initiative drive by introducing a council ordinance to accept the FPC license. Big Wayne is furious, saying that because he is council utilities chairman, he should have been given the "opportunity to introduce this ordinance". John Miller urges acceptance of the license, pointing out that it does not commit the city to raising the dam. Miller favors getting "comparable power from BC without flooding our neighbors' backyards". The ordinance passes 7-0.

July 19, 1977: Big Wayne withdraws his initiative campaign but takes credit for forcing the city council to vote to accept the FPC licence. Larkin says he "would rather see the dam constructed" but is willing to agree to a BC alternative if it supplies the same amount of power for the same price.

We are pleased to see that Big Wayne's pro-High Ross, anti-Canadian crusade has folded so early in his mayoral campaign. Xenophobia about our good Canadian neighbors isn't very moral or ethical and would have backfired badly on him.

Emily Haig Receives Sixth Irving Clark Award



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
IRVING M. CLARK CONSERVATION AWARD

1977

presented to

EMILY HUDDART HAIG

for her untiring, unreserved, and continuous effort on behalf of Northwest Conservation, for her great dedication to the preservation of wild Lands and of wild Creatures, and for her inspirational quest for an enlightened stewardship of Nature's own creations.

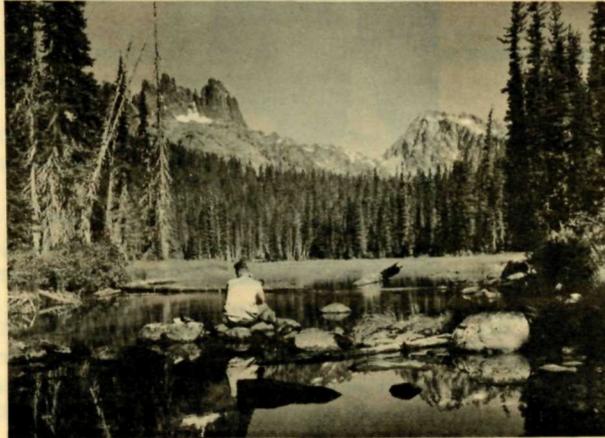
The first Irving Clark Conservation Award since 1972 was made to long-time North Cascades Conservation Council Director Emily Huddart Haig on May 20, 1977. Emily, a much-loved environmental activist who started her life's work with the Hetch-Hetchy controversy in the early years of this century, has been a resident of the Mercer Island Villa for the past two years.

The award was made as the climax of a picnic at the Luther Burbank County Park on Mercer Island. The picnic, attended by N3C Board members and their families and some of Emily's friends from the Seattle Audubon Society and the Olympic Park Associates, turned out to be a major social event. Because of the Brownian movement of the smaller picnickers, it was impossible to make an accurate head count, but estimates ran to about 50 attendees.

The North Cascades Conservation Council has, from time to time, awarded to outstanding Pacific Northwest environmentalists the award named for Irving Clark, one of the first active conservationists in the area. The five previous recipients of the award have been Irving M. Clark in 1958, Harry W. Higman in 1960, John Osseward in 1965, Karl W. Ontbank in 1967 and Leo Gallagher in 1972.

THE ALPINE LAKES

THE NEXT STEP by dick fiddler



It is a cliché to observe that including an area in the Wilderness System does not solve all that area's problems. As wilderness users and lovers know, many serious problems are themselves caused by uses permitted under the Wilderness Act: recreation overuse, for instance, familiar throughout the Northwest, or continued threats from grazing or mining, as in the Pasayten and Glacier Peak Wildernesses. Still, the urgency of the problems generally diminishes greatly once Congress has acted.

In the newly-created Alpine Lakes Wilderness the situation is somewhat different, due to the intimate relationship between the wilderness area and the surrounding perimeter lands, and to the patterns of "checkerboard" ownership of public and private lands across wilderness and perimeter lands alike.

Legislation creating the 392,000 acre wilderness included provisions dealing with these special problems -- provisions which leave us some work to do, some steps to take to secure the best possible future for the Alpine Lakes country.

A top priority is resolving the problem of privately owned lands within the wilderness boundary. Totalling about 44,000 acres and owned almost entirely by Weyerhaeuser, Pack River, and Burlington Northern, these lands have been set aside for public use in their wild state, and therefore must be acquired by the Federal government in some manner, most likely through their exchange for other Federal lands of comparable value outside the wilderness.

