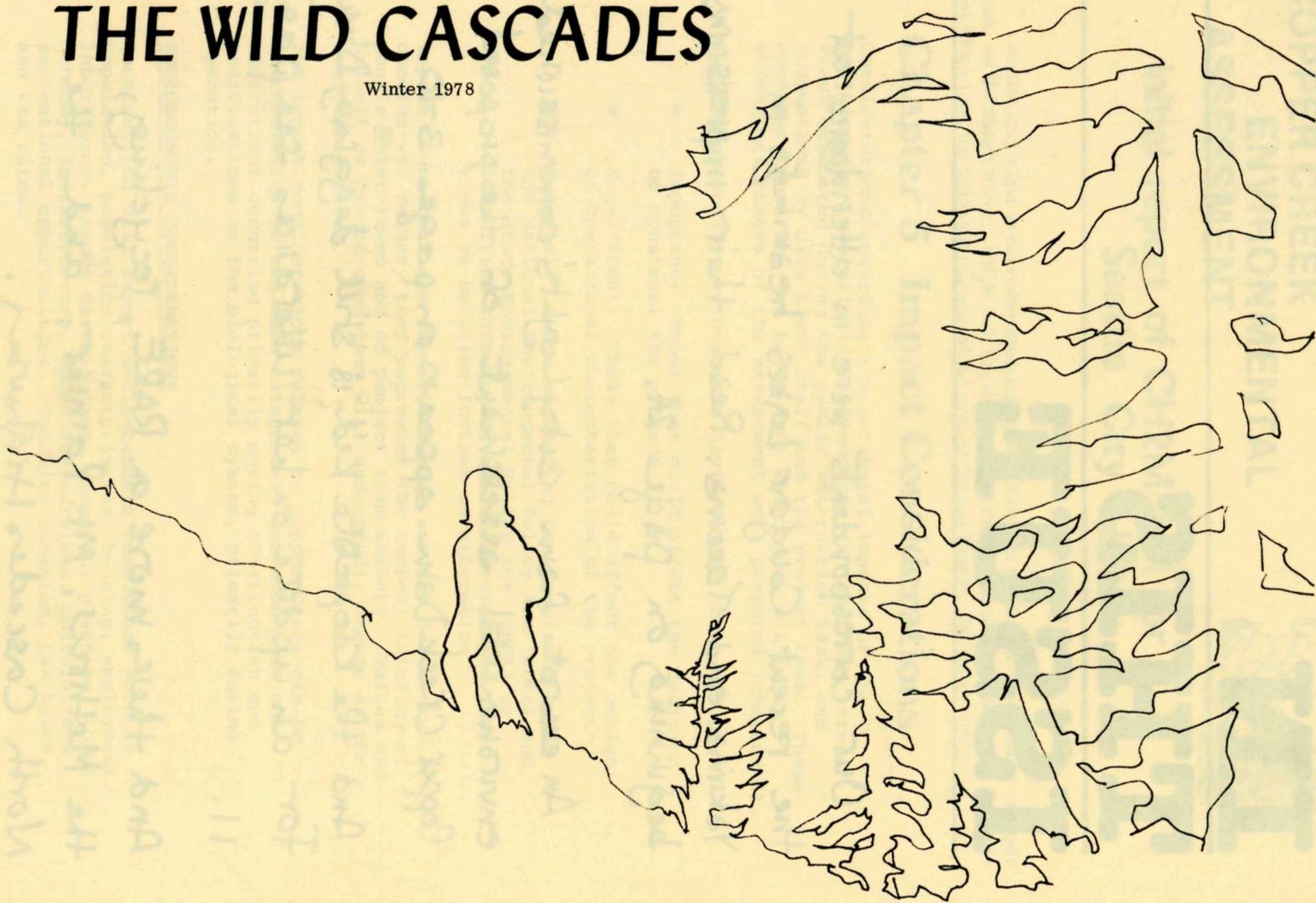


THE WILD CASCADES

Winter 1978



IN THIS ISSUE

Our correspondents were in attendance at the recent Cougar Lakes hearings in Yakima and Tacoma. Read their impressions beginning on page 24.

An excerpt from City Lights' commissioned environmental assessment of the proposed Copper Creek Dam appears on pages 3-10.

And the Koopeete Kid is still dogging Dixy. For an update on her utterances see page 11.

And there's more on RARE, recycling, the Methow, Mt. Rainier, and the North Cascades Highway.

COPPER CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



initial report of CH2M-Hill for Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light is currently studying the feasibility of building a fourth dam, Copper Creek, on the Skagit River. CH₂M Hill has developed a Copper Creek Environmental Assessment which lists the following impacts of the project (Initial Report, December 1977).

Chapter 5 Impact Considerations

Considerations regarding the potential impacts of the project were initially identified from two sources: interviews conducted during the public interaction task, and suggestions by City Light staff and the project team. These considerations are the basis upon which work plans for subsequent phases of the assessment were prepared (chapter 6).

The impact considerations were divided into three groups:

- **Important:** Those that could affect the decision to construct the project
- **Significant:** Those that could affect the design or operational characteristics of the project
- **Material:** Those addressing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or identified through the public interaction interviews as meriting further consideration

Impact considerations summarized here are not definitive or conclusive; rather, they represent the current thinking of people interviewed and of project team members. Values and priorities placed upon them will undoubtedly change as the study progresses.

The impact considerations related to Copper Creek can be characterized in two main categories: socioeconomic considerations occurring primarily during construction and modifications to the biological system, primarily during operation.

SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Construction will impact socioeconomic conditions such as population, population characteristics, housing, employment, labor force, income distribution, community planning, local economy, infrastructure, community services, cultural and recreational opportunities, community cohesion, tax bases, and tax rates.

Many of the anticipated adverse changes to existing conditions can be minimized through environmental planning. However, modifications to traditional social and economic patterns will inevitably result during the construction of the proposed Copper Creek project. The ability of the small communities to absorb, adapt, support, and recover from the infusion of several hundred workers for 3 to 5 years is a significant question that must be addressed in making project decisions. Construction has occurred previously in the area for the Ross, Diablo, and Gorge projects as well as several other facilities and operations.

Interviews with residents of the upper Skagit area reveal that no consensus exists about the desirability of the anticipated changes on these small communities. Having experienced the opening of the North Cascades Highway, some citizens desire further growth and economic stimulation, while others do not wish to lose the traditional values associated with small, somewhat remote, rural communities.

Potential positive impacts could include an improved highway, an increase in regional energy supply, increased recreational value, increased downstream flows, and development of a reregulating reservoir to permit development of further upstream electrical peaking resources.

BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS

Impacts on the biological system will occur primarily during the operational phase. Although construction will certainly displace or destroy organisms, the long-term consequences of converting land and riverbank habitats into lake and aquatic habitats will be more significant. By interrupting salmonid spawning, a change in the fisheries of the Skagit will occur. This change could substantially impair the quality of the environment for species whose food supply depends on the salmon at either the juvenile or carcass stage. Species supported in part by salmon are avifauna, such as bald eagles and ravens, and small and large carnivorous mammals; other affected animals are vertebrate and invertebrate aquatic organisms.

