

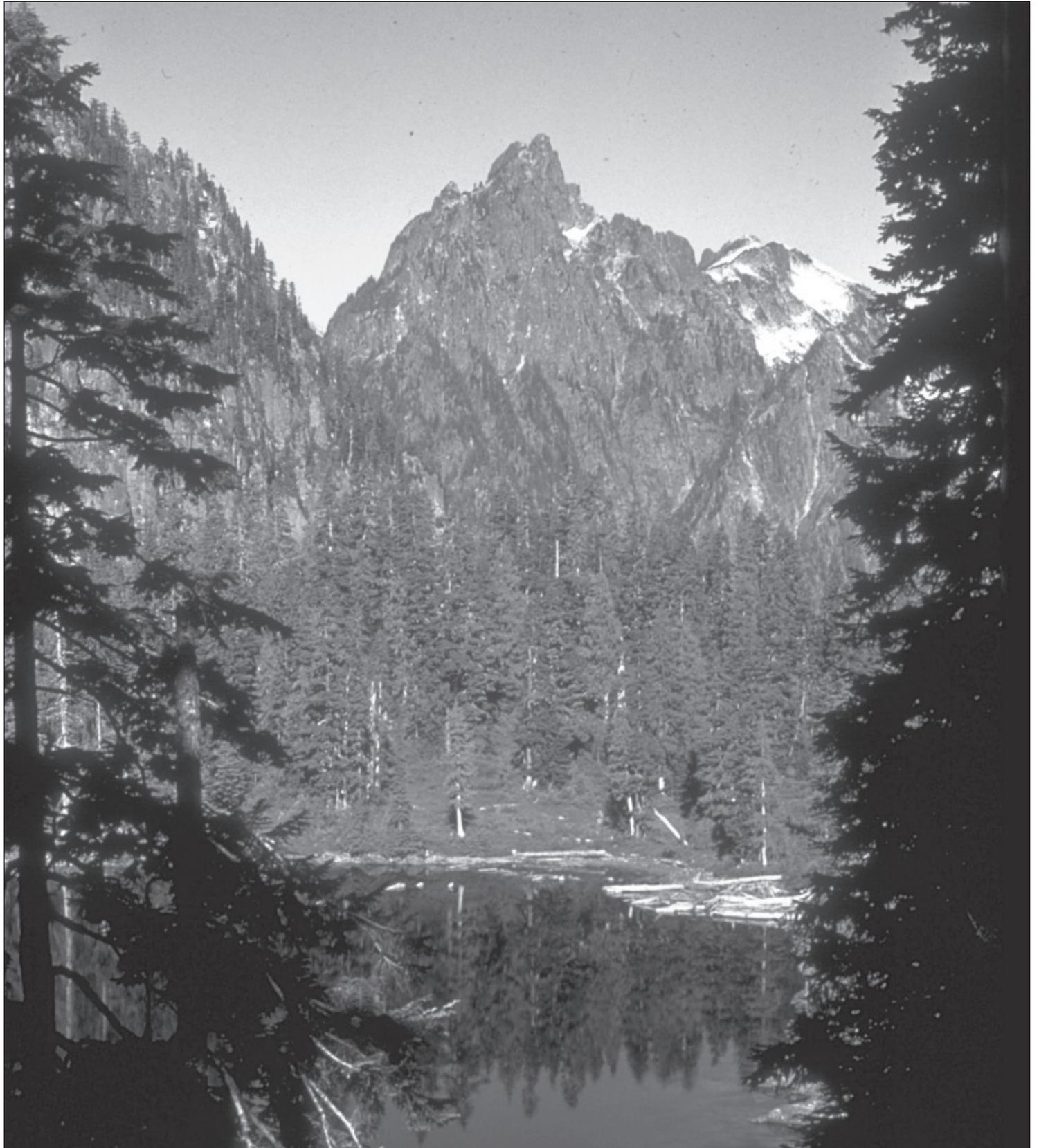
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# THE WILD CASCADES

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THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SUMMER 2005



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## The Wild Cascades

*Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council*

EDITOR: Betty Manning  
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**T**he 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.

■  
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Founded in 1957  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## The President's Report

Summer 2005

There is no doubt that all of us interested in environmental affairs are being overwhelmed by the daily bad news reported in the national media. Not necessarily in order of importance, there are the continued attempts to commercialize public land, global warming, corporate control of the decision-making process, radical judicial appointments, attacks on the Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts, and the squandering of national resources on overlapping wars. The list seems to be endless and we feel more hopeless every day. Is there anything the average person can do about these never-ending assaults on the things we hold of utmost importance? Most of us are not extraordinary. We realistically are not going to change the world by our individual efforts. Other than letters to your congressman and to your editors and by joining and working with groups of like-minded people, I say there is not much we can do as individuals at the national level.

What we can do, though, is to become more active at the local level. The number of "down-home" issues coming along are increasing, certainly as a trickle-down effect from the disgraceful national political scene. I intend to take out some of my anger and frustration by becoming more aggressive. Those of us in the North Cascades Conservation Council must step forward and show our friends in the green community that some battles can be won. We can and will jump in with both feet to stop the sweetheart land-exchange deals, the bogus timber-thinning sales, and the machine-driven madness on public land. This is not just big talk. The NCCC has several projects being actively pursued right now, including our Mad River lawsuit, the Lowe Creek appeal as well as the NCCC position on fisheries in the North Cascades National Park and the threat of phones in Stehekin. You can read about them in this issue. In order to complete them, we all need to be prepared to invest more of our time, energy, and money. We must fight back. Appeals and lawsuits cannot be won unless all of us commit to doing more. Please be prepared to help when asked. If giving time is not an option for you, please be ready to kick in a little extra money. We need the help and we promise to get results by contesting local issues.

*Marc Bardsley*

# Park Service Bows to Greed on Stehekin Phones

CAROLYN MCCONNELL

Two maxims have so far been proven true in the struggle over a proposal to install phones in Stehekin: democracy can sometimes prevail and those with money at stake don't go away quietly. This summer, in response to overwhelming community opposition to the proposal, the Park Service startlingly did the right thing and rejected the application. But the investors in the project, doing business as Weavtel, had reportedly already sunk millions into the project and expected a rich return on their investment. They began making threatening noises about lawsuits. At the end of August, the Park Service cravenly reversed course, granting the permits.

In the press release announcing the reversal, North Cascades National Park Complex Superintendent Bill Paleck said he had "weighed supportive information I had not previously seen from state and federal agencies." The NCCC, the Western Lands Project, and Stehekin community members plan to submit Freedom of Information Act requests to find

out just what this new supportive information is. Sounds less like new "information" than like someone from on high—or at least higher—weighed in. The question is why.

The Park's reversal is blatantly extra-legal. It circumvents the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which was designed to prevent precisely this kind of unprincipled backroom dealing and to require transparency and democratic accountability. The Federal Communications Commission and the Rural Utilities Service, the agencies that are funding this phone project—providing the guaranteed profit that got this whole boondoggle going—have no mechanisms for the public to weigh in and for the community the project is supposed to benefit to say whether they want it. It is only because of NEPA's democratic procedures that the public got to have its say. And it said no, in a unified voice. The project offends lovers of the right of a remote, unique community to stay that way, defenders of the environment, haters of cor-

porate welfare, and opponents of big government projects alike. It became a wonderful case of strange bedfellows, with the Stehekin community, NCCC, and Stehekin Heritage—a group that has sued the Park to try to stop it from enforcing environmental regulations—all on the same side. Only the forces of greed—and bureaucratic timidity—were on the other.

What comes next is unclear. Rumor had it that the phone investors would be arriving in the valley at the beginning of September for a closed-door meeting with Superintendent Paleck, so Stehekinites were poised to greet them with picket signs—likely a first for the community. The Park, making weak noises about strict conditions and procedures, said its approval of the permits was conditional upon Weavtel getting easements to bring phone lines across private land. Some of those easements would come over peoples' dead bodies, but Weavtel claims it can exercise eminent domain. This fight could get interesting; stay tuned.

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## In reversal, NPS opens Stehekin to phone service

### Resident saddened, surprised

RALPH SCHWARTZ, EDITOR

Lake Chelan Mirror  
September 7, 2005

For a small phone company based in Chelan, it has all the markings of a sports cliché: Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. For at least one Stehekin couple, the announcement that the National Park Service would allow WeavTel to install a phone system in the remote uplake community, if certain conditions are met, came as sad news but not as a surprise.

"Personally, I am not surprised that NPS found it necessary to reverse the decision," Don and Roberta Pitts of Stehekin Heritage wrote in an e-mail. "Folks here in Stehekin are very disappointed and saddened that the community must continue on a course not embraced by the vast majority of its residents."

Bill Paleck, superintendent of North Cascades National Park, announced on Aug. 30 that he had reconsidered his previous decision to reject WeavTel's permit to build a land-line phone system that could serve everyone in the Stehekin Valley. The park surrounds the private properties in the valley and controls much of the land WeavTel would use for the system.

After the rejection, WeavTel resubmitted its proposal with two additional findings:

The Federal Communications Commission issued an order on Aug. 11 that implied the project was in the public interest, Park Service spokesman Tim Manns said.

Manns added that the USDA Rural Development Office issued a determination on Aug. 11 stating, "All environmental requirements have been fulfilled."

WeavTel also asked the Park Service to take a second look at its own conclusion that the project would present no significant impact to the environment.

A Park Service press release lists three conditions WeavTel must meet before they get the desired special use permit:

Acquire easements from approximately 25 private property owners on Company Creek and Stehekin Valley roads.

- Obtain a building permit from Chelan County for a call switching center in Stehekin.

- Have a Park Service representative monitor construction sites.

- WeavTel must ask some 20 property owners for the authority to dig a trench along Company Creek Road. Whether the NPS can directly grant WeavTel an easement along five private properties on Stehekin Valley Road is still under investigation, Manns said.

The Pitts said they spoke with a few property owners on Company Creek Road who are unwilling to grant WeavTel an easement for the trenching. They also said that neighbors adjoining the call center site will submit objections to the county during the review process for the building permit.

Nathan Pate, a county senior planner, said WeavTel had not re-applied for a building permit as of Sept. 1. An earlier application, filed in March, was incomplete and had expired.