The Forest Service has just released information concerning the current status of the exchange proposals. Lands which might be exchanged are identified and public comment is sought.

Recognizing the proximity of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness to Seattle, and the recreational importance of surrounding lands where most valleys have been roaded but many diverse recreational opportunities remain, the legislation also created a Management Unit of 527,000 acres surrounding the wilderness -- a residue of the National Recreation Area concept proposed by conservation groups. A management plan for all the resources of the Management Unit is to be completed by July 1978 -- though due to funding delays the Forest Service plans to seek an extension. Activities permitted in the Management Unit -- including logging and developed recreation -- will hopefully be blended so as to minimize conflicts and still provide for the greatest possible relief of potential overuse pressure inside the wilderness.

Many areas in this perimeter zone are of the highest quality in their own right. Several, such as Pratt River, Gill Creek, Scatter Creek, and Trout Creek were sought as additions to the wilderness until the last stages of the compromise process which led to the final bill. Nas-on Ridge, north of US 2, still is a candidate for wilderness study status on its own. McClellan Butte, Silver Peak, most of the Cooper River, Fortune Creek, nearly all of the drainage of the Teanaway, and much of the Icicle drainage are included in the Management Unit.

Already there is cause for concern about these perimeter lands. The recent off-road vehicle (ORV) plan for the Wenatchee National Forest suggests that many trails in the Teanaway country may soon be upgraded to allow trail bike use. Many other places in the nearby Kittitas Planning Unit are far more suitable -- and do not so dramatically reduce hiking and backpacking opportunities close to the already-pressured wilderness trails. Similar plans are discussed for neighboring Devils Gulch, whose exclusion from Alpine Lake planning was a major shortcoming of the bill that finally passed.

Furthermore, the checkerboard patterns of ownership badly cloud sound planning for the perimeter as well as the wilderness. There is in the perimeter much land the acquisition of which is a priority of wilderness users, but which could be ignored in the pressure to finish the wilderness exchanges. The infamous Section 35, in the middle of the Chiwaukum trail and logged by Pack River shortly before the enactment of the wilderness legislation, is a prime example of perimeter land which should be promptly brought into responsible public ownership.

The vision of the future of the perimeter lands held by the Alpine Lakes Protection Society and the other conservation groups remains: a vision of all sorts of recreation and a judicious amount of development and resource use coexisting so as to provide for everyone without compromising the wilderness land within or the principal wild places in the perimeter. The Forest Service is now seeking public comment on plans being developed for the wilderness and the surrounding Management Unit. North Cascades Conservation Council hopes that its members and friends will speak out again, as they did so well and so often in the last few years.

* * *

Dick Fiddler, a member of the N3C board, is active in the Sierra Club.

The U. S. Forest Service has launched a new review of all remaining roadless and undeveloped lands on all National Forests, to help determine which of these lands will be preserved as wilderness and which will not.

Millions of acres of "de facto wilderness" are at stake, much of it never before inventoried or evaluated as potential wilderness. The fate of much of America's wilderness heritage is the issue: effective participation by conservationists is essential as the RARE-II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation--II) program proceeds over the next year and a half.

This new program resulted from growing citizen and congressional criticism of existing Forest Service efforts in wilderness preservation. The earlier RARE-I review of 1973 overlooked many areas and scheduled others for development, without fair and thorough consideration of their wilderness values. Increasingly,

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doug scott

Congress has stepped in to preserve areas the Forest Service neglected. In his campaign, President Carter pledged to give the "de facto wilderness" of the National Forests a new, more positive look.

Phase 1 of the RARE-II program is to complete, by the end of September 1977, a national inventory of all roadless and undeveloped lands as potential wilderness within the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Assuring that all potential wilderness lands are properly inventoried, with every acre included, is the most important goal for conservationists in Phase I.

As part of the inventory process the Forest Service has scheduled hundreds of "public workshops" (not public hearings) throughout the country during July and August of 1977. Public input "nominating" additional lands for inclusion in the inventory may be given at the workshops or submitted in writing, with copies to North Cascades Conservation Council.

Background of RARE-II

RARE-II is a new review of all the roadless and undeveloped lands in the entire National Forest System. The results will be of crucial importance as decisions are reached to preserve or not to preserve each roadless area, and in shaping the ultimate extent and character of our National Wilderness Preservation System.