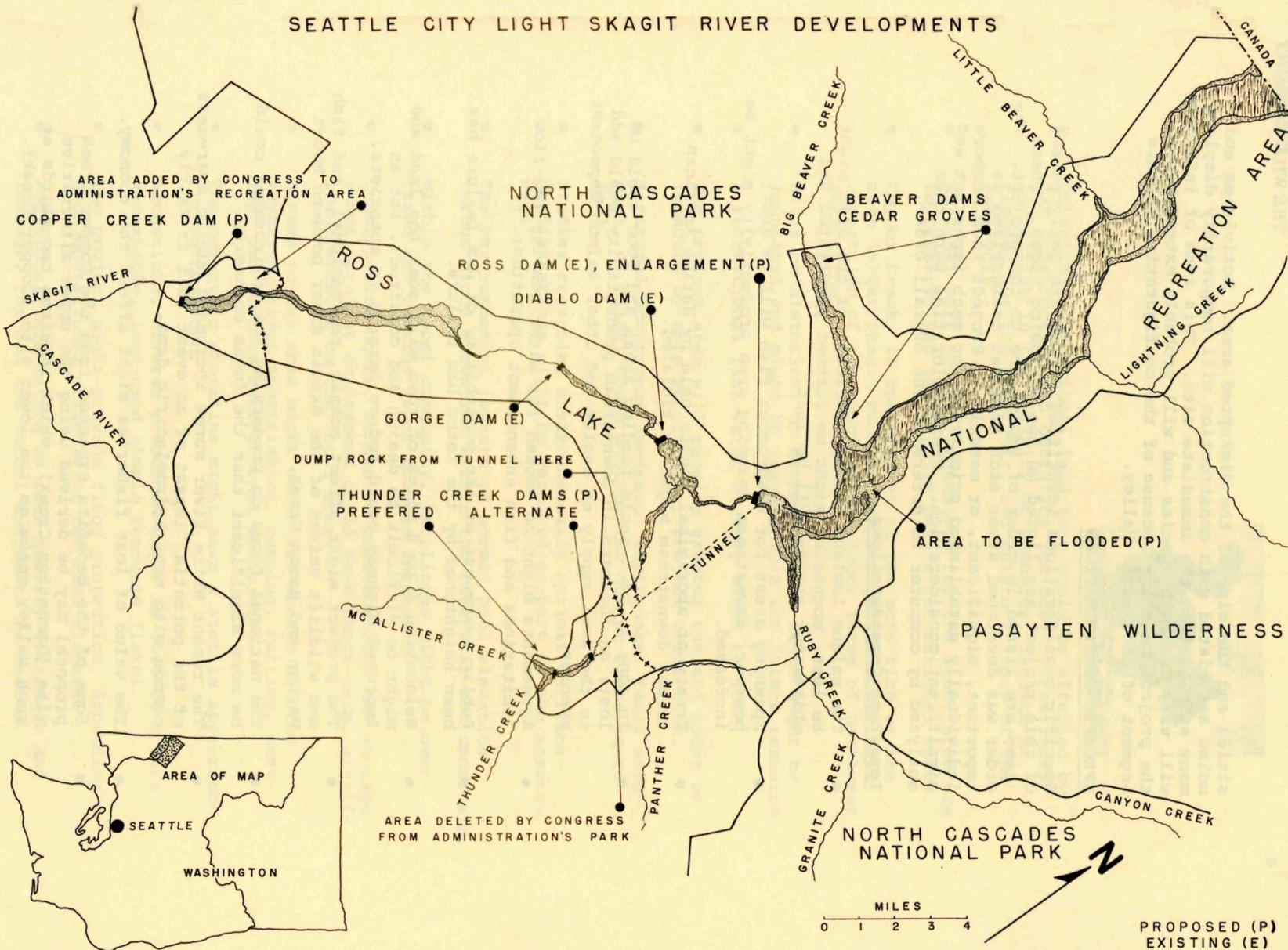
The magnitude of this effect is an extremely significant component of the decision as to whether to construct Copper Creek. Negative impacts can be mitigated by increasing artificially spawned salmonids, increasing spawning area downstream, or through increased productivity of the downstream reaches of the river. Negative potential impacts could also be offset by the benefits that will result from the more uniform streamflow associated with reregulation.

The complexity of floral and faunal communities and associations in the upper Skagit is unlikely to be radically modified as a result of project construction; however, increased human-caused pressure on natural systems will be measurable and evident. This may occur in any case as a result of the proposed construction of Newhalem campground.

Measures to sustain floral and faunal relationships will be identified during subsequent phases of this environmental assessment (see chapter 6). The number of wildlife directly affected may be significant because of high existing den-

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT SKAGIT RIVER DEVELOPMENTS

Winter 1978



PROPOSED (P)
EXISTING (E)

sities and the size of the disrupted area. Activities and noise associated with construction will temporarily displace many species from the immediate site. This zone of influence will vary for each species and will probably extend beyond the project boundary because of the configuration of this segment of the Skagit Valley.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Specific considerations identified during the early phases of this project are listed on the following pages. These items are listed in order of importance to the project. The order was developed after each item was categorized as important, significant, or material. Project team members individually established priorities for each important and significant consideration. These priorities were then analyzed by computer to determine the overall order.

Important Considerations

- The unique lowland valley character of the area might be lost; mountains might be further penetrated and whitewater rapids will be lost.
- Spawning areas for anadromous fish will be lost; however, downstream spawning area productivity might be increased.
- Treaty or aboriginal rights held by Native American tribes downstream might be violated.
- In zone 1, bald eagle feeding areas and food could be lost; an increase in downstream productivity would add to the food supply of eagles and other salmon-dependent species.
- Agreements might be needed for water quality low-flow limitations and fish enhancement operations.
- Public awareness of the possibility of dam failure has been heightened by the Teton Dam failure.
- Relocating 6 to 8 miles of road will scar the land and might be difficult to design and construct, but an improved highway could reduce hazards to motorists.
- The project might affect scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of the Skagit River between Mount Vernon and Bacon Creek.
- The national focus on preserving the environment could be more significant than the focus on energy.
- The recent White River surge increased public awareness of the potential impact of an event that is fairly common with many hydroelectric dams.
- The value of lost fisheries might affect the economy.
- Some of the benefits expected from the Copper Creek proposal may be derived using the upper alternative site (Damnation Creek), which requires two-thirds as much valley space as the lower site (Copper Creek).



- Potential recreational land that could be affected by dam construction and operation includes recreational facilities in the vicinity of Newhalem, land to be flooded for the reservoir, and upland fringes of the reservoir.
- National Park Service objectives for the study area are to preserve and enhance its public recreational value.
- Copper Creek, if constructed at the same time as the much larger Skagit Nuclear Station, might contribute absorption of the construction labor force of northwest Washington.
- Sites of historical or archaeological value might be inundated and might be inaccessible for future research.
- A recreational fast-water fishery might be lost.
- The project area will receive greater use and might be impacted by more people after project completion.
- A natural occurrence (volcano, earthquake, fault movement, or slide) could overtop the dam or cause it to fail.
- Studies regarding environmentally optimal tailrace configurations might be required as part of the assessment.
- The environmental impacts of normal pool elevation versus flood elevation within the reservoir are uncertain.
- Within the local community, facilities might be over-taxed and outside labor sources increased.
- Construction costs, length of construction, and average annual project employment could have short-term, significant effects on the local area.
- Losses to the area might occur for scenic driving, kayaking, river sportfishing, camping, rafting, hunting, and various recreational activities.
- The reservoir shoreline might have a sterile appearance during drawdown.
- Accessible, diverse resources might be lost to a less accessible, less-used single resource (lake).
- The project might provide flood protection, depending upon operational criteria of the FERC license.
- Additional information on rock quality (strength and leakage) for dam and tunnel abutments is needed.