WeavTel co-owner Vince Ward declined comment while the company was still in negotiations with the Park Service.

In June, Paleck was flooded with dozens of comments on the proposal, most of them negative. In July, he received a letter from Chelan County Sheriff Mike Harum that said emergency response would not be improved by the phone system.

In his rejection of the proposal, Paleck cited the lack of a compelling need for the service, the overwhelmingly negative comment from residents and the adverse impacts to the environment, many of which were limited to the time of construction.

# NCCC invokes Freedom of Information Act on NPS phone reversal decision

September 4, 2005

Ms. Margie Allen

FOIA Coordinator

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

810 State Route 20

Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

Dear Ms. Allen:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the North Cascades Conservation Council requests all materials pertaining to Superintendent William Paleck's modification of his findings for the proposed phone system in Stehekin. The August 30, 2005, news release entitled "National Park Modifies Decision on Stehekin Phone Permit" quotes the Superintendent as having consulted the NPS Regional Director and Regional Solicitor prior to modifying his decision. The materials we have requested should include memos, emails, phone logs or any other means that were used to document those consultations. The news release also quotes the superintendent as having weighed information from state and federal agencies that he had not previously seen. The response to this request should also include all documents containing such supportive information. This request also encompasses all correspondence, including telephonic or electronic, from Weavtel, or its representative originating after the superintendent's initial decision to deny the Special Use Permit. Similarly, this request encompasses all correspondence to Weavtel, its agent, or its legal representative from the National Park Service that took place after the superintendent's initial decision.

NCCC requests that all fees be waived because "disclosure of the information is in the public interest . . . and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requestor." Disclosure of the above requested information is in the public interest because it would contribute significantly to public understanding of Superintendent Paleck's reasoning for modifying his earlier decision. The North Cascades Conservation Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the public interest.

Sincerely,

Carolyn McConnell

Member, NCCC board of directors  
for the NCCC



## Fish Stocking in North Cascades National Park

### A brief history of NCCC involvement since 1991

Dear NCCC and Superintendent Paleck

Attached are the NCCC comments on the above noticed DMP/EIS. This has been a long haul for NCCC with the original challenge delivered by Board members meeting up with fish-stocking backpackers and asking what the H— they were doing. That led to other questions.... Finally NCCC officially challenged the policy in its suit over the GMP which led to a settlement in 1991! Now 14 years later we are reviewing the results of concerted scientific research, changes in perception by NOCA, different perspectives from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and new understandings and sophistication from High Lakers and Trailblazers [no longer are they simply repeating the mantra that fish in lakes keep the mosquitoes down].

Still, NCCC has strongly urged the NPS to take the long-run viable solution to invasive species — eradicate them in the effort to protect native amphibians and to restore the ecological integrity of the NOCA.

I hope that I am clear in communicating NCCC refusal to accept continued stocking. The NPS made a valiant but desperate attempt to preserve a balance between lake restoration and continued fish stocking by introducing a new wrinkle. The new wrinkle is "active adaptive ecosystem management". This is a concept very near and dear to my heart conceptually but which has a deplorable track record in terms of empirical results. The problem is not with the concept but with the limited abilities of public [and private] management institutions to produce the process and results promised. A fully adaptive management program as described by the NPS for NOCA would cost, in my estimation, at least half as much as the total NOCA operations budget. Thus, I [on behalf of NCCC] respectfully challenged the ability of the NPS to produce the planned elements of the preferred Alternative or its close second, Alt. C. NCCC supported Alternative D which is to cease fish stocking. NCCC added a request

to Alt. D [which was terribly inadequately described in the EIS] that a strategic implementation plan be developed to state the objective as eliminating non-native fish and restoring aquatic habitats to the extent possible [Actually this statement may be more coherent that what is in the appended NCCC statement so we hope that it will be included in the official comments — *Bill, are you listening?*].

This was a tough call as the NPS is attempting to start a new approach to scientifically identifying levels of impairment and to define thresholds in resource management. These are valuable and innovative concepts but extremely difficult in light of ecosystem variability and the monitoring required to assess cause and effect. I have spent a fair amount of my academic career investigating such questions. From my perspective and what I understand from our NCCC Board discussions the bottom line for this set of issues is that perpetuation of stocking of non-native species in NOCA is unacceptable and that our goal is to encourage the NPS to be true to its mandate to eradicate invasive species and to restore ecosystems degraded by fish stocking [to the extent feasible]. NCCC and the NPS and other folks interested in this question may need to get comfortable with the fact that where reproducing populations of fish have been established in mountain lakes that these effects may be irreversible given cost and technology and environmental impacts of restoration. Alternatively, many of the lakes without reproducing populations can be expected to become fish free through superannuation of the stocked populations once stocking ceases. We are talking 10-20 years for trout species. This "passive" adaptive management approach is slow but secure and relatively cost-free except for long term monitoring.

DAVID FLUHARTY

September 17, 2005

To read the complete NCCC position go to NCCC website: <northcascades.org>

(David Fluharty's letter detailing our NCCC position on fish stocking in NCNP lakes)

## MAD RIVER LAWSUIT

### — Mountaineers, North Cascades Conservation Council, Sierra Club and Washington Wilderness Coalition file lawsuit — Oppose motorcycle project in proposed Wilderness

Seattle, WA  
August 23, 2005

—A coalition of conservation and recreation groups led by The Mountaineers, including North Cascades Conservation Council, the Sierra Club and the Washington Wilderness Coalition, filed a lawsuit to halt Forest Service efforts to construct an off-road motorcycle project in a roadless area that is a proposed addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness. The lawsuit was filed last week in federal court in Seattle.

The Mad River off-road motorcycle project would create further motorcycle facilities in the 200-mile Mad River / Entiat / Chiwawa trail system, which stretches from the Chiwawa River near Lake Wenatchee to the Entiat River and Lake Chelan. The project would relocate and reconstruct sections of trail, and construct a bridge over the Mad River.

The lawsuit charges that the Forest Service project violates a 1999 federal court ruling that stopped construction of the adjacent Goose-Maverick off-road motorcycle project. The court ruled that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by giving inadequate review to its motorcycle construction / expansion plans throughout the whole Entiat-Mad River system, including use conflicts and the impacts of off-road motorcycles on wildlife.

“Despite the court’s prior ruling, the Forest Service has still failed to consider the cumulative impacts of the interconnected projects in the Entiat-Mad River system. There are many components that didn’t even get mentioned, let alone analyzed, and there has been no study of the impacts of off-road motorcycles on wild-

life even though this is an important area for certain wildlife,” said Nalani Askov, Executive Director of Washington Wilderness Coalition.

“The Forest Service wants to imbed cinder blocks in miles of trail in an area that could be considered for Wilderness,” said Mark Lawler of the Sierra Club. “This kind of proposal needs careful scrutiny, but the Forest Service is still avoiding its duty.”

The lawsuit argues that the Forest Service is committing further NEPA violations such as failure to consider a full range of alternatives. For example, the Forest Service refused to consider any reduction in the length of the motorcycle season in the upper Mad River, which currently opens to off-road motorcycle use around July 15 each year. The current regime gives hikers about 2 weeks after snowmelt (the first 2 weeks of July), and then motorcyclists dominate the remaining 3 months of summer/fall trail use. “This is unfair to hikers and hard on the ecosystem,” said Harry Romberg of The Mountaineers. “Moving the motorcycle opening date several weeks would be a big improvement.”

Most of the Mad River country is relatively gentle terrain, a subalpine pine-fir forest interspersed with meadows and lakes. Several of its trails are featured in the popular hiking guidebook “100 Hikes in Washington’s Glacier Peak Region” by Harvey Manning and Ira Spring, published by The Mountaineers.

### Background

The Mad River area is in the largest unprotected roadless area in the Wenatchee, Okanogan and Colville National Forests (comprised of the contiguous Entiat, Rock Creek,

Chelan and Myrtle Lake Roadless Areas).

The Mad River area has long been proposed as an addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness. In the 1983-1984 campaign for the Washington Wilderness Act, a broad coalition proposed that the Entiat Roadless Area (including Mad River) be added to the Glacier Peak Wilderness, but it was one of the areas left out of the 1984 Act. In the 1990 Wenatchee Forest Plan, which is still in effect, the Forest Service admits that the Mad River area has “high potential for wilderness as an individual area or as an addition to existing wilderness.”

In 1999, the Goose-Maverick lawsuit halted the uncontrolled 20-year buildup of off-road motorcycle facilities in the Entiat Roadless Area, thereby improving the area’s prospects for eventual addition to the adjacent Glacier Peak Wilderness.

The Goose-Maverick project would have built a new 3-mile motorcycle route connecting the relatively accessible Goose Creek Campground (near Lake Wenatchee) with Maverick Saddle, a relatively inaccessible trailhead. Maverick Saddle is also part of the Lower Mad River trail that is the subject of the new lawsuit. It is a key point of access to the Entiat-Mad River trail system, and has been called “the hub of one of the largest and most unique systems of interconnecting trail networks in the northwest.” Lake Wenatchee is on the Stevens Pass Highway, a major route from the Puget Sound metropolitan (Seattle, Tacoma, Everett) across the Cascade mountain range. Conservationists are concerned that constructing this link would create a magnet for off-road motorcycle users, with increased motorcycle traffic leading to impacts the Forest Service has not considered.

Last year the Forest Service issued its revised, post-lawsuit Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Goose-Maverick component of the Entiat-Mad system – and it issued a separate EA for the Mad River component, even though the two components physically link at Maverick Saddle. The new lawsuit cites this segmentation of analysis of cumulative actions (with separate EAs and separate decisions for the Goose-Maverick and Mad River components) as yet another violation of NEPA. As of August 2005, the revised post-lawsuit Goose-Maverick decision had not yet been issued.