In his Message on the Environment to the Congress on May 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter said:

When the Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, it established a landmark of American conservation policy. The National Wilderness Preservation System created by this Act must be expanded promptly, before the most deserving areas of federal land are opened to other uses and lost to wilderness forever.

The President also endorsed the Udall-Church "Endangered American Wilderness Act" (H.R. 3454; S. 1180), which has focused congressional and public attention on the threats to "de facto wilderness". Testifying in support of that bill, the new Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. M. Rupert Cutler (who sets policy governing the U. S. Forest Service), said:

The Nation's wilderness has, indeed, become a vanishing resource, and much of

it is vulnerable to loss. The Carter Administration has committed itself to provide protection for these lands within the Wilderness System. This Department will pursue that goal with a new sense of urgency.

To carry out this commitment, Dr. Cutler told the congressional committee:

Mr. Chairman, we are going to take another complete look at the roadless and undeveloped lands in the entire National Forest System. We intend to categorize these undeveloped lands into three types. . . . One category will be areas which will become wilderness immediately. The second will be areas which need more study before the Congress can make its decisions as to whether or not to designate as wilderness. The third category will be the remaining areas which require no further consideration as wilderness and thus would be devoted to other than wilderness uses.

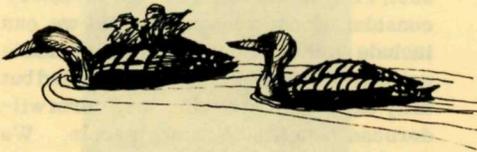
In 1973 the Forest Service completed its first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation Program (RARE-I), inventorying some 1400 areas of roadless land in the western National Forests, totaling 56 million acres. But this first effort was seriously flawed. Some of the areas were selected for formal wilderness study, but 44 million acres of "non-selected roadless areas" were vulnerable to development. As a result of a lawsuit (Sierra Club; Natural Resources Defense Council; Colorado Open Space Council; North Cascades Conservation Council; *W. B. Mounsey v. Earl Butz*, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; John R. McGuire, Chief, United States Forest Service) the Forest Service agreed to further evaluate the wilderness potential of each of these non-selected areas during a program of Land Use Planning. That, too, has been a much-flawed process. The omission of millions of acres from the RARE-I inventory and the inadequacies of wilderness consideration in Land Use Plans were the focus of strong citizen criticism at congressional hearings on the Endangered American Wilderness Act.

Phase 1 of RARE-II: Refining and Expanding the Inventory of Roadless Areas

By the end of September 1977 the Forest Ser~

vice intends to have compiled maps showing the new boundaries of all the roadless and undeveloped lands within each National Forest and Grassland. Phase 1 will produce a completed basic inventory consisting of these maps and a computerized listing of the areas by name, identification number, and acreage. Later phases of the program will assemble resource data on these areas and seek public opinion on wilderness/development tradeoffs.

Conservationists' participation in Phase 1 should focus on double-checking the Forest Service maps to see to it that all areas are inventoried, and that the boundary of each area includes every last acre of contiguous roadless land.



The Inventory-Building Process

Each Forest Service regional office (Region VI-Portland for Washington) will assemble, by early July, a map available for public review in each National Forest Supervisor's office and showing:

1. All existing wilderness and primitive areas.
2. All lands included in the 1973 RARE-I inventory.
3. Any area missed in the original inventory which (a) contains 5,000 acres or more, or; (b) contains less than 5,000 acres, but due to physiography and/or vegetation, is manageable in its natural condition, or; (c) is a self contained ecosystem, e. g., an island.

This will require adding, regardless of size, all "slivers" of roadless land improperly excluded around the margins of virtually every roadless area inventoried in the RARE-I program because the Forest Service either alleged that "roads" or other man-made features disqualified them or it placed the roadless area boundary on a ridgetop, rather than extending it outward to the edge of roads or other clearly disqualifying developments.

4. Consolidation of contiguous areas of the RARE-I inventory into single areas for

RARE-II, thus avoiding subdivision of single roadless tracts into wholly artificial subunits, each listed as a separate roadless area.

5. Areas, regardless of size, contiguous to Wilderness, Primitive areas, or Administration-proposed Wildernesses, regardless of jurisdiction (contiguous to proposed wilderness areas within units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System).

6. Qualifying areas, regardless of size, that have identified wilderness potential and that are contiguous to roadless and undeveloped areas in other Federal ownership (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service).