- City Light will be responsible for developing procedures for responding to any culturally significant sites unearthed during construction.
- The project might change stream temperature profiles, streamflows, sediment deposition, and erosion; all such changes would tend to reduce fauna populations.
- Alternative borrow pit locations could significantly extend the area of primary impact.
- An indirect effect of the project will be the transfer of a portion of the value of the Skagit River from rural Skagit County to Metropolitan Seattle.
- Powerline relocation might scar the land and will be costly.
- The presence of rare or endangered species has not been documented in this area.
- If not carefully positioned, transmission lines could become visually more obvious.
- Some of the largest Western yews found in Washington might be destroyed.
- Sewage from Newhalem and the Campground might affect lake water quality.
- City Light ratepayers might be affected by the proposal.
- The Department of Transportation's plans for temporary highway improvements and City Light's plans for Copper Creek might be in conflict.
- Extensive drawdown in the reservoir, if permitted, would limit recreational activity and biological productivity.

Significant Considerations

- Project cost estimates should be refined to determine impact.
- The "multiplier" effect of the project upon local and regional economics is unknown.
- Aquatic habitat might be destroyed.
- Tourist-oriented activities and retail trade might increase as a result of dam construction.
- Construction of the dam structure, powerhouse, switch station, and spillway might affect the area by increasing the perception of urbanization.
- Further modification of downstream gravel movement and hydraulic grading of material could interrupt spawning.
- Permits required for the project should be explored and an analysis made of the effect of imposing these environmental constraints.

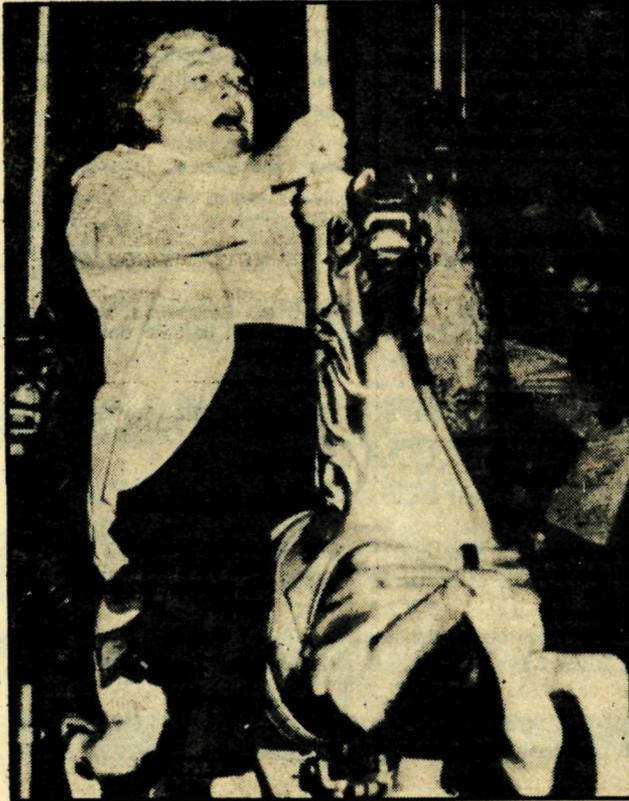
- The number and extent of operational spills might affect dissolved gas concentrations.
- Water quality could be affected by the method of clearing and grubbing the area.
- A safe method of filling the reservoir will be required.
- A food supply (salmon) for black bear might be lost.
- Settling of streamborne suspended materials might increase the downstream erosiveness of the Skagit.
- The facility could cause or extend mass movements from the adjacent sideslope, thereby modifying the existing environment.
- Recreational facility development proposed within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Newhalem Campground might be affected by the proposed dam.
- Current dam safety programs have been described as inadequate and are being improved.
- Riparian deer habitat used during spring and winter could be lost.
- Land use and development in the study area could be impacted by people associated with dam construction.
- Improperly constructed transmission lines could present a significant hazard to large raptors.
- Construction activities and constructed facilities such as roads, transmission lines, and spillways might break animal migration and foraging circuits, especially for small mammals.
- The rate at which the lake would fill with sediment needs to be described.
- The adequacy of the risk analysis depends on implementation of procedures for adequate checking during design, construction, and operation phases.
- Without adequate project development planning, it can be assumed that most of the construction labor force will be transient rather than permanent residents; this could also happen with the best of planning.
- The relationship of risk for the project to other activities (forestry, highways) is outside of City Light's control.
- The location of construction materials and project equipment purchased might have a slight impact on economics outside Western Washington.

Material Considerations

- Road and powerline construction might: increase plant densities in the disturbed area by replacing native species with nonnatives, reduce the number of individual plants, and increase fire hazards.

- The project might contribute to development of less complex plant communities around the reservoir and more complex communities around other disturbed areas.
- The reservoir might interfere with any existing cross-stream migration by large species.
- The shoreline might be eroded and become unstable because of wind-induced waves, which would tend to increase the silt load in the reservoir.
- Mineable resources might be permanently flooded. These include talc, gravel (needed for Ross Dam raising), and possibly limestone (cement).
- Use of full peaking potential of other upstream facilities might be enhanced by construction of the project.
- The groundwater system might be altered.
- The reservoir load on the ground requires further investigation regarding the inducement of earthquakes or fault movements.
- The local hydrology might change if a large body of water is created.
- The quality of the risk analysis data is questionable, especially the data on dam inventories.
- The effect of seasonal project construction on local employment and population might be small, not large.
- Depending on construction scheduling, the project, especially road relocation, might create congestion and trip delays on State Route 20.
- The expected short-term reliance for energy will be upon conventional sources such as oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear power, and hydroelectric power.
- Hydroelectric power fits into the national short-term energy scheme, but will probably play a minor role.
- The project might be a short-term consumer of energy.
- City Light should continue to document the relationship between energy demand and supply.
- The effects of decommissioning are unknown.
- The project could have the indirect effect of stimulating possible economic growth through increased energy supplies and a flexible, relatively low-cost energy system.
- A Department of Ecology water quality certificate will be needed for a Federal license.
- DOE permits will be needed for construction impacts on water quality, dam safety, and water rights.
- A shoreline management permit and other local zoning and health certificates will be required before construction.

thoughts of Chairman Ray VOLUME TWO OF THE LITTLE RED BOOK



compiled by the kaopectate kid

"A nuclear power plant is infinitely safer than eating because 300 people choke to death on food every year." Portland Oregonian, October 29, 1975.

"Despite the Crabshells or whatever they are called, work at the Satsop nuclear plant will go forward. In spite of the Skagitonians against it -- all five of them -- plans for a nuclear plant at Sedro Woolley will go forward."



John Warth photo

Regarding the arrival of the first tanker at Cherry Point with Alaska oil, "Some people are certain it is coming only to spill oil in Rosario Strait. Oil is precious. We will take good care of it."

"Petroleum is a natural substance, so it will not have an impact on marine life." Seattle Times, August 5, 1977.

"To plan for a future with less energy than will be needed is nonsense."

Regarding the shipment of oil, "Knowledge increases as risks increase. Life is a compromise. We are so consumed with the idea of perfection that we can totally price ourselves out of the things we need." Seattle P-I, August 12, 1977.