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## DNR DOWNSIZING

Under years of Olympia leadership concerned with the public interest the state Department of Natural Resources has largely recovered from the evil days of Ol’ King (Bert) Cole. Now, under Commissioner Doug Sutherland, it is reverting to the status quo ante, when the effective center of decision was the Weyerhaeuser campus in Federal Way. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports (September 17, 2005) that New King Doug has fired three of its four geologists, retaining only enough staff

to “serve the needs of the timber and mining interests,” according to Stephen Palmer, who in his 15 years at the DNR has worked on quake liquefaction and ground-shaking maps used by Seattle-area municipalities to guide land-use and building-code policies. Headlined the *PI*, “STATE PROGRAM VITAL TO DEALING WITH CATASTROPHE SLASHED.” Palmer says of the effect on the disaster-awareness program, “They decided to starve it to death.” A Katrina in King County would do no harm to Weyco.

## Recently read on the environmental e-mail circuits —

In discussion over a recent court ruling in favor of Wilderness Act and against the Olympic National Park, staff of [www.wildrockies.org](http://www.wildrockies.org) wrote (August 7, 2005):

George Nickas —

Why is it that judges get it but so many managers don't? Instead, like the NPS in this case, managers focus on trying to create loopholes in the law where none exist, seem to have an infinite supply of excuses as to why Wilderness must always be compromised for this or that reason, and try to concoct ludicrous interpretations of the Wilderness Act, as though Congress was only kidding about trying to preserve real wilderness. . . . Olympic isn't unique. The attitude toward Wilderness within the managing agencies has got to change (and there's no guarantee that it can), and that's one of the biggest challenges ahead. Court rulings like this one will help, but it's going to take a lot more.

Lance Olsen —

I don't think that George will mind me saying that managers do the same systemic circumventions with all living systems, whether wild populations or ecosystems — not just wilderness. If they were put in charge of another complex system, a body, managers would be tinkering around with removal of fingers and toes, or risking a loss of senses such as sight and hearing, even if they safeguarded the heart and guts. They'd say they weren't risking all, but they'd be neglecting simple facts like the great difficulty in running — or even walking — when a body loses a big toe.

Gary MacFarlane —

Sadly, I would note that the environmental/conservation movement also needs to "get it." Too frequently I see the movement, often for reasons of perceived political expediency (usually in a legislative effort to designate more wilderness), agree to create or expand loopholes that lead to even more compromised wilder-

ness. I believe part of the additional effort George refers to at the end of the above noted comment is getting the movement to recommit to real wilderness.

Lance Olsen —

Yes. Agreed. Strongly. Conservationists/environmentalists make the same mistakes that managers do, often making the plea that they can do no better under real-world political pressures. But the first rule of our activism should be to do no harm. Might we lose by trying to keep ecological bodies intact? Of course! But our fear of losing, even of losing big, is not a sound rationale for losing little by precious little.

Every generation accepts the world it inherits as the standard. The danger here is that the goalposts get moved, and activists have little sense of cumulative effect. But the fear of losing may inspire bigger losses than the lack of bio-history does.



Goats in camp on Ptarmigan Ridge.

—TOM HAMMOND

# ONE PERSON'S VIEW OF MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RECOVERY

HARVEY MANNING

1. Middle Fork Road to Taylor River paved, but not widened, straightened, shouldered to high-speed standards. Speed limit of 40 mph, with frequent 25 mph — as many of such slowdowns as possible. The aim of the road improvement is to eliminate dust, NOT to provide swifter access up the valley. SLOW should be the design aim — to enhance the “remoteness”— that is, DEEPEN the “wild feeling” of the valley. The I-90 South Fork provides convenient “shallow” wildness. The Middle Fork should serve as something different.

2. The “mother of all car camps” near or at Taylor River must not be designed with motor homes as allowable users. In fact, the paved road to Taylor River should be signed as not permitting hugeness. (See Methow River road, which is so signed at foot of the climb to Dead Horse Point, and thus keeps the big machines away from Harts Pass.) The campground should be designed as “tent friendly,” with the designated campsites separated by spaces of trees, brush. Reservations required (available at North Bend). Thus, a limit on the size of the campground to prevent its sprawling out of control.

3. Provision made to lease public land NEAR I-90 to a private operator, KOA or other. The example I have in mind is the giant KOA just outside east entry to Glacier National Park. Car camping inside the park is limited, but KOA is such that you can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant.

4. Above the Taylor River, the Middle Fork Road should be benignly neglected. If the FS is so short of money it has to charge for parking, certainly it cannot afford to highway-ize the road so the fisherfolk can do the Dingford

Lakes as day hikes, so climbers can bag the Middle Fork summits as day climbs. Mining claims should be made unexploitable by administrative rulings, as was done when the La Bohn Gappers wanted to make the trail passable for “little tiny ore trucks”, the helicopters having been banned.

No funding at all should be permitted for the road above Taylor River. For now, a gate at Taylor River. Another at Dingford Creek. Nature's devices not be interfered with. In due time it will become a trail. That should be a goal of public policy.

This, of course will entail a head-on clash between those who want to DEEPEN the wildness of the Middle Fork, and thus the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and those who seek easy greenbonding, as on the I-90 corridor.

5. I don't get around enough to size up the splinters of the fractured Environmental Coalition. I wonder how many of our erstwhile comrades we can count on. In any event, the NCCC must take a hard DEEP line. Alone if necessary. No compromise. NO POLITICAL PRAGMATISM.

# Forest hikers don't need costly amenities on trail

*Bellingham Herald, Aug. 5, 2005*

It's hard to understand the logic behind U.S. Forest Service rules requiring picnic tables along trails in order for trail fees to be collected.

But those tables — and other amenities such as trash cans, developed parking and toilets — must, under a 2004 federal law, be installed anywhere the Forest Service tries to collect fees from the Northwest Forest Pass system, which charges \$5 for trail use.

The requirements seem ridiculous and could prove costly to efforts to maintain trails. We urge U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Lake Stevens, and other federal representatives to modify the law at the earliest possible time.

Not many of us expect or want to see a picnic table as we hike through the forests. And putting trash cans along trails may only invite bears to get in closer contact with humans and counteract years of education trying to get hikers to pack out their trash.

The \$5 Forest Pass fee, which hikers have been paying since 1997, is a vital part of keeping trails maintained and accessible in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Money collected from the fees constitutes more than 20 percent of the forest district's recreation budget and is

largely used toward maintaining the forest's 1,513 miles of trails.

Most hikers have long since accepted paying the fee as a cost of recreating.

But rangers and forest managers are faced with a strange situation now: either add the required six amenities — signs and security services are also required — somewhere at trailheads or along trails, or lose the money that helps maintain the trails.

Frankly, we'd prefer to see the money used in maintaining the trails it was meant to help maintain and not for buying useless picnic tables. Rangers estimate the equipment could cost as much as \$10,000 or more. Bear-resistant garbage cans can cost more than \$1,000 each.

Plus, forest rangers are now going to have to be garbage collectors as well, driving from trail to trail to collect garbage from the cans.

For now, the Forest Service has just dropped the fee at 11 trailheads and officials are trying to figure out what to do about the rest.

A trip to Heliotrope Ridge trail is not like a picnic at Lake Padden or Hovander Homestead Park and it shouldn't be. We hope the federal government will rethink these foolish requirements.

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## CONGRESSIONAL ALERTS

### The Endangered Species Act is under attack!

It's official: the war on the Endangered Species Act has begun. Certain members of Congress were attempting to cut the heart out of the landmark law by severely weakening its vital safeguards. Now, California Congressman Richard Pombo's “extinction bill” is moving forward — and it's

just as bad as we feared.

The bill is a nightmare for threatened and endangered species, and ignores the 90 percent of Americans who care about protecting them. One provision states that the government must either allow people to kill endangered species, or force taxpayers to pay them not to break the law. Another provision would end all critical habitat protection for the forests, beaches, meadows, and

other places they need to survive and recover. And that's just the beginning!

We owe it to future generations to protect threatened and endangered species and the places they call home. Please tell your representative: Don't destroy the Endangered Species Act!

*Continued on next column*

## Adding diversity to the outdoors: CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Minorities avoid wilderness activities, advocates look for fix

MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press  
September 6, 2005

Bunyan Bryant has camped by the shores of Lake Huron for decades and usually sees the same thing: green trees, blue skies and white people.

"I seldom see other African-Americans or even other minorities camping," said Bryant, director of the Environmental Justice Initiative at the University of Michigan. "Sometimes they might be with another church group or something like that, but truly speaking it doesn't happen."

It's the same story from New York's Adirondacks to Arizona's canyons: there's a lack of ethnic and racial diversity in the outdoor areas where people hike, camp, mountain bike, paddle and picnic. In a time when minority populations are growing, wilderness advocates and administrators are reaching out to blacks, Hispanics and Asians to change that.

"We're only serving part of the public now and we aspire to represent many, many people who

are not using all the public lands," said Neil Woodworth of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

The Outdoor Industry Foundation this summer reported that 79 percent of people taking part in outdoor activities like hiking and kayaking last year were Caucasian, 6 percent were black and 4 percent were Hispanic.

Blacks and Hispanics combined make up 27 percent of the U.S. population.

Economic and geographic conditions have something to do with it - think of a city dweller who lacks a car, or even the money to buy a tent. But money has become less a factor as more blacks and Hispanics enter the middle class, said Alan Spears, associate director of cultural diversity programs at the National Parks Conservation Association.

Advocates and academics say cultural factors can play a large part. Marta Maldonado of Iowa State University's sociology department said the concept of "wilderness" is a western European

idea, not one necessarily shared by minority groups. As U.S. Forest Chief Dale Bosworth noted in a speech early this year, "the face of conservation has traditionally been rural and white."

For blacks descended from sharecroppers, camping might have associations of living on a farm and of poverty, Bryant said. Hispanics whose families are new to this country might have the same sort of negative associations with roughing it, Spears said.

While reasons for avoiding the woods can be different for different groups, there might be a common feeling among minorities that it is unwelcome territory.

"It's all couched under a larger fear that maybe with some of these public lands, you're going to run into white supremacists in camouflage clothing running seven-man assault drills or something like that," Spears said.

Whatever the reasons, advocates for public land use are concerned. Aside from wanting to make sure the widest range of

people take advantage of natural areas, the Adirondack Mountain Club's Woodworth noted that minorities represent a growing constituency who will be weighing in on land use policies.

The National Wildlife Federation's Earth Tomorrow program targets inner-city kids in Houston, Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle and elsewhere. The kids fish, hike or listen to talks on endangered species.