7. Areas identified as roadless through U. S. Forest Service Land Management Planning but which may not have been included in the 1973 RARE-I inventory.

8. Areas designated by Congress for wilderness study, administration proposals pending before Congress and other legislative proposals pending which have been endorsed by the Administration.

Deletion of Lands from the inventory

The eight steps outlined above will result in an extensive map (to which citizens can add by "nominating" additional lands that the agency continues to miss). The Forest Service instructions provide that after the map is compiled, some areas will be taken off.

9. List and subtract areas allocated for non-wilderness in Land Management Plans for which final environmental statements have been filed so long as the areas are not included in Administration-endorsed pending legislation. This list will be adjusted on a continuing basis as Land Management Plan final environmental statements are filed.

After the 1973 RARE-I inventory was completed, and as a result of Sierra Club v. Butz, the Forest Service agreed that it would preserve all "non-selected roadless areas" until their wilderness potential had been "further evaluated". This was to be accomplished by including a specific wilderness alternative within a final EIS, usually written to cover a Land Management Plan (also known as "Unit Plans"). Many of these Unit Plans have since been completed, and others will become final from time to time

as the RARE-II program is underway. The Forest Service instructions intend that as these final EIS's are filed, the roadless lands involved will be removed from the RARE-II inventory unless those areas, or portions of them, are allocated for wilderness or wilderness study in the Unit Plan. The many roadless areas included in Unit Plans already completed before RARE-II began would all be removed in this step.

The problem with this plan is that many of the already-completed Unit Plans (and many of those soon to be completed) did not properly consider the wilderness alternative. In the first place, a good deal of roadless land was omitted from the RARE-I inventory by error or as a result of the now discarded "purity" policy. Much of this roadless land was never added during the preparation of these Unit Plans. In many of the Plans, the wilderness alternative was treated perfunctorily. Subdivided roadless tracts were considered as a series of separate entities, instead of as single contiguous roadless areas (as Step 4, above, now requires). Many roadless areas extend into two or more Planning Units, so that final EIS's have been completed only on a portion of the total roadless tract, making development plans before the wilderness value of the total contiguous area can be fairly reviewed.

During the input to Phase 1, citizens must insist that roadless areas which were not fairly treated and thoroughly evaluated in completed Unit Plans must be left in the RARE-II inventory, to be reconsidered. Because roadless areas will continue to be removed from the inventory as Land Use Plans are made final over the next two years, it is also essential to insist that forthcoming Plans meet a higher standard in reviewing the wilderness alternative for all roadless lands involved. The effort to get roadless lands within completed Unit Plans reconsidered may be a principal source of controversy between the Forest Service and citizen groups.

What Is A Roadless Area? the new Forest Service Criteria

Since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, there has been prolonged controversy over the criteria used by the Forest Service to determine whether an area qualified as "suitable" for wilderness. Conservationists have insisted that the criteria are simply those spelled out in the

legal definition for wilderness found in subsection 2(c) of the Act itself. These are reasonable, flexible criteria, but the Forest Service adhered instead to very "pure" interpretations, arguing that particular lands could not become wilderness because they did not qualify: because of traces of past human disturbance, because of "non-conforming" facilities, or because of the influence of the "sights and sounds" of non-wilderness activity from outside the boundaries.

With the arrival of the new Administration, this "purity" policy has at long last been officially abandoned. The Forest Service will continue to use its old criteria but with a far more flexible interpretation. These non-purity interpretations are given in the RARE-II inventory instructions, paraphrasing Assistant Secretary Cutler's testimony before the Congress:

Forest Service Manual 2321.1 through 2321.11(d) is the basis for the inventory considerations, recognizing that we can include in the Wilderness System lands not entirely free of marks of mankind but fully capable of providing long-term wilderness benefits to many people. We should look openly at features or uses traditionally considered nonconforming recognizing that we can be more innovative in "managing around" the objectionable features to minimize their impacts and ensure optimum wilderness quality.

The instructions tell Forest Service staff that "The following are offered for your consideration, not as absolute criteria or standards, but rather as guidelines to help you in your inventory process."

a. Definitions

(1) Roadless Areas. An area of undeveloped land within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. Generally exclude narrow projecting tenacles or fingers unless they meet the criteria for "Roadless Islands" below.