"I would like to re-emphasize that a top priority of this administration is open government. Open government to the people of this state includes the press." Seattle P-I, August 25, 1977.

In response to questions about supertankers on US-Canadian waters, "Let me just say we're sovereign nations. I think that, uh, that we're fortunate to have a great and good neighbor to the north of us. But, uh, you mind your business and we'll mind ours (laughs). If I might say so, keep your Trident people at home, too (laughs)." Vancouver Sun, September 14, 1977.

"The activist or radical environmentalist has little interest in obtaining the truth, and the movement they have spawned has little relation to accurate information."

"The environmental movement has been taken over by people who are of the persuasion that if you are not 100 per cent with them, you are 100 per cent against them."

"I wish they (the Olympia press corps) would grow up."

"Oops, I did it again -- opened my big mouth. I've got to stop doing that." Portland Oregonian, September 21, 1977.

"Let me say that I do not believe there should be a state government land use plan that would mandate that certain things happen in local communities. What you are talking about is socialism, socialism."

When asked if she were willing to meet with environmentalists to open a dialogue with those she calls "people-haters", "On what?"

If leaders of the Washington Environmental Council, who asked to talk to her in January 1977 but never got an audience, would ask again, would she talk to them? "I think it would be much more appropriate for them to meet with the Department of Ecology because that's the department that carries out environmental policy."



Regarding wilderness and national park lands in the state, "There needs to be a line drawn somewhere on how much land will be locked up. When is enough?" Seattle P-I, September 25, 1977.

Regarding federal legislation to keep an oil superport out of Puget Sound, "The federal government has usurped the right of this state's citizens to control their own economic and environmental matters. The lack of public hearings and adequate public forums for public debate and consideration of the Senate amendment denied the citizens of this state and other interested parties a voice in that decision." Seattle P-I, October 6, 1977.

"It seems to me that our senior senator has set himself up as being a dictator for the state, and I have to oppose that." Seattle P-I, October 8, 1977.

"Washington's five wilderness areas could produce 40 billion board feet of commercial timber if they were placed in intelligent multiple-use management."

"A careful and quite critical look should precede further wilderness withdrawals."

"In the future, are we going to put more land into a perpetual lockup or make (it) available for intelligent management and multiple-use?"

"The debate over forest management pits emotionalism against common sense conservation and multiple-use." Seattle P-I, December 1, 1977.

"There's nothing that tugs on the heart-strings like a few mallards with oil on their wings."

"Regarding U. S. Forest Service purchase of private lands within wilderness boundaries, "I am against usurping private land. This is not federal encroachment. It's downright interference." Time, December 12, 1977.

"The actions of those who want to create more wilderness are based primarily on ignorance and sentimentality." Seattle Times, December 17, 1977.

Three days before leading a caravan of seven gas-guzzling Winnebagos from Olympia to Pasadena, "The fun and games are over." Seattle P-I, December 27, 1977.

(The double-dactyl is a difficult and rigid art form popularized by Seattle Post-Intelligencer columnist Emmett Watson. It has certain inflexible rules, requiring six syllables in all lines but the fourth and eighth, which have four and which must also rhyme. The antepenultimate line must also be a six syllable single word, which may be coined or hyphenated. The following examples are deemed to be a bit too raunchy for Mr. Watson's latest double-dactyl contest.)

Higgledy Piggledy
Cougar Lakes Wilderness.
Dixy Lee Ray says don't
Lock it away.
Save it for motorbikes,
Fourwheeldrivegaseaters,
Loggers and those who'd make
Wilderness pay.

Washington, Washington!
Warren G. Magnuson;
Oil in the Sound he vowed
There'd be No Way!
Quicker than you can say
Cerasiapuntus, *
Maggie the Mighty
Smote ARCO and Ray.
* High School Latin for Cherry Point

TO PROTECT A PARK FAR TOO SMALL

When Mt. Rainier National Park was established it was made far too small, with its inclusion of only the Mountain, surrounded by a very narrow skirt of fragile land. Today this Park is suffering from overuse and is greatly in need of the protection which can be provided by neighboring areas of defacto wilderness. These areas would serve as buffers, providing additional habitat for park wildlife and expanded areas for backcountry hiking and camping.

THE CLEARWATER AREA: Just outside the northern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park lies 26,400 acres of road-free land. It is located in the White River Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and is adjacent to the northwest corner of the Park. The Clearwater River and tributaries of the White and Carbon Rivers have their headwaters here beneath the slopes of Carbon and Independence Ridges, Bearhead and Frog Mountains, and Clear West Peak. This is a roadless area laced with trails from which views of Mt. Rainier, the Olympics, or the Cascades can frequently be seen; an area covered with lush forests of Douglas fir, cedar, and hemlock which are occasionally broken by alpine meadows and small lakes. The Clearwater, along with Lonesome Lake (1,850 acres) and Sun Top (5,200 acres) Roadless Areas of the RARE II Inventory should all be designated as Wilderness units of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and managed in a manner compatible with the contiguous Wilderness (proposed) of Mt. Rainier National Park.

THE TATOOSH AREA: Just outside the southern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park lies the 17,010 acre Tatoosh area located in the Packwood District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The Cowlitz River and tributaries of Butter Creek flow through the area, which is dominated by the Tatoosh Range, the northern end of which is within the Park. The North Cascades Study Team, in 1965, recommended the addition of 7,000 acres of this Roadless Area to Mt. Rainier National Park. No action has been taken on this recommendation. The entire Tatoosh (17,010 acres) along with the small Glacier View (3,930 acres), Silver Creek (1,000 acres), and Tolmie Creek (650 acres) Roadless Areas of the RARE II Inventory should be added to the Park and designated as Wilderness units of the Park. These additions are long overdue and our Congressmen and Senators should be urged to take action soon.

THE COUGAR LAKES AREA: Just outside the eastern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park lies the 190,000 "South Unit" of our proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness. (See The Wild Cascades Fall 1977 as well as this issue.) A sizeable portion of this area was originally considered by the National Park Service for inclusion in the Park but subsequently rejected by that agency. However, the shortsightedness of this decision can still be corrected today by legislatively designating these lands as part of the Cougar Lakes Wilderness. The area should then be managed by the Wenatchee National Forest as a defacto park zone, in a manner compatible with the Park Service management of the adjacent Wilderness (proposed) of neighboring Mt. Rainier National Park.