Federal officials also have been trying to make parks more hospitable to a wider array of people.

Many advocates focus on outreach: once people start showing up in wilderness areas, the problem often takes care of itself.

"Once you get people to the Grand Canyon," Spears said, "you don't have to do a lot of talking."

[www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050906/LIFESTYLE05/509060302/1029](http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050906/LIFESTYLE05/509060302/1029)

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## The Boulder-White Cloud Mountains in Idaho need your protection NOW

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) in central Idaho continues to be threatened by the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA), HR 3603, which is still under consideration in Congress. Sponsored by Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) and backed by Idaho Conservation League and the Wilderness Society, this bill, if passed, will erode existing environmental protections for the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains by providing off-road vehicle (ORV) corridors through critical wildlife habitat, and motorized recreation would be established as

the priority use of the area. In this bill *machines win, wildlife loses*.

CIEDRA will set a precedent for dismantling protections to public lands to benefit local interests, despite strong area opposition. It proposes the outright giveaway of 2,000 to 3,000 acres of federal land for local development.

CIEDRA prohibits the reservation of federal water rights in streams in the proposed Boulder-White Clouds Management Area and proposed wilderness that are home to endangered salmon populations. *Without water, wilderness cannot support wildlife, and streams cannot support fish.*

The passage of CIEDRA will undermine traditional protections afforded by wilderness designation by weakening restrictions on outfitter use and access to mining claims in wilderness: granting fire management authority to state and local entities, and creating small, separate pieces of wilderness. It will permit lethal predator control, stream poisoning, and stocking with non-native species; and allow motor vehicles and aircraft in wilderness for routine game management activities.

Please ask your representative to oppose CIEDRA — HR 3603 ,

or to call for a bill that provides true wilderness preservation with none of the damaging trade-offs Simpson proposes.

If you'd like to read more about the continuing trend that links wilderness designation with public land giveaways and water and land development, see "*Quid Pro Quo Wilderness*: a new threat to public lands," by Janine Blaeloch and Katie Fite. The paper can be read or downloaded from the following web page:

<http://www.westernlands.org/assets/quid-pro-quo.pdf>

# THE CURRENT DISEQUILIBRIUM OF NORTH CASCADE GLACIERS

## North Cascade Glacier Climate Project

### 2005 Field Season



*Columbia Glacier, 2004.*



—TOM HAMMOND *Columbia Glacier, 2005. Note lack of snow cover.*—TOM HAMMOND

During August 2005 Tom Hammond of Seattle, Will Wright of WWU, Mauri Pelto and Ben Pelto from Massachusetts spent several weeks observing North Cascade glaciers. This was the 22nd consecutive year that glaciers have been observed through the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project. The program purpose is to identify the response of these critical glaciers to ongoing climate change. What follows is our experiences and observations.

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#### *A quick refresher in glaciology before the specific field report:*

Alpine glaciers typically have three zones: ablation (at the bottom where melt exceeds snowfall), firn (this is the “equilibrium area” where snowfall and melt are balanced, and is often called the equilibrium line), and the accumulation zone (where the food of the glacier is — snowfall exceeds melt). It is accepted that most glaciers will retreat to their new equilibrium areas as the planet warms; but in the case of most all glaciers in the North Cascades, this line of “equilibrium” is ABOVE the top of the accumulation zone. That is, there is no equilibrium for most of these glaciers to retreat to—they are doomed. Thus, the glaciers are in *disequilibrium*, and cannot achieve equilibrium or even survive. These glaciers can be identified by the fact that they thin as much in the accumulation zone is at the terminus. The only glaciers observed this summer that are not in disequilibrium are the Easton and Rainbow glaciers on Mount Baker.

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#### Columbia Glacier August 1 - 3

The Columbia Glacier sits in the Monte Cristo Peaks, in the basin bounded by Columbia Peak to the west, Kyes Peak to the east, and Monte Cristo Peak to the north. It forms the headwaters of the N. Fork Skykomish River via Troublesome Creek, and accounts for about 50 percent of summer flow on the river. It is the largest low-altitude glacier in the range, its head at just 1750 m and its terminus at 1450 m, with an area of 0.9 km<sup>2</sup>.

As we approached the Columbia, we immediately noticed the glacier has retreated some 30 meters in length IN ONE YEAR. Where there had been ice more than 10 feet thick in 2004, now there was an olive-drab lake.

Monday was the only day it rained outright for the entire two weeks. And even then it was mainly over by mid-morning, and clear enough by mid-day to allow us to do the full suite of measurements slated for the day. The only problem was, there is nothing to measure. There is literally NO SNOW on the entirety of the Columbia Glacier save for a couple of pockets along avalanche fans, and even then, the snow depth there averaged 2.5 meters less than normal. The resultant mass balance will be close to a 3 m loss in mean glacier thickness, which is a substantial negative mass-balance, for a glacier with a thickness averaging about 70 meters. Combined with losses of over 3 m in 2003-2004, 10 percent of this glacier has been lost in 3 years. Some of the glaciers in disequilibrium like the Columbia are thick and will take some time to melt out. How long depends on the rate of global warming. With (non) winters such as 2004-2005 occurring more frequently, it could be as soon as 30 years.

#### Easton Glacier August 3 — 6

The Easton Glacier sits on the south side of Mount Baker, drains to Baker River.

The hike in was easy and fun, as the wildflowers and berries were everywhere, and the vistas great. From more than a kilometer away, we immediately noticed a large scalloped area at the west terminus that was ice last year, and is exposed rock now, perhaps 75 meters across. Then we noticed a football-field sized area of a serac field on the east side, close above the terminus, was no longer ice. It was sobering. The days were sunny and warm, and the surface streams in evidence. Indeed, this would be a theme repeated on all of the large glaciers with gradient to them: plenty of water rushing along the surface, carving the glaciers up and creating impressive serpentine channels. At times the water would pool, forming small ponds on the surface. In other places, the water would plunge into moulins, not appearing again until the very terminus of the glacier. The snowline in early August is usually close to 6000 feet but this year it was nearly 7000 feet. At 8000 feet the average snow depth was 3 meters versus the norm of 5.0 m. Easton Glacier lost 2.5 m and 30 meters in length. Total retreat since 1990 is 250 meters.

#### Rainbow and Shoales glaciers August 7 — 9

Shoales Glacier sits on the north side of Ptarmigan Ridge, draining north to North Fork Nooksack River.

Rainbow Glacier sits on the northeast side of Mount Baker, draining east to Baker River.

Sunday morning found us on the Ptarmigan Ridge trail, a scenic hike along high alp slopes.

It is a very popular hike, as it starts above 5,000 feet, and this sunny, hot weekend found many people on the trail. Sadly, quite a few had dogs with them, so the chances of seeing wildlife were pretty much reduced to zero. It was amusing to hear confused comments about why there wasn't more wildlife, when the answer was barking at them the whole time. Once the day-hikers and their pets left, and we had hiked beyond most of them, the wildlife again was in evidence. Indeed, we saw no less than 41 goats on Monday, including 11 or so that wandered right in to our flowery camp early in the morning and woke us up with their playful kicking, and munching of the succulent plants. We surmised that the population is so large due to the lack of real winters each of the past three years, reducing mortality.

Sunday afternoon was spent measuring one of the pocket glaciers on Ptarmigan Ridge that was adjacent to camp. It has retreated tens of meters in the 22 years of the study.

Monday found us with the aforementioned goat alarm clock, and thus started a difficult and challenging day in the mountains, 11.5 hours of hard work, circumnavigating the Shoales and Rainbow glaciers. Because of the minimal snow cover, we were forced to wear crampons for all but one hour of that long day.

The Shoales had some snow on it, but again, at best about 20 percent of expected. Measurements were done quickly — we did find one patch of snow deep enough to survive the summer—it will cover 5 percent of the glacier. Terrible, but better than elsewhere. We moved through The Portals, a gap in the now jagged Ptarmigan Ridge, to the Rainbow Glacier. Here was a fine vista of this attractive river of ice. Though it heads at a relatively low elevation of about 6,600 feet (most glaciers on Kulshan start above 9000 feet and many near the 10,778-foot summit, maps incorrectly imply this of the Rainbow as well), it is quite large, mainly due to its position on the leeward side of the huge stratovolcano. From the Portals, we joined the glacier at about the midpoint, and began descending. As we made our way down the glacier, large super-glacial streams became the focus. While there had been some on the Easton, the ones we saw on the lower Rainbow were incredibly fast, deep, and voluminous—the largest in the 22 summers we have visited the Rainbow. Measurements of stream flow were completed as we descended. Near the terminus, we happened upon a feature never before seen by any of us (and that's saying a great deal in Mauri's case). Here surface rivers and rivers flowing in the middle of the glacier combined to carve out what we dubbed "The Grand Canyon" in the ice. A huge chasm, some 28 meters from top to bottom, and even longer on the axis of flow, was cut in the ice. Surface streams entered in a dramatic display of waterfalls from above, other streams appeared right out of the

ice walls to add to the flow, and carved out of the middle was an over-reaching arch of deep blue ice. We ate lunch here, and marveled at the wonders of the world. This HUGE feature had not been present the year before — not even close. A short hike brought us to the terminus — the glacier has retreated 350 meters from 1984-2005. We then ascended the entire glacier, some 2,000 feet of vertical gain, mostly on hard blue ice, wending our way through crevasse and serac fields, to reach the head of the glacier. Here 3 meters of snow remained: better, but not the normal 5 meters expected.

## Lower Curtis Glacier

August 10

The Lower Curtis Glacier sits on the southwest side of Mount Shuksan, and drains to the Baker River.

Like most every other glacier we visited, it had very little snow, and none that will make it to the end of the summer. Again, a first for this dynamic glacier. Like the Columbia, it sits at a very low elevation, and is fed by avalanching from higher slopes above. The terminus remains steep, active, crevassed and retreating. This glacier will lose about 3 meters of ice thickness this year.

## Cache Glacier

August 11

The Cache Glacier is closely east of Cascade Pass, cradled on the west by Mix-Up Peak, and on the east by an extension of Magic Mountain.