(2) Roadless Islands. A roadless area that is surrounded by permanent waters or that is markedly distinguished from surrounding lands by topographical or ecological features such as precipices, canyons, thickets, or swamps.

(3) Improved Road. A constructed or maintained vehicle way for the use of highway type vehicles having more than two wheels.

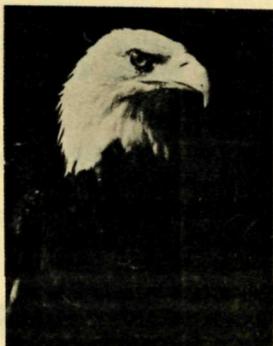
b. Forest Service criteria for guides for the

initial inventory:

"Undeveloped roadless areas" can include:

(1) Timber Harvests. Include harvest areas where logging is not evident. Areas may be included which contain early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or where clear cuts have re-generated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas.

(2) Cultural Treatments. Plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.



(3) Mining. Areas with evidence of historic mining (50 years ago) may be included. Areas of significant current mineral activity including prospecting with mechanical earthmoving equipment should not be included. Do not exclude areas where the only evidence of prospecting is holes which have been drilled without the need for access roads to the site.

Do not include areas with significant leases issued under the 1920 Leasing Act (O&G, Geothermal, Coal, Phosphate, etc.). Prospecting permits would generally not cause an area to be excluded.

(4) Range Improvements. Do not exclude areas because of the existence of minor range improvements such as fences and water troughs. Exclude type conversion where chained trees readily visible and apparent. Do not exclude spray or burning projects where there is little or no evidence of the project.

(5) Electronic Installations. Television, radio and telephone repeaters, and the like may be included, provided their impact is minimal.

(6) Utility Corridors. Telephone lines, powerlines, and underground pipelines should generally be excluded if they involve a cleared right-of-way. Do not exclude ground-return telephone lines.

(7) Recreation Improvements. Areas may include occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. Developed sites will generally not be included. Include minor developments that could be easily removed.

(8) Water-related Facilities. Watershed treatment areas may be included only where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. Do not exclude areas where minor watershed treatment has been accomplished by hand; i.e., small hand constructed gully plugs.

(9) Private Lands. Include only areas consisting of more than 70 percent Federal ownership unless the Federal lands can be managed in their natural condition.

(10) Airstrips and Helispots. Airstrips and helispots may be included.

Citizen Participation in Phase 1 of RARE - II

The objective of Phase 1 is simply to get every last acre of qualifying roadless and undeveloped land onto the completed inventory, so that all potential wilderness can be considered in the later phases of RARE-II. Phase 1 is not an opinion-gathering exercise, nor a popularity contest, and does not involve choosing priorities between areas. It is basically a technical matter: if a particular acre of land meets the criteria, liberally interpreted, it should be included. Conservationists should work to have every area included in the inventory on an equal basis, and to assure that the boundary of each area includes all of the contiguous roadless land.

The importance of citizen participation at this stage is to double-check the accuracy of the Forest Service inventory work. There are bound to be errors, as well as disagreements over whether particular lands do, in fact, meet the criteria. The Forest Service is working under a very tight schedule, so inconsistencies in the procedures and interpretations of criteria are bound to occur. Well-coordinated and systematic review of the Forest Service work by conservationists is thus essential.

During the summer, the public will be given the opportunity to suggest adjustments to the basic Forest Service maps. The agency will compile a separate list of all the suggested additions; deletions may occur only if they clearly do not conform to the new criteria. Decisions as to whether or not lands proposed by the pub-

lic will be added will be made in late September, as part of the final inventory.

The public workshops being held during July and August offer one opportunity to review the agency's maps and suggest additions. Suggestions may also be made in individual meetings with Forest Service officials, or by letter (which is the best way to assure that citizen suggestions are carefully documented). For each suggested addition, a map should be prepared and accompanied by a brief written statement explaining why the area should be added (such as why it does fit the criteria). Forest Service worksheets will be used to receive written input from those attending the public workshops. If conservationists' input is given on these forms, be sure to make an extra copy to send to the State Coordinator. (Forest Service maps for all the National Forests in each state will be available for review at each of the public workshops in that state. Nominations for areas in other states can be made and will be forwarded by the Forest Service.)