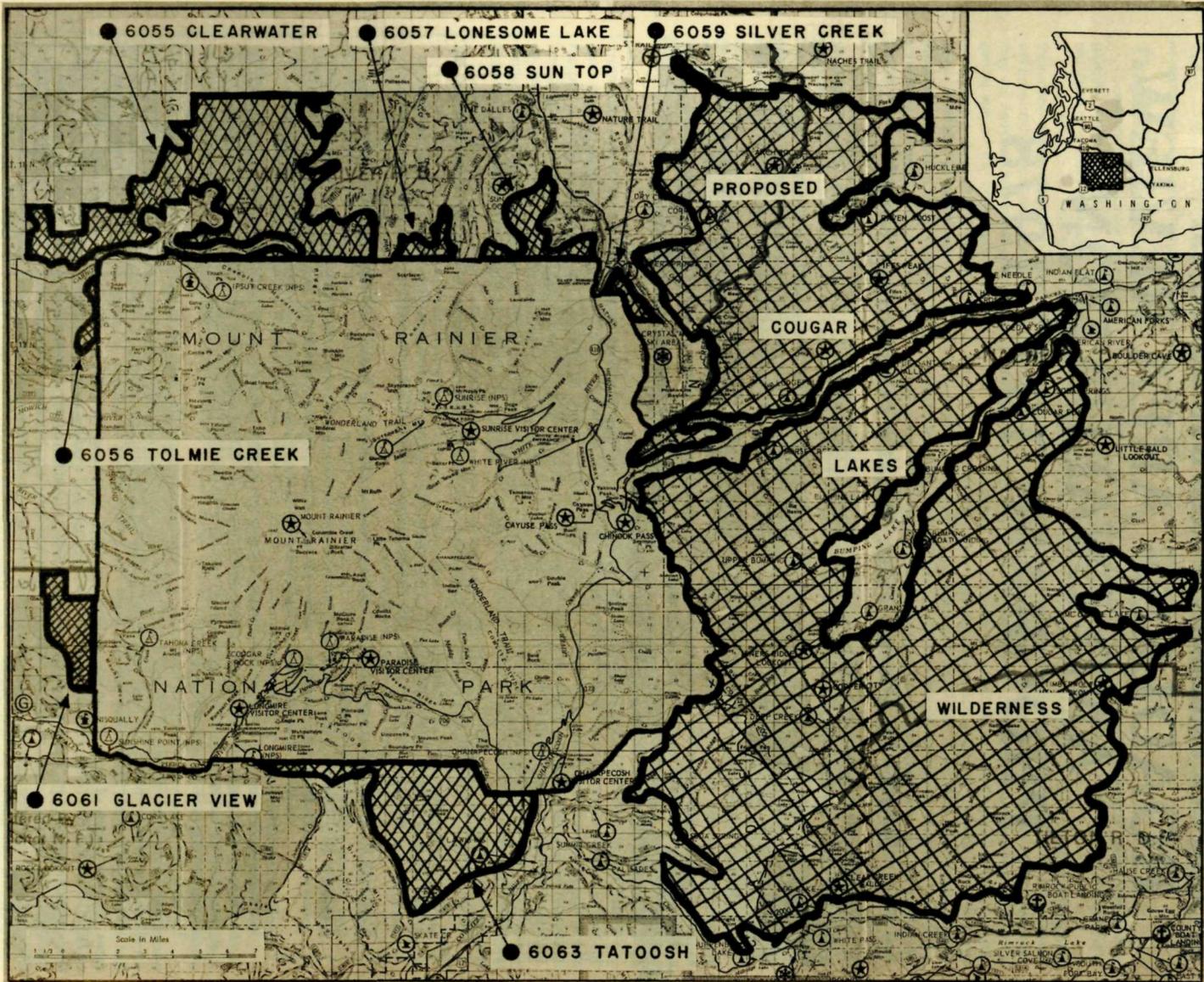
WRITE LETTERS

1. Wilderness designation for the Clearwater, Lonesome Lake and Sun Top Roadless Areas should be recommended to

Don R. Campbell
Forest Supervisor.
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
1601 Second Avenue Building
Seattle, Washington 98101

2. Park additions for the Tatoosh, Glacier View, Silver Creek, and Tolmie Creek Roadless Areas should be recommended to

Senator Henry M. Jackson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510



RARE-II:

A Citizen's Handbook for the National Forest

ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROGRAM: 1977-1978

RARE-II, Phase Two: What's Happening Now?

The Forest Service RARE-II program is now in its second phase: the evaluation of all the roadless areas. Data has been collected about each of the more than 1900 inventoried roadless areas. Using that information in a computerized analysis, a series of RARE-II alternatives are being worked out. These will be the framework for a nationwide RARE-II draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), scheduled for release in mid-June. That DEIS, together with a more detailed supplement covering the areas in each state or region, will provide the information and vehicle for further public involvement, leading to a final RARE-II EIS and recommendations in early 1979.

This Bulletin makes suggestions for the most effective ways conservation leaders can be involved with the Forest Service over the next three months. But one message is important above all others: **the success of RARE-II — including success in recommending wilderness for a substantial number and acreage of areas — will rest ultimately on the level of public support we build locally, statewide, and across the country.**

A Constructive Philosophy for RARE-II

RARE-II is an ambitious program being pursued under a difficult but firm timetable. Its objectives are reasonable and limited, but they are widely misunderstood (even by some agency personnel in the field). RARE-II seeks to sort out those roadless areas which, by general consensus based on review of needs and tradeoffs, should be proposed for wilderness — AND to sort out those, also by general consensus based on review of needs and tradeoffs, where wilderness has been adequately considered and other land-use options will proceed. Obviously, not enough is known about all of these lands, nor will such a general consensus among individuals and groups be possible for all of them. So, RARE-II has an additional option: some areas may be held, continuing to be recognized as "inventoried roadless areas" until more information and public comment can be gathered as a part of later land-use planning, after RARE-II is complete.

When RARE-II is complete and recommendations have been made, each roadless area will have been categorized by the Forest Service into one of these three groups:

Category I: "Instant" Wilderness (Actually this is a misnomer, since the land is *de facto* wilderness now, but Congress will have to act to actually designate it as wilderness. The areas will have Forest Service support for congressional wilderness designation.)

Category II: Further Evaluation (The "middle", holding category for further planning which will consider the wilderness option.)

Category III: "Release" (This is another misnomer, as these areas will continue to be planned and managed under multiple use constraints — which will need continuing citizen monitoring — and some may well remain roadless. These will be regarded by the Forest Service as areas not to be further considered for recommendation as wilderness.)

It is important to note that RARE-II will not simply group all roadless areas into these categories. It may also subdivide individual areas so that portions of one roadless area are proposed for different categories (such as a "core" of wilderness, some contiguous land for further evaluation, and some for "release"). In the DEIS any such subdivided areas will also be considered as whole units, so that both options are reviewed.

Certainly the objectives of RARE-II have merit. Conservationists would like faster decisions to help save important additional wilderness. Nearly everyone would be glad to see the level of controversy go down. However, some interests (timber, mining, off-road vehicle) have adopted a strident "no wilderness" line that encourages fruitless controversy and will make consensus difficult to achieve. In other cases, the poor quality of some Forest Service land-use plans has led conservationists to insist on fairer, more thorough evaluation of the wilderness potential of all roadless areas before any final decisions are reached. But it is likely that out of the nearly 70 million acres of inventoried roadless lands, there are many important potential wilderness areas which timber, mining, and ORV groups do not need to resist — and others which can be put to their uses (with adequate environmental safeguards) without objection from conservationists. RARE-II is intended to help sort out those kinds of consensus. If it does, then more intensive study can focus on issues concerning those remaining roadless areas which cannot be resolved now, and for which further information and public review are required.

"This is the 4th in a continuing series of bulletins comprising a "Citizen's Handbook" on RARE-II. Each is rigorously checked to assure all information about the Forest Service processes is accurate. There is much confusion about RARE-II, even among some Forest Service field and regional personnel. Readers may be confident that information in these bulletins is accurate. If it conflicts with other information, ask your local Forest Service officials to check with the Chief's office for clarification—or call one of our national coordinators.

Copies of the earlier citizen bulletins may be obtained from local Sierra Club chapter leaders, or from Wilderness Society or Sierra Club field representatives.