The Cache Glacier had snow depth maximums of 2 meters at its highest point, right near the col. Normally, there would be 2 meters of snow 100 meters above the terminus. This glacier was bare of snow by September 1. The terminus zone is not nearly as crevassed and had retreated 15 meters since last year, which is significant for a small glacier.

## Mount Daniel

August 12 — 14:

### Ice Worm, Daniel, and Lynch Glaciers

Ice Worm (Hyas Creek) Glacier sits on the east slope of the east peak of Mount Daniel, drains to Cle Elum River.

Like the others, the Ice Worm has lost quite a bit in a year. Indeed, it has retreated more at the top of the glacier (140 meters) in the last 13 years than at the bottom (120 meters). Overall this is 3 percent of the glacier length gone. The glacier still has considerable thickness (up to 18 meters) in the cir-

que as evidenced by deep stream channels, but with the top receding as much or more than the bottom, it too will not last long in the future under current climatic conditions. This glacier also has a new lake at the terminus.

Daniel Glacier sits on the northeast slope of Mount Daniel and marks the headwaters of the Cle Elum River.

The terminus is literally a mere shell of what it once was. The lower 20 percent of the glacier is a thin veneer of ice suspended over the rock. By the time you read this, the Daniel Glacier will literally have lost about 1 percent of its area, as this thin ice melts out. It made for some VERY dangerous travel, as we'd be walking on seemingly solid ice and then there'd be a disturbing hollow sound to our footfalls. We were in a minefield of thin ice, close to breaking through and dropping several meters onto hard rock. This glacier is still in better shape than the Foss Glacier on Mount Hinman, which has lost 75 percent of its area since 1992 and is very thin and doomed. As more rock becomes exposed, it absorbs more heat resulting in even more melt (positive feedback loop). There was little to no snow to measure, even near the 8,000-foot level close to the middle summit.

*Continued on page 13*



*Foss Glacier on Mt. Hinman, 2004. —TOM HAMMOND*



*Foss Glacier on Mt. Hinman, 2005. Note complete absence of snow, even at the top—a graphic display of disequilibrium. —TOM HAMMOND*

# REMEMBER THE 1960s?

## ... Glacier Peak Wilderness, Wilderness Act, and then: *The Wild Cascades: Forgotten Parkland*

A Sierra Club Exhibit Format

Maestro, Dave Brower • Text, Harvey Manning

Foreword, William O. Douglas

The backstory of the foreword has been pretty well lost in the tsunamis of “facts that just ain’t so.” Lest we forget, here it is . . .

Dave Brower long had been striving to publish a “battle book” for the North Cascades, one of the Sierra Club’s top priorities of the time. The Conservation Division-Literary Fund Committee beat him to the punch in 1964 with Tom Miller’s *The North Cascades*. Dave bought a stack (we gave him a very good price) and broadcast copies across America. I read reviews in papers from New Orleans to Maine astonished by all that ice in the old 48. . .

In March of 1965 my phone rang. Dave. “We’ve been publicizing a book, *The Wild Cascades*. We stole that title from you. Now you’ve got to give us the book.”

Fortuitously, my employer was turfing me out and left me twiddling thumbs in my office. Thus the writing was funded by unwitting citizens of the state.

In May the book’s text was in type and the design set. There was a hitch. Justice Douglas had not delivered his promised foreword. I drafted one

for his signature, having as a skilled ghost read his published works to get inside his head. But his body had vanished. The court was not in session and he was negotiating with a reluctant State Department for permission to visit China. Red China. We tracked him to Goose Prairie where he was installing a sprinkler system for his lawn. (A lawn! In Goose Prairie! Disillusioning.) Ignored, I retreated to the Double K Mountain Ranch next door.

Kay Kershaw and Isabelle Lynn consoled me with a pitcher of martinis. Ice cubes clinked. Douglas materialized.

We drank and lunched. He returned to his sprinkler and I retreated over the Cascade Crest to Cougar Mountain. As I left, Iz and Kay reassured me. “We’ll take care of it.”

Clink clink summoned Douglas to supper. The signed foreword followed me over the mountains and proceeded to California. In June Dave threw a party in Seattle to celebrate the Exhibit Format. Wild Bill was not on hand, busy in China infuriating Washington City.

—H.M.

### FOREWORD

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, while sitting atop Plummer Mountain and looking to the whiteness of Glacier Peak and to the greenness of the Suiattle forests I wondered whether the next generation would ever have the chance to experience the same feeling of serenity and composure that was mine at that moment. Would enough people learn of the beauties of the mountain wilderness, and soon enough, to preserve it from civilization pressing in from all sides? Or would the miners and loggers

and others turn all this glory to the utilitarian appetites of man, leaving mere remnants to satisfy a no less important human need?

The questions remain unanswered; and in this book they are restated with the pressing urgency that the situation demands. While not minimizing the continuing danger, I am, however, much more optimistic now than I was at the time of my Plummer ascent. The North Cascades, then almost unknown beyond the immediate environs, have since become familiar to thousands of hillwalkers

throughout the nation. Almost enough people — and I stress the *almost* — have now joined their efforts in a concerted campaign to establish a North Cascades National Park. But the time is not yet. The purpose of this book is to assemble the reinforcements needed to complete the campaign successfully.

As a people, our present attitude toward wilderness is ambivalent. Our nation was born in wilderness and was shaped in character by the interaction of civilization and wilderness. And for all time the great American epic is that of the frontier. It would be hard to find an adult American who does not feel nostalgia for the good old days, yet these are of two kinds. On the one hand are those who value wilderness for its own sake, as a place where a man can learn about his world and his place in it. On the other hand are the few who value wilderness as a place where nature can be converted into riches, preferably without the hindrance of regulatory laws. Here, then, is the basic confrontation — between those who wish to preserve the remaining islands of American wilderness so that the frontier experience will continue to be available to future generations, and those few who want to exploit the wild lands in the uncontrolled manner of their grandfathers.

Our time in America is pivotal in regard to wilderness. Pockets of wilderness remain — bypassed and surrounded by the waves of civilization. But those islands are now in the mopping up stage. Roads are moving inward on these surrounding pockets, up a valley here, over a mountain there, along rivers. Yet though these pockets of wilderness are small by comparison with the frontier days when most of the continent was wild, until very recently — and strongly in the memory of many of us — they seemed very large and indestructible by virtue of their size and

because they were rugged and forbidding.

Two alarming things are happening. First, the pockets of wilderness have been eroded at an increasing rate, with the help of our new technology. Second, as the population rises and the crowding intensifies, the need for wilderness grows. And looking forward into the years of the yet-uncontained population explosion, we can see that before control devices become operative (as they must become, or the whole question of wilderness becomes moot, and all our heirs will live in tall apartment houses and Central Park will be the wilderness prototype) the population will reach a point where far more wilderness is needed than is now planned to be saved.

Today we look backward to a time when there was more wilderness than the people of America needed. Today we look forward (and only a matter of a few years) to a time when all the wilderness now existing will not be enough.

It would, I think, be wise right now to stop all new roadbuilding into wild lands, all damming of wild rivers, all logging of virgin forests. The Americans of 2000 A.D. will thank us if we take that course.

If we do not preserve the remaining samples of primitive America, we will sacrifice traditional American values, the values of frontier America. Not every citizen goes to the wilderness — and they did not even 300 years ago. But so long as there is the presence of wilderness and the option of going to see it, a certain number of citizens do go there and bring back a message for their fellows. As long as that continues we will retain a historic connection with the past of our nation — and our race.

To repeat, what wilderness we decide to save within the next criti-

*Continued on next page*

## REMEMBER THE 1960s?

*Continued from previous page*

cal decade or two of decision-making will be all we will ever have. Probably it will not be enough. Probably it will be necessary, during the next century, to institute a program of reconstructing wilderness — that is to say, of setting areas aside and leaving them absolutely alone, after first removing such evidences of human “culture” as can be removed. We can evacuate the sheep and people and let the grass grow. But only nature can rebuild the ecological community proper to that individual area, and this takes many, many years — in some places, centuries. It will not happen at all if man has destroyed building blocks without which there can be no complete restoration. For all our science and technology there is undoubtedly far more that we do not know about the critical elements of an ecosystem than we have yet learned.

The Northern Cascades happen to include a number of pockets of wilderness that for one reason or another have been bypassed, but are now under threat. Some say there is too much wilderness in the state of Washington. Parochial people say that Washington has so much that saving a certain percentage is enough. The wilderness of the North Cascades is a national resource of the future, not merely a local commodity, and we need it all, as a nation.

We need a number of protected wildernesses along the Cascade Range — the Cougar Lakes Wilderness to help take care of the overflow from the Rainier Park, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the North Cascades Wilderness.

But we also need — and most of all — a North Cascades National Park. And that’s the special message of this book.

—WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

Goose Prairie, Washington

June 20, 1965

## Florida Man Held Hostage by Court Over \$5 Day Pass at Mount Dickerman Trailhead

On Saturday, August 13, 2005, Paul J. Gunthorpe of Tampa, Florida was cited by two Snohomish County sheriff officers with a Washington State criminal violation of third-degree theft of service at the Mount Dickerman trailhead parking lot in Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest, east of Granite Falls, Washington. The charge was based on the display of a \$5 NW Forest day pass.

Gunthorpe, on returning from his hike was approached by two waiting sheriff officers. According to Gunthorpe, the officers immediately accused him of fraud and theft of service, charging him with a criminal offense. The officers confiscated all of Gunthorpe’s day passes and threatened to impound his car if he parked again using an invalid pass.

The Recreation Access Tax (RAT) law promulgated by the federal government in December 2004 allows for fees to be charged only at designated trailheads where all six minimal amenities (picnic tables, information kiosks, etc.) are in place. It has been noted that Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest has defined a new High Impact Recreation Area (HIRA) to bypass the RAT requirement by grouping many sites and allowing

the minimal amenities requirement to be satisfied within the larger area by a single picnic table, pit toilet, trash receptacle, ect.

On August 16, Gunthorpe made his first appearance in court and pled “not guilty” to the criminal charge. When asked by the judge if he had any questions, Mr. Gunthorpe presented a long list of questions about the entire citation incident, all of which the judge was unable to answer.