State Coordinators of Washington's public workshops are:

Coordinators of Washington's public workshops are:

National coordinator of the western workshops:

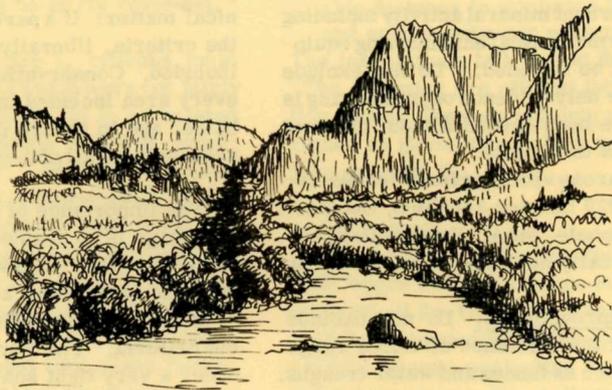
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SCENIC RIVERS LEGISLATION FOR WASHINGTON



Eliza Anderson
drawing

On June 6, 1977 Governor Ray signed into law SB 3002 designating sixty-four miles of the Skykomish River roughly paralleling the Stevens Pass Highway between Sultan and Skykomish as a scenic river. "The following rivers of the state of Washington are hereby designated as being in the scenic river system of the state of Washington:

- 1) The Skykomish river from the junction of the north and south forks of the Skykomish river:
 - a) Downstream approximately fourteen miles to its junction with the Sultan river;
 - b) Upstream approximately twenty miles on the south fork to the junction of the Tye and Foss rivers;
 - c) Upstream approximately eleven miles on the north fork to its junction with Bear Creek.
- 2) The Beckler river from its junction with the south fork of the Skykomish river upstream approximately eight miles to its junction with the Rapid river; and

3) The Tye river from its junction with the south fork of the Skykomish river upstream approximately fourteen miles to Tye Lake."

The State Parks Commission will coordinate the management of public lands within one quarter mile of the river. The bill is the culmination of years of effort to achieve some form of protection for Washington rivers.

The law as it stands is not all that had been hoped for due to some weakening amendments made in the Senate. Specifically, the act does not prohibit dam construction on rivers designated as Scenic (although the tone of the bill's first section is to balance the construction of impoundments with the preservation of free-flowing rivers). Another amendment was made to placate the Department of Natural Resources, which feared loss of control over trust lands. Under this amendment, the DNR would not be hindered in managing state trust lands for the benefit of schools. Another amendment placed the management of the Act with the State Parks Department rather than the Game Department. It is anticipated that, despite these amendments, State Parks will be able to do a fine job of developing policies, coordinating state agencies, proposing further river additions, seeking funds for acquisitions, and soliciting public input.

Observers probably won't be able to detect many changes along the Skykomish River for a while. Some segments of the river will probably be made more accessible to the public by designation of easements while others will be left in a nearly "wild" condition, a consequence of Section 3, which essentially allows the department to classify sections of the river to reflect their characteristics. In fact, some states have designated such river classifications as "gorge river", "swamp river", etc. Nothing in the act prevents the Parks Department from doing likewise.

A big THANK YOU is in order for

- o All those people who worked so hard though unsuccessfully in previous years to pass river legislation in this state and who laid much of the ground work for this bill's success.
- o Julie Johnson, who spent hundreds of hours on the phone getting people to write or call their legislators, building the kind of rapport between concerned citizens and their legislators which eventually resulted in passage.
- o Gil Bortleson, who made a comprehensive study of all other state scenic rivers acts to get some fresh ideas.
- o Representative Donn Charnley and Senator Alan Bluechel, who helped immensely by sponsoring the measure and by getting the bill through all the various committees, readings, etc.
- o All the other legislators who gave their support to the bill with little nudges and sometimes great shoves.
- o Representative John Hawkins, whose national Wild Rivers subcommittee helped to move the concept of river legislation in a new direction.
- o Governor Dixy Lee Ray, who signed it into law.
- o And last of all, THANKS to all those who did write or call their legislators to express support for the bill.

I hope that our readers will not just leave the business of designating other Scenic Rivers to the Parks Department and trusting that they do a good job. Let's help them by developing local sentiment for the preservation of our limited free-flowing rivers. We have the framework for a very workable system. Now let's do what we can to propose additional Scenic Rivers and to make this system work for us.

* * * * *

Bob Hammond recently completed a term as president of the Washington Kayak Club.



THE WILD CASCADES

Summer 1977

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