This is how the leaders of the Forest Service describe RARE-II. If it works out that way (without overly ambitious expectations that it will resolve all areas) — and if the work in the field and the Regional Offices lives up to the high quality expectations of the leaders — then RARE-II deserves our support and active assistance. Hopefully, other groups which have adopted an anti-wilderness line will see the value of this more constructive approach.

The Politics of RARE-II

Some commodity interests continue to attack RARE-II, and so do some politicians. The whole thing could break down into a glorified shouting match by those who cry "no more wilderness" regardless of tradeoffs and the facts. This is why an overwhelming show of grassroots support for wilderness during the later phases of RARE-II will be vital.

It is useful to consider how various interests will react to the final recommendations of RARE-II. Commodity interests and their allies will be most concerned about what is recommended for the wilderness category (I). Their efforts during the DEIS phase will presumably focus on keeping key areas of importance to them out of category I. If too many such areas are in that category, they will doubtless become the focus of post-RARE-II challenge (in the courts or politically). Similarly, conservationists will keep a special eye on the areas recommended for the "release" category III, and can be expected to challenge inclusion of prime wilderness lands in that group. If RARE-II is to work, the decisions must ultimately sort into categories I and III primarily those areas on which a broad consensus can, in fact, emerge. It won't help to speculate now about how much land may emerge in each category. Hopefully, all interests will simply recognize that consensus on the ultimate recommendations for categories I and III (or something reasonably close to consensus) will best serve all. If there is no consensus that a particular area should end up in category I or category III, then that area should go into the "further evaluation" category II for further evaluation in later land management planning.

If no consensus emerges on the category I and category III recommendations, then the whole program may well collapse, as all sides undertake challenges, lawsuits, and political campaigns to overturn various parts of the results — or the program as a whole.

This is not what we want to see result from RARE-II. Some goodwill, and a lot less automatic "no wilderness" campaigning will be required from the traditional opponents of wilderness. A positive attitude from conservationists as well will be needed to achieve that consensus. It is important that conservationists work with the Forest Service as RARE-II proceeds, and that the strong support of the American people for more wilderness (demonstrated to be overwhelming, even in industry-financed opinion polls) be effectively mobilized as RARE-II decisions undergo consideration.



THE DATA BEING USED IN RARE-II

For each roadless area the Forest Service has gathered a variety of data and entered it into their computer system. Those data are now being put through various formulas and "screens" to produce the categorization of areas that will shape the eight alternatives to be assessed in the RARE-II DEIS. Each alternative will consist of different lists of areas in categories I, II, and III, together with evaluation of the impacts involved. Teams from each region have completed an intensive, two-week training in these procedures. Conservation and industry leaders were invited to observe this training, and local leaders are welcome to visit their Regional Office to see what is underway.

By 22 March the Regional Foresters will have completed work on each of the alternatives and will forward those results to the Chief's office for national coordination and for writing of the nationwide programmatic DEIS.

The following kinds of data have been collected for each roadless area. The instruction materials, data gathering forms, and actual data are all public information which can be reviewed or copied at the Forest Supervisor or Regional Offices upon request. (Problems with access to any RARE-II data or instructions at local offices should be reported, by telephone, to one of our coordinators).

1. Information to Help Fill "Gaps" in the Wilderness System. The Forest Service has gathered information on the so-called "National Criteria" — ecosystems, landforms, distribution of areas in relation to population centers, and presence of wilderness-associated wildlife species — in order to assess what "gaps" exist in the present National Wilderness Preservation System. Most of this is very broad scale (e.g., 243 ecosystems were considered nationwide), but it is an important process that will help identify those roadless areas which are needed to fill identified "gaps."

2. Wilderness Attributes Rating System (WARS). Each roadless area has been given a "wilderness attribute rating," based on scores relating to facets of the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act (e.g., "natural integrity," "opportunities for solitude," "potential for primitive recreation"). From those scores, a single WARS rating (from 4 to 28) is derived. In some regions, conservationist and industry representatives worked with Forest Service personnel in deriving the scores. Because these are judgements, it is particularly important that local conservationists review the data-gathering forms to document any disagreements.

3. Resource Tradeoff Data. From existing information sources the Forest Service has gathered data on the resource values of each roadless area (timber volumes and productivity gathered from timber management plans, minerals information from the USGS and Bureau of Mines, data on grazing, and data on various levels of developed and motorized recreational use).

4. Social Data. An effort has been made to gather data reflecting special local concerns (historic interests, cultural values (e.g., Native American interest in particular areas) and the like).

As many wilderness advocates have noted, there are some problems with the data being collected and how it is being used. Many are concerned about some of the "purity" aspects of the WARS data, for example. Some important data is not being assembled at all, and this must be recognized as a limitation of RARE-II. For example, there are no data being assembled about the costs of opening up roadless areas for timber (e.g., road construction, maintenance, and timber management costs), and about alternative investment opportunities that might secure the same volume of timber elsewhere, without damage to the environment or destruction of the roadless areas. These matters will be appropriate issues to be raised in citizen comments on the DEIS.



RARE II

NOVEMBER 1977

MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST (17)	OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST (9)
6031 GLACIER PEAK	6081 QUILCENE
6034 NORSE PEAK	6082 MT. ZION
6041 MT. BAKER	6083 GREEN MTN.
6043 OAKES PEAK	6084 THE BROTHERS
6044 ALMA COPPER	6085 MILDRED LAKES
6045 HIDDEN LAKE	6086 WONDER MTN.
6048 PRESENTIN	6087 COLONEL BOB
6049 HIGGINS MTN.	6088 MCDONALD
6050 BOULDER RIVER	6089 PINE MTN.
6051 WHITE CHUCK	
6054 EAGLE ROCK	COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST (15)
6055 CLEARWATER	
6056 TOLMIE CREEK	6001 JACKSON CREEK
6057 LONESOME LAKE	6002 BODIE MTN.
6058 SUN TOP	6003 CLACKAMAS MTN.
6059 SILVER CREEK	6004 PROFANITY
6060 PRAIRIE MTN.	6005 TWIN SISTERS
	6006 HOODOO
WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST (9)	6007 THIRTEEN MILE
	6009 SOUTH HUCKLEBERRY
6031 GLACIER PEAK	6010 BANGS
6032 COUGAR LAKES	6011 HOOKNOSE ABERCROMBIE
6033 QUARTZ MTN.	6012 HARVEY CREEK
6034 NORSE PEAK	6013 DRY CANYON BREAKS
6035 BLUE SLIDE	6014 COUGAR MTN.
6036 GOAT ROCKS	6981 SALMO-PRIEST
6037 BETHEL	6982 GRASSY TOP
6038 LION ROCK	
6039 NANEUM	IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST (4)
OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST (7)	1121 LITTLE GRASS MTN.
	1124 SOUTH FORK MTN.
6001 JACKSON CREEK	1981 SALMO-PRIEST
6002 BODIE MTN.	1982 GRASSY TOP
6003 CLACKAMAS MTN.	
6021 MT. BONAPARTE	UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST (1)
6022 DUGOUT	
6023 LONG DRAW	NF930 WENAHA-TUCANNON
6024 LONG SWAMP	
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS (5)
GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST (20)	
	NF002 ALPINE LAKES
6032 COUGAR LAKES	NF031 GLACIER PEAK
6036 GOAT ROCKS	NF032 GOAT ROCKS
6061 GLACIER VIEW	NF052 MT. ADAMS
6062 SAWTOOTH	NF061 PASAYTEN
6063 TATOOSH	
6064 DIXON MTN.	NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (2)
6065 DAVIS MTN.	WILDERNESS UNITS
6066 POMPEY	
6067 BLUE LAKE	WR040 SAN JUAN ISLANDS
6068 AMOEBA	WR048 WASHINGTON ISLANDS
6069 MT. ADAMS	
6070 STRAWBERRY	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (5)
6071 MT. MARGARET	
6072 ST. HELENS	NP921 MOUNT RAINIER N. PARK
6076 INDIAN HEAVEN	NP922 NORTH CASCADES N. PARK
6077 BIG LAVA BED	NP922 LAKE CHELAN N. REC. AREA
6078 BEAR CREEK	NP922 ROSS LAKE N. REC. AREA
6079 SILVER STAR	NP923 OLYMPIC N. PARK
6080 KIPUKA	
6361 HORSESHOE	NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS (2)
	WR040 SAN JUAN ISLANDS
	WR048 WASHINGTON ISLANDS

THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND THE ALTERNATIVES

After the eight RARE-II alternatives are worked out, the DEIS will be written to compare them and to assess the impacts involved with each (both positive and negative). The DEIS is scheduled for release in mid-June 1978 and will have two parts — the nationwide programmatic DEIS and a state or regional supplement. Both parts will be necessary to fully review the RARE-II results in any particular state or region.

Eight alternatives are being worked up through the computerized analysis of the RARE-II data. Each consists of a different listing of all the roadless areas in categories I, II, and III. Quoted (in the italicized part) from the Forest Service instructions, the alternatives are:

- A. *An alternative in which all inventoried roadless areas are allocated to wilderness.*
- B. *An alternative in which all inventoried roadless areas are allocated to multiple use excluding wilderness (Category III).*
- C. *An alternative which emphasizes resource outputs but which also gives consideration to wilderness attributes. Areas would be allocated to multiple use excluding wilderness where tradeoffs are high or where the present or potential resource outputs would not be compatible with wilderness management. Areas would be considered for wilderness allocation where the tradeoffs are low and/or the wilderness attributes high.*
- D. *An alternative which emphasizes high wilderness attribute ratings while giving consideration to the resource outputs involved. Areas that have high WARS ratings within the region would be allocated to wilderness. Areas would be considered for multiple use excluding wilderness (Category III) where the wilderness attributes are low and/or the resource outputs high.*
- E. *An alternative which focuses on low achievement of the "gaps" in the existing National Wilderness Preservation System. Areas needed to provide better representation of ecosystems, landforms,*

wilderness-associated wildlife, and population/geographical distribution would be allocated to wilderness, but only a modest number of each. *Other areas will be considered for multiple use allocation (III).*

- F. *An alternative which focuses on moderate achievement of the "gaps." A larger number of areas providing for each "gap" in ecosystem representation and population/geographical distribution would be allocated to wilderness. Other areas will be considered for multiple use allocation (III).*
- G. *An alternative which focuses on high achievement of the "gaps." A larger number of areas for landform representation and wilderness-associated wildlife would be allocated for wilderness, along with an even larger number of areas for ecosystem representation and population/geographical distribution than in alternative F. Other areas will be considered for multiple use allocation (III).*
- H. *An alternative that focuses primarily on regional and local issues in allocating areas to wilderness and non-wilderness. Factors Regional Foresters will consider in shaping this more ad hoc alternative are: regional tradeoffs, local, social, and economic effects, special interest group concerns, industry needs, state and local government positions and prospective resource management programs.*

The computer analysis will help generate estimates of the various impacts of each alternative, both nationally and locally. Of course, these estimates will only be as good as the data originally used, which is of variable reliability. The purpose of the state or regional supplement documents will be to focus on the more localized details.

The DEIS will be circulated for a four-month public review period (mid-June until about October 1st), but the details of the public involvement processes are not yet finalized.



ADJUSTMENTS OF THE "FINAL" RARE-II INVENTORY

In response to the previous citizen Bulletin (No. 3), our Wilderness Society/Sierra Club national coordinators received 39 "challenges" involving 100 areas left off the inventory announced last November. These have been submitted to the Chief as formal requests for adjustment of the inventory. The Regional Foresters have been asked for a responsive statement to each challenge by the end of February, and some time later the Chief will be issuing individual case-by-case decisions. Our national coordinators will promptly get word of those decisions back to those who submitted the original challenges. Adverse decisions will be appealable to the Secretary of Agriculture.

A few of the proposed challenges have not yet been submitted, having been returned for additional work before being submitted to the Chief. The adjustment process is open-ended, so additional challenges can be submitted as outlined in our citizen Bulletin No. 3 (please use the format described there, and send material that can be submitted to the Chief without editing). For areas added through this adjustment process, the Forest Service will proceed to gather the RARE-II data, although the limited timeframe may not permit their inclusion in the DEIS. In any event, any areas added will be covered in the final RARE-II decisions.

Any adjustments or corrections in the published inventory will be formally recorded in the *Federal Register*. A first publication of such adjustments, mostly to correct earlier acreage computation errors, was published there on 14 February.

What Conservationists Should Be Doing Now

Here are the key things wilderness advocates can be doing now, and until the DEIS is released in mid-June:

1. **BUILD GRASSROOTS WILDERNESS SUPPORT. This is the most important task.** Publicize RARE-II and the opportunity it holds within conservation and outdoor groups. Build mailing lists of supporters. Promote broader public interest — and answer erroneous or inflammatory anti-RARE-II or anti-wilderness publicity (e.g., letters to the editor).
2. **WORK WITH THE FOREST SERVICE AND FOLLOW THEIR PROGRESS.** Local leaders and RARE-II state coordinators should be systematically reviewing and assessing the basic RARE-II data, area-by-area. Copies of all the data forms should be obtained for each area (these are public information). Errors or disagreements with data used by the Forest Service should be called to their attention. Solid documentation is vital. Document all such questions or disagreements in writing, by carefully dated letters submitted to the Regional Forester. Be certain to retain a copy (it would be best if each state coordinator assembled all of these in one central file) and send a second copy to Tim Mahoney (see address below). If differences over the data can be resolved now, and corrections promptly entered into the computer, so much the better. In any case, differences over the data may well be a key part of citizen comments on the DEIS, so these must be carefully documented now.
3. **AVOID PRE-JUDGING ANY AREA.** By its inclusion in the basic inventory, each roadless area has been judged to meet the minimum criteria for suitability as defined in the Wilderness Act. Obviously it is hoped that RARE-II will help preserve important areas which have always been priority wilderness candidates for local conservationists. Your Forest Supervisor and Regional Forester may already have a good idea of those areas conservationists consider "must areas." If not, local and state leaders should assure that they do before 22 March. However, it is vital to understand that this is not a matter of prioritizing some areas at the expense of others. RARE-II will review every roadless area equally — and should. It would be a mistake for conservationists to "pick-and-choose" now. The DEIS will focus on alternative lists of areas, not on the individual choice of each area one-by-one — and the public response will focus on those lists, too. **RARE-II is not making "final" decisions on every roadless area — neither should we.** We must insist that each be fully considered all the way through.
 In a program which seeks to identify public consensus on areas for wilderness or for "release," citizen focus must be on assuring that the "release" category includes only those areas we are confident we can agree to see released at this time. When in doubt or where such consensus does not emerge, the process should hold areas in the "further evaluation" category for later decisions.
4. **PLAN AND BEGIN FIELD CHECKING.** The DEIS is slated for release in mid-June. Plans should be made for necessary field checking to document disagreements with data, to assess important boundary issues, and to familiarize more and more people with areas which will need strong public support. If wilderness opponents try to use phoney economic and job impact arguments, conservationists must be ready to refute these with well-researched facts.