Gunthorpe applied for, and was denied access to a public defender. He then motioned the court, asking that a hearing be scheduled at the earliest possible date to discuss dismissal of the charge. Legal counsel with experience in criminal law in the Cascade Division (Arlington) court was retained at Gunthorpe’s expense.

The prosecution on this case decided that a bail forfeiture of \$75 was an appropriate offer to close the case. Bail forfeiture is not a simple infraction fine, but carries with it a permanent blemish on a criminal record. According to Gunthorpe, the prosecution expected him to accept the bail forfeiture deal. With no prior criminal record, Gunthorpe refused the offer, maintaining his innocence of the charge, with forced the judge

to schedule a jury trial.

As of October 15, five trial dates have been assigned and postponed for this case. With each trial date and mandatory court appearance made by Gunthorpe, the prosecution has refused to try his case. Since the prosecution is unlikely to prioritize a case involving a \$5 parking pass, and the prosecution must try the case before a November 14 deadline for Washington state speedy trial, the case is unlikely to ever be heard and will be automatically dismissed by the court.

### Editor’s Note:

“Innocent until proven guilty” or “guilty until proven innocent”?

The alleged offense is a trivial fine. The penalty is a criminal record. The system is conspiring to have Gunthorpe accept the \$75 fine and the criminal record that goes with it. The system is denying him his rightful day in court. And all the while, Gunthorpe, who lives 3,000 miles away, is racking up legal expenses as well as coast-to-coast travel.

According to the RAT, the Mt. Dickerman trailhead parking lot does not meet the test of minimal amenities, and thus should be free.

## North Cascade Glacier Climate Project continued from page 11

Lynch Glacier flows off the north side of Mt. Daniel, and forms the headwaters of the Foss River/South Fork Skykomish River.

Lynch Glacier was the only glacier with any snow that will endure the summer on Mount Daniel. Snow depths were 3 to 4 meters above 7500 feet. The glacier has divided in two as a ridge has melted out just west of the center of the glacier. Retreat on the west half of the glacier is tremendous in the last three years averaging 25 meters per year. The thicker more active eastern half is retreating much more slowly. The eastern

half is between two of Daniel’s peaks and this protection results in very high accumulation right on the Cascade Crest.

The glaciers have the poorest snowpack in the last 22 years and probably 50 years. The loss in mass over the 22 years amounts to 11 meters in mean ice thickness lost from glaciers that averaged 50 meters thick. That is 20 percent gone in 22 years.

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See [www.nichols.edu/departments/Glacier/index.html](http://www.nichols.edu/departments/Glacier/index.html) for the more science and complete information about the North Cascades Glacier Climate Project. Check out NCG 2005 at <http://chesterfield.dhs.org/tomhammond> for all the photos from this trip.

# CASCADES OVERVIEW

RICK MCGUIRE

## Chairman Pombo visits Wild Sky Country

In mid-August House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (Republican from Modesto, California,) made a fundraising tour to Seattle, followed by a helicopter overflight of part of the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness. Guiding Pombo were Jeff Sax, a pro-development Snohomish County council member, and Ed Hussman, who has testified against designation of the area as Wilderness. No information is available on exactly where they flew, or if they even flew over the actual area in question.

In any case, the flight, as expected, did little to change Pombo's mind. Pombo has kept the Wilderness bill introduced by local Congressman Rick Larsen from seeing the light of day in the Resources Committee, refusing to even hold a hearing on the subject. The *Everett Herald* reported that upon disembarking from the helicopter, Pombo did say that "This is beautiful country...I can see why people want to protect it." But the paper also reported his position that "wilderness designation should be reserved for land that hasn't been touched by humans."

The 106,000-acre proposal does include some areas which were logged and/or roaded in the past, somewhere in the neighborhood of 16,000 acres. Most of that acreage is at low elevations and was railroad logged in the 1920s. It was never replanted, and has regrown naturally into a diverse forest with many trees 150 feet tall, approaching 3 feet in diameter and well on its way into becoming old growth once again. Many Wilderness proponents feel that these low-elevation forests are the most important part of the proposal. They contain virtually all of the salmon spawning areas which would be protected.



*Treen Peak and Mount Garfield from Dog Mountain. —KEVIN GERAGHTY*

Other Wilderness areas have protected similar "less than pristine" areas, including RR logged forests along the Duckabush River in the Olympic National Forest, and the East Fork Foss valley in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. There are also numerous old mines and mining roads in the Glacier Peak, Pasayten and other Wilderness areas. It is true, though, that the Wild Sky proposal would protect a much higher percentage of such areas than has been done in the past. Most of the Wilderness acreage in the Cascades is at high elevations, and many Wilderness areas, most notably the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, have what has been called a "starfish," or "octopus" shape, with protected acreage extending out along high ridges while excluding the valleys. The authors of the Wild Sky bill sought to change that pattern, and instead focused on lower-elevation valleys, with their productive forests and salmon streams.

If passed, the bill would encompass about 37 miles of old roadbed, almost all of it decayed and undrivable for years. Only two roads passable by any kind of normal vehicle would be included: the upper 1.3 miles of the North Fork Skykomish road, passable by 4WD vehicles, and which was designated for closure in the 1989 Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie For-

est Plan (although never actually closed), and the uppermost 9/10ths of a mile of the Rapid River road.

It is possible, though perhaps not likely, that some compromise may be found that would protect the "less than pristine" areas as something other than Wilderness. But Wilderness bills, along with most types of land protection, take time. Conservation is not a hobby for those lacking in patience. It may be that conservationists will just have to outwait or outlast Chairman Pombo. Either way, the Wild Sky area and its surroundings will remain a priority for NCCC.

## DUSEL Bites the Dust

The last issue of *The Wild Cascades* included a long statement by Dr. Wick Haxton of the University of Washington in support of his proposal for a "Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory," proposed for below the Alpine Lakes Wilderness at Mt. Cashmere near Leavenworth. The proposal for a facility shielded by thousands of feet of rock to stop solar particles and facilitate the search for "dark matter," now appears to be dead. When first raised, it generated some local support, although it was opposed from the outset by

the Alpine Lakes Protection Society.

As the true impacts of the proposal became clear, local support for it began to evaporate. After initial support, the Leavenworth City Council voted unanimously to oppose it. The proposal, to dig a brand new tunnel thousands of feet below Mt. Cashmere, was always likely to cost far more than competing proposals utilizing existing mine tunnels. In July, the National Science Foundation recognized the cost problems and the increasing local opposition, and selected the Homestake Mine in South Dakota, and the Henderson Mine in Colorado, a molybdenum mine nearing the end of its productive life, as finalists. This effectively put the University of Washington-Leavenworth proposal out of the running.

Conservationists, led by the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, opposed the project because of the precedent it would have set for development in a designated Wilderness area. Locals opposed it because of the traffic and disturbance it would have generated. The grassroots effort to stop it was successful, and the rocks below Mt. Cashmere will remain undisturbed.

## Lowe Creek Road Decision Released

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest on August 29 issued a decision to grant an easement to the Longview Fibre company and build, largely at taxpayer expense, a road along 4.2 miles of the South Fork of the Skykomish River. The last issue of *TWC* detailed the reasons why NCCC opposes the project, mainly because it would re-open 4 miles of road which is returning to nature along the South Fork Sky. The road passes quite close to a number of excellent salmon spawning areas, and spurs off it lead directly to them. Re-opening the road would likely lead to 4WD trucks

driving directly in the spawning beds. NCCC also opposes the project because it would use up scarce Forest Service road maintenance monies at a time when the Forest Service cannot even maintain the hundreds of miles of existing, crumbling roads on the Skykomish district.

The real reasons why the Forest Service is so anxious to build this road for Longview are unknown. The current Skykomish district ranger has never been a friend to conservation. As this issue of *TWC* goes to press, NCCC and other groups are weighing their options to mount an appeal, and/or lawsuit in hopes of stopping this misguided project, a case of corporate welfare, a gift of public land and money from the Forest Service to Longview

## Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Update

As this issue of *The Wild Cascades* goes to press, the Federal Highways Administration is preparing to release an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed paving of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road near North Bend. NCCC has yet to take a position on the Middle Fork paving project, and is waiting to see what the FHWA comes up with.

One might wonder why NCCC would even contemplate supporting, (or merely not opposing), the paving and upgrading of a road on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and adjacent state and county public lands. There is already a lot of pavement in this world, some would say enough, or even too much. Why add to it here? There have been numerous examples in the Cascades where a once delightful back road has been paved, widened, straightened, forever changed from a nice back road into a major highway. Perhaps the very worst example is the Cle Elum River road, which FHWA changed from a slow road meandering through the woods into a wide, straight raceway. The speed limit signs say 35 mph, but it is virtually impossible to drive it at less than 50 mph and the road easily

handles 70 mph, and many drivers go even faster. It has turned into a money maker for Kittitas County, whose sheriffs regularly cite speeders. But it's not the speeders who should be cited, it is the FHWA that should be cited for vastly over engineering the road and turning it into what it has sadly become.

NCCC absolutely does not want the Middle Fork to receive the Cle Elum treatment, and along with other groups will not let it happen. So why even contemplate dealing with the FHWA, the agency which has turned so many back roads into speedways all across the western United States? Because of the special circumstances of the Middle Fork, and because it appears that on the Middle Fork the FHWA has finally gotten the message that what the public wants is not another high-speed autobahn, but a paved road which goes through the woods rather than destroying the woods, a road where the trees can grow together overhead, with the road tunneling beneath.

The Middle Fork is the closest mountain valley to Seattle, and *TWC* readers will know much of its history. The valley was largely skinned of its old growth in the 1930s, and slumbered in quiet isolation thereafter. The old railroad grade was turned into a road, and the loggers returned in the 60s and 70s to clean out many of the tributary valleys which they missed during the RR logging. In the 70s and 80s the valley slid into malignant neglect. It turned into a place to which strange, scary people gravitated. Semi-permanent camps were set up, garbage was dumped along every road, and wild shooting was commonplace. Meth labs were set up, dumping toxic wastes, and it became the preferred dumping ground for stripped stolen cars. The Forest Service did little or nothing about it, and decent folk were afraid to go there. By the late 80s a visit to the Middle Fork would likely mean driving past menacing, heavily armed, desperate looking characters in squatter camps, and any vehicle left unattended stood a fair chance of being not just stripped, but blown

full of bullet holes.

By 1990, a group of fed-up people formed the Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition, of which NCCC has been a part. The goal was to take back the valley, and turn it into the kind of place where people could enjoy their public lands in reasonable safety. It's been a long, hard 15 years, but the lowlifes have been pretty much driven out, most of the garbage and dumped cars have been cleaned up, and the valley is once again a place where one can go to enjoy the great outdoors. There's still much to do, but the trends in recent years have been positive. The forest has returned, with natural, diverse second-growth forests covering the lower valleys.

As close as it is to Seattle, the Middle Fork attracts a lot of use. The Middle Fork road in its current state is a potholed mess. In summer it is virtually undrivable due to dust. While it is true that bad roads usually act as filters to keep people and their destruction at bay, that is not the case with the Middle Fork road. It's crowded, and use will continue to grow. Ways of mitigating the impacts of that use need to be found. If done correctly, paving the road could slow the flow of sediment into the river, and make it possible to drive the road in summer without a dustmask.

If done correctly. The paving of the Middle Fork road is acceptable only if it is kept largely on its existing alignment, without huge "clear zones," without a huge swath cut up the valley. Paving must be done in the context of closing off the spur roads where garbage is dumped, and of gating the upper road beyond Dingford Creek. It also must happen in the context of new low-impact trail opportunities, and a new campground currently under construction. The early signs are encouraging, and the conservation community is guardedly optimistic. New pavement is generally a bad thing, and NCCC cannot easily be convinced that it can be a good thing. But we hope that in the Middle Fork it might be. Time will tell.

It will require a leap of faith to trust the Forest Service to actually implement the gating of the Middle Fork road at Dingford Creek. The recent Middle Fork Access and Travel Management Plan allows, but does not require, the Forest Service to gate the Middle Fork road at Dingford Creek. A similar situation can be seen on the upper 1.3 miles of the North Fork Skykomish road, which the Forest Service designated for closure and conversion to trail in the 1990 MB-SNF Forest Plan. But the current Skykomish District ranger believes in keeping roads open. The road was never closed, and all the conservation community has is a scrap of paper, completely unenforceable. It is entirely possible that the same thing could happen in the Middle Fork. The lower road could be paved, and the Forest Service could decide not to close the upper road beyond Dingford.

But, hope springs eternal. In 1990 it looked as though the Middle Fork was an entirely lost cause, that it could never be taken back and turned into an asset. But it largely has been. It remains to be seen whether the grand vision of the Middle Fork will come to pass. It's possible that any decision to support the paving of the lower Middle Fork road will come to be seen as naive. Let's hope that it does not.



*Mature natural second growth, North Fork Skykomish valley.*

—KEVIN GERAGHTY

# NPS MANAGEMENT POLICIES THREATENED?

## Director vows NPS is not changing 'core mission'

DAN BERMAN  
*GREENWIRE*

The National Park Service director is trying to diffuse a controversy stirred up by the release of changes to its management policies proposed by a top Interior Department official.

Responding to criticism from an NPS retirees group that leaked the proposals, NPS Director Fran Mainella told service employees in a Sept. 1 memo: "This review was never intended to, nor will it, change our core mission."

At issue is a draft of proposed changes to NPS's four-year-old management policies prepared by Paul Hoffman, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks. The Coalition of National Park Service Retirees released the draft last month.

"It doesn't surprise me that the reaction has come out that it has they're quickly trying to distance themselves from that version," said Bill Wade, the coalition chairman and former superintendent of Shenandoah National Park. "While we many not see any reference to his

proposed revisions ... this is a clear indication of their intent and their values for how the National Park System ought to be managed."

The Hoffman draft would change NPS management policies to recognize preservation of parks as an objective only to avoid permanent and irreversible damage of park resources and values. In addition, it would eliminate limits to on- and off-road motorized traffic, encourage continued grazing and mining in certain areas and lower air quality standards, according to the retirees group and NPS observers.

"It would fundamentally change the nature of national parks and affect how people expect them to be protected," said Craig Obey, vice president of the National Parks Conservation Association.

For instance, the draft policy could allow a park to develop areas currently protected because theoretically that damage could be reversed, Obey said. "You could develop sites in a national park because one day you could tear it down," he said.

The management policy is the mechanism for interpreting law and regulations and providing guidelines to park managers — essentially a handbook for superintendents, Wade said.

"This process has not been started or driven by the Park Service," Obey added. "It's been driven by the political level."

'We're a \$2.5 billion

business'

The 2001 management policy was developed over eight years and after three public comment opportunities, but this round is moving much faster after two encounters with Congress. The process began after comments from then-House Parks Subcommittee Chairman George Radanovich (R-Calif.) in April 2002 and resumed in earnest in May after questions from the Senate Parks Subcommittee.

At the 2002 hearing, Radanovich said he was "deeply concerned" the management policies in place shifted the Park Service too far in favor of conservation, at the expense of public access (*Greenwire*, April 29, 2002).

"We don't like to call ourself a big business but we're a \$2.5 billion business ... but we're not organized like one," said Park Service spokesman Dave Barna. NPS also faces challenges not addressed by the 2001 policy, including the use of technology, such as allowing cell towers, and new recreation alternatives such as base jumping and "geocatching," essentially a high-tech treasure hunt, he added.

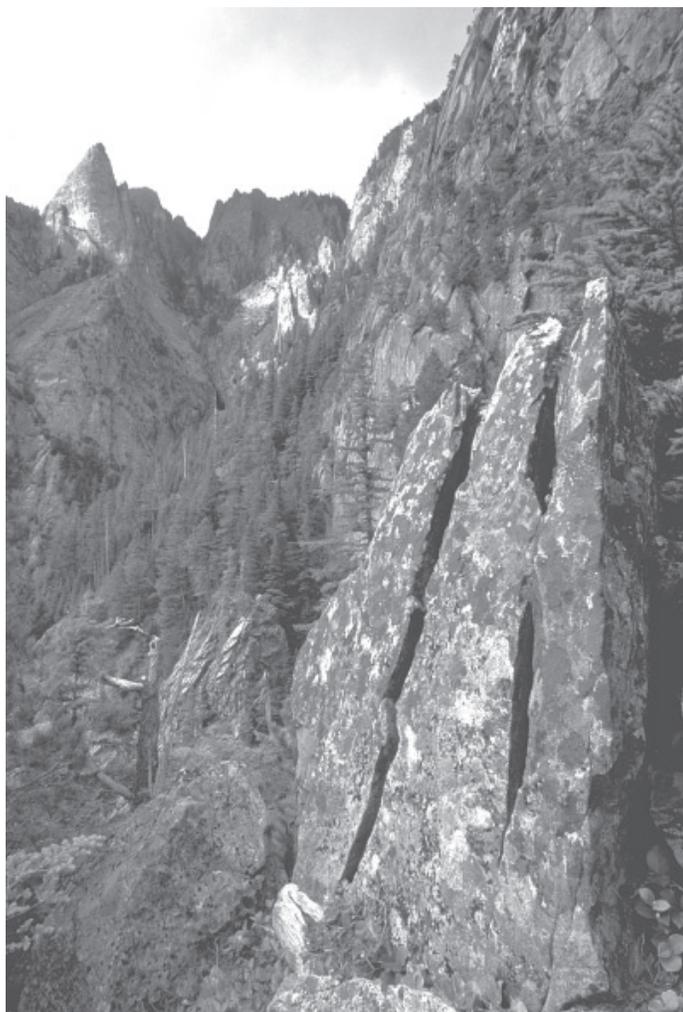
... A task force of 16 NPS employees met last month to review and provide recommendations on the Hoffman draft and management policies. NPS and Interior officials will then provide additional review and comments. A final draft will be released for a formal public review and comment period as soon as this month, but that will also be the first time most NPS employees see the administration's proposal.

"Contrary to recent media coverage, this document is not 'secret,'" Mainella wrote in the Sept. 1 memo.

Wade disagreed, comparing this process unfavorably with the undertaking during the Clinton administration. "With the exception, of course, of the executive-level leaders and the group of 16, until we put this out nobody in the Park Service had seen this thing," Wade said. "That's a pretty shabby way to treat your employees, especially with something as important as the management policies."

"Business knows no pity, and cares for justice only when justice is seen to be better policy. If it had power to control the elements, it would grasp in its iron clutches the waters, sunshine and air and resell them by measure, and at exorbitant prices to the millions of famished men, women and children."

—W. A. Duncan  
in the *Cherokee Advocate*, 1892



*A Garfield Mountain scene, Middle Fork Snoqualmie.*

—KEVIN GERAGHTY

# CONGRESS INTENSIFIES PUSH TO DRILL IN ARCTIC

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, some members of Congress are exploiting higher gas prices by stepping up calls to sacrifice the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Industrial activity in this awe-inspiring landscape could drive polar bears from their dens, expel countless migratory birds from their nests and force the 123,000-strong Porcupine caribou herd from its preferred birthing ground. Meanwhile, drilling in the Arctic Refuge would not reduce prices at the pump until 2025, and even then would likely save Americans only 1.5 cents per gallon. The fastest way to make America more energy independent is to improve the fuel economy of our cars and trucks, which account for 40 percent of our oil use. In the weeks ahead, we will be calling on you to make your voice heard against any legislation that would open the Arctic Refuge to massive oil development.

## GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST PROTECTION PLAN IN B.C. IN LIMBO

Four years ago, NRDC helped forge a historic agreement between the timber industry, environmentalists, native peoples and the government of British Columbia to negotiate protection for 1.5 million acres of the Great Bear



Rainforest from destructive logging. This agreement — one of our first BioGems victories — followed years of pressure from NRDC activists who petitioned Canadian logging companies, their U.S. corporate customers and provincial officials to protect the home of the rare, all-white Spirit Bear. Tucked among majestic mountain fjords, this ancient woodland also supports eagles, grizzly bears and wild salmon.

Although the negotiations to decide on protected areas and sustainable logging practices concluded this past spring, the government of British Columbia has so far failed to keep its commitment to legislate formal protections for the Great Bear by September 30 of this year.

Tell the premier of British Columbia to act now to protect the largest intact temperate rainforest on earth!

## COURT BLOCKS LOGGING IN ALASKAN RAINFOREST

In a major legal victory for NRDC, a federal appeals court has struck down a revised Bush administration plan that opened 2.4 million acres of the Tongass National Forest to aggressive logging and roadbuilding. Siding with NRDC and our environmental partners, the court panel unanimously declared that the Forest Service plan vastly overestimated the market for Tongass timber. The landmark decision makes illegal the Forest Service's push for more than 50 massive timber sales in the Tongass, the home of America's healthiest populations of salmon, grizzly bears and bald eagles. BioGems Defenders sent tens of thousands of messages protesting the auctions — which would have devastated priceless wildlife habitat in Port Houghton and Emerald Bay — and also played a key role in stemming corporate demand for Tongass trees.

From Natural Resources Defense Council  
*NRDC News*

[www.nrdc.org/ctt.asp?u=1320914&l=1399](http://www.nrdc.org/ctt.asp?u=1320914&l=1399)

## WONDEROUSLY BLANK:



## A Plea for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

BY T. A. BARRON

wrecked vehicles) — it may be full of other attractions. Such as scenic wonder. Or silence. Or wildlife in grand abundance.

And something else, as well. A blank spot on the map often contains precious opportunities for people to explore their outer world — and their inner selves. For a blank spot implies no limits. It is a place of endless reach — for the sunlit horizon, as well as for the human spirit.

No place on our planet is more richly, wondrously blank than the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Within its nearly twenty million acres of terrain lies the last stretch of protected coastline in Alaska, as well as the coastal plain — the fragile tundra wetland that is America's premier birthing ground for arctic wildlife. Caribou migrate over 1,000 miles round trip every year to reach this place; migratory birds from every corner of the country seek refuge here.

This is the place that George Bush, Dick Cheney, and their supporters in the energy industry want to invade and cover with roads,

drilling pads, and heavy machinery. To fill in the map. To darken one of the most pristine spots on Earth.

If they do succeed — on the spurious claim that our nation absolutely must suck out whatever oil lurks beneath this land (even though the most inflated estimates show the Refuge providing only a tiny fraction of America's needs, and only delivering that a decade from now) — they will, indeed, darken this spot. With the inevitable oil spills on the tundra. With the bodies of dead caribou calves. And, worst of all, with the shadows of a lost opportunity to protect a place that is truly sacred — and wondrously blank.

...The NRDC Action Fund is an affiliate of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

The world would be far poorer, Aldo Leopold famously observed, "without a blank spot on the map." Yet it wasn't long ago that U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski from Alaska stood in the Senate chamber and declared indignantly that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was no more remarkable than a blank piece of paper.

What, really, is a blank spot on the map? What is its value? These questions are difficult to answer — especially for a money-driven, mechanized society such as ours.

A blank spot, despite its lack of attention from mapmakers, is not empty. While it is devoid of cities, villages, roads, and monuments (as well as drill rigs, trash heaps, billboards, and

# Mount St. Helens open to bids

## Budget Officials hope commercial uses, such as helicopter tours, will make up for falling aid at the volcano

October 18, 2005  
MICHAEL MILSTEIN  
*The Oregonian*

A visit to Mount St. Helens may soon offer more than a steaming volcano. Think commercial helicopter tours, snowmobile and mountain bike rentals, yurt camps, vacation cabins and mobile snack carts at scenic viewpoints.

The U.S. Forest Service is entertaining bids for those and other privately run operations at the national volcanic monument. The goal is twofold: Offer new recreation options and, officials hope, bring in enough money to make up for declining federal support.

Commercial operations at the 110,000-acre monument surrounding the volcano have mostly been limited to cafeterias and gift shops tucked into visitor centers and a few climbing guides.

Now, a prospectus issued by the Forest Service opens the door to the largely undeveloped monument set aside by Congress in 1982. It seeks private bids to run the government visitor centers, plus a range of possible new offerings, such as guided hikes for a fee, construction of tourist cabins and boat rentals on Coldwater Lake.

One of the possibilities would convert more than half the space devoted to explanatory displays and exhibits at Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center to commercial uses such as gift sales.

A goal is for private companies to pick up more of the tab for maintaining deteriorating buildings, said Steve Nelson, an outdoor recreation planner at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which oversees the monument. The fees they pay the government also would go toward upkeep of the monument.

The situation reflects the dismal budget outlook at Mount St. Helens, a kind of financial orphan within the federal government, and an increasingly controversial push to substitute private enterprise for government agencies on public lands.

Years of budget shortfalls have left the monument with a maintenance backlog of about \$13.4 million, according to a 2003 total. Managers can scarcely afford to fix leaky

roofs, replace outdated exhibits and keep movies at visitor centers running.

Its annual funding is about half of what officials estimate they need to pay for a full range of services, from clean bathrooms to geological talks. Officials hope their embrace of the private sector will help bring in money in other ways.

"If you have someone else operating the facility, and if they're cleaning the toilet instead of the Forest Service cleaning the toilet, that's a reduced cost to the Forest Service," Nelson said.

But he said officials will not let private proposals push commercial development too far. "We're very conscious of all that, and we share that concern," he said.

The government is seeking bids on a series of permits for private companies to assume existing operations, such as visitor centers and restaurants, in different sections of the monument. The contracts may be worth millions — gift and food sales at Coldwater Ridge brought in more than \$2 million in the past three years.

Companies can propose taking over all or part of the visitor center operations, although Nelson said he expects the Forest Service to maintain some presence. The companies could charge their own fees in addition to fees charged by the government, he said.

As part of the permits to take effect next fall, companies also can propose commercial activities not offered now.

Officials said anything would be considered as long as it matches the goals of the monument. Congress directed the Forest Service to protect the volcanic landscape after Mount St. Helens' deadly 1980 explosion and provide for public recreation.

Among the private activities the Forest Service suggests may be reasonable: Helicopter tours taking off from a helipad near the Johnston Ridge Observatory, the visitor center closest to the volcano's crater, or parking lots at Coldwater Ridge.

Overnight yurt camps or rustic cabins at places such as Coldwater Ridge, the Marble Mountain SnoPark or Bear Meadow north of the volcano.

Mobile snack and gift stands that could be set up at scenic overlooks, picnic areas, trailheads or other popular sites such as Windy Ridge, a major viewpoint.

Winter snowmobile rentals or snowcoach tours on existing roads. Private snowmobile use is currently allowed in parts of the monument.

Fee parking for recreational vehicles in parking lots at Coldwater Ridge, Johnston Ridge and other sites.

Conversion of the Forest Service's Pine Creek Work Center near Cougar Reservoir south of the volcano, now used to house government employees, to a private RV park, campground or resort.

Visitors often ask for options to spend the night in the monument, Nelson said. "People say, 'There's no place for me to stay when I go up there,'" he said.

Most national monuments are managed by the National Park Service, with their own dedicated budgets provided by Congress. Mount St. Helens is one of only a few monuments overseen by the Forest Service, with a budget that depends on money trickling down through the agency from Washington, D.C.

Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness, a Bend group opposed to privatization of public lands, said Congress guaranteed the monument's financial failure by constructing expensive visitor centers with no mechanism to pay for them over the long term.

"The next solution is to call in the private sector," he said. The new prospectus for commercial activities allows almost "any possibility."

"This is a megatransformation," he said. "I just hope people don't allow the slip to take place without realizing what is changing."

# Pombo proposes selling 15 parks, expanding offshore leases, drilling ANWR

BEN GEMAN, DAN BERMAN AND ALLISON FREEMAN, *E&E DAILY* REPORTERS

Draft House Resources Committee legislation would put 15 national parks up for sale, allow offshore oil and gas drilling in now-restricted waters and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to petroleum exploration, according to a copy of the measure obtained by *E&E Daily*.

A section of the 285-page bill addressing outer continental shelf drilling — called the “offshore state options act of 2005” — would allow states to petition for withdrawal from coastal leasing bans and in return receive substantial revenues from royalties. The bill also includes options for natural gas only leasing. The chairman of the Resources panel, California Republican Richard Pombo, is a vocal advocate of increasing domestic energy production.

Under the opt-out idea, waters more than 25 miles off the coast of a neighboring state could be opened for gas-only leasing, while oil and gas leasing would be allowed if the area is more than 50 miles from a neighboring state. Leasing could be closer if the neighboring state concurs.

Brian Kennedy, a Pombo spokesman, said the language was just one option under consideration. “No final decisions have been made,” he said today, calling the draft the “biggest, broadest spectrum of options” for the committee’s budget reconciliation language. “Call it a brainstorm of all the possible alternatives,” he added.

Reconciliation has been delayed until late next month in both chambers. The Resources panel must find \$2.4 billion in savings, which is about the amount the committee anticipates from ANWR leasing. Kennedy estimated the entire legislative package would raise about \$6 billion.

## Drilling plan quickly comes under fire

Environmentalists quickly criticized the drilling plan. “Any kind of provision that would allow states to opt-out or natural gas-only leasing are absolutely unacceptable. That entails weakening the moratorium,” said the Sierra Club’s Debbie Boger. “This really shows the agenda of the oil and gas industry. They want to say no place is off limits.”

The plan also drew a harsh response from another California lawmaker, Democrat Rep.

Lois Capps. “Chairman Pombo’s proposal means new drilling in areas of the U.S. where there isn’t a whole lot of oil and gas and where tens of millions of our citizens have made it clear that they don’t want any more drilling. This is going to be opposed by the people of California, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey and other coastal states,” she said in a statement.

## Proposals for selling parks, attracting commercial sponsors

The legislation would sell Theodore Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River, and 15

other National Park Service properties from California to Massachusetts.

The scope of the legislation shocked park advocates. “I have no idea what they could be thinking putting together a proposal this extreme,” said Craig Obey of the National Park Conservation Association. “There are certain people who will never be satisfied until you can sell advertisements and reap commercial profit from the national parks and this is that kind of proposal.”

## 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):

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**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.

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*Marten Lake, Middle Fork Snoqualmie.*

—KEVIN GERAGHTY

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