If you have questions, need assistance, or run into problems with the Forest Service, contact one of the national coordinators:

WEST

Doug Scott
The Sierra Club
4534 1/2 University Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 632-6157

Tim Mahoney
The Wilderness Society
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 293-2732

WASHINGTON, D.C. and EAST

Roger Scholl
The Wilderness Society
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 293-2732

John McComb
The Sierra Club
330 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 547-1144



John Warth photo

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

3215 NE 103rd St., Seattle WA 98125

OLYMPIC PARK ASSOCIATES

13245 40th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125

Dear Fellow Conservationists:

There is a brochure, prepared by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, proposing the concept of a Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and illustrating three possible corridors ("A", "B", and "C") for such a trail which would extend from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean.

CORRIDOR "A" was proposed by one man, Ronald Strickland, and is being promoted by the Pacific Northwest Trail Association which he founded for this purpose. He conceives of "his" trail as being a western counterpart of the well known Appalachian Trail for which he envisions eventually writing a guide book. Initially his controversial trail proposal went through the wilderness-heart of the northern unit of the North Cascades National Park, over Whatcom and Hannegan Passes. While his current proposal has deleted this undesirable portion of the route, the remainder of his proposal traverses the entire length of the most fragile portion of the Pasayten Wilderness as well as the already heavily used Hurricane Ridge and Pacific Ocean Wilderness Strip, both of Olympic National Park.

The NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL Board of Directors formally "is unalterably opposed to the routing of an officially designated "Pacific Northwest Trail" anywhere within the boundaries of the Pasayten Wilderness Area and the North Cascades National Park. This stand is occasioned by the following concerns of the Council:

1. Trail use in both the North Cascades National Park and the Pasayten Wilderness Area is already approaching a maximum. In order to protect the resource, the National Park Service has been forced to ration back-country permits on lands under its jurisdiction. While the U.S. Forest Service has not yet taken so drastic a step, it recognizes the problem and is developing data on carrying capacity of lands in the Pasayten Wilderness. The only possible trail routes through the above federal lands cross extremely fragile areas not suitable for mass-recreation use. It is a certainty that creation of a national scenic trail through these areas would attract more trail users than the resource can withstand.
2. Experience with the Pacific Crest Trail has shown that designation of a 'national scenic trail' causes the land-management agencies to spend disproportionate amounts of funds on the construction and maintenance of the designated trail. These funds are siphoned off from construction and maintenance of more needed trails in other areas.
3. As has been shown by the example of the Pacific Crest Trail, a 'national scenic trail' is constructed to high standards inconsistent with the National Wilderness Preservation System. Such construction imposes irreversible damage on the wilderness resource and detracts from the wilderness experience of the visitor."

The Council, to avoid these objections in the Cascades, suggested Corridor "B" which would pass east and south of the Pasayten Wilderness and Corridor "C" which would pass east and south of Glacier Peak Wilderness and traverse a number of Forest Service "Roadless Areas" in Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests.

The OLYMPIC PARK ASSOCIATES Board of Trustees has formally "opposed locating a Pacific Northwest Trail in Olympic National Park except for that section north of Lake Crescent". This stand is based upon the same concerns expressed by the North Cascades Conservation Council.

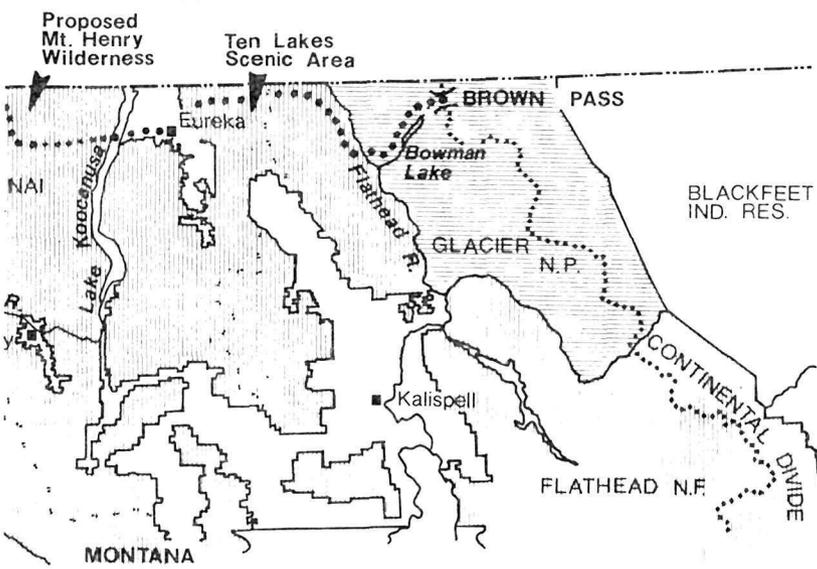
The Associates, to avoid the objections in Olympic National Park, suggested Corridor "B" which would pass through private and Forest Service lands north of the Park and Corridor "C" which would pass east and south of the Park and traverse a number of Forest Service "Roadless Areas" in Olympic National Forest.

The North Cascades Conservation Council and the Olympic Park Associates would appreciate your support of their positions on the location of the Pacific Northwest Trail in the Cascades and Olympics. Further, we wish to urge your application of our criteria to a critical assessment of the impacts of Corridor "A" on the lands in Washington, Idaho, and Montana between the Okanogan River and the eastern end of the trail at the Continental Divide. You should pay special attention to the the following points,

IF YOU DO NOT WANT AN APPALACHIAN TYPE TRAIL THROUGH THE WILDERNESS AREAS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF WASHINGTON, PLEASE SUPPORT N3C AND OPA AND WRITE YOUR LETTER

Patrick D. Goldsworthy
President North Cascades Conservation Council

Polly Dyer
President Olympic Park Associates



National Scenic Trails should have the following characteristics:

NOTE!

1. The scenic and recreational qualities of the area through which the trail passes should be sufficiently outstanding to attract visitation from throughout the United States.
2. The trail should be a major recreation focal point and rank high in overall national priorities in terms of recreation use.
3. The trail should cross two or more states and be several hundred miles in length or longer.
4. The trail should be continuous throughout most of its length and primarily land based.

4. What volume and character of, and demands for, use would be anticipated from local and from out-of-state users?

5. What level of construction, maintenance, and expenditures would be desirable and anticipated relative to the Pacific Crest Trail and other trail systems in the Northwest?

Please write

Written comments are requested by June 15, 1978.

They should be addressed to:

Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region
National Park Service
Fourth and Pike Building, Seattle, WA 98101

COUGAR LAKES HEARINGS: Yakima Phase



Three hours after leaving Seattle we parked our car outside the Yakima Convention Center where the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Hearing had just started. We knew we were in jeepcountry, the land of wilderness haters, as the parking lot was already filled with their four-wheel drive vehicles. One look at the audience in the hearing hall confirmed our anticipation that we would be outnumbered by the wilderness opponents.

The first anti-wilderness salvo was fired by Governor Dixy Lee Ray, who is completely opposed to any wilderness for the Cougar Lakes Area. She believes that wilderness is only for the elite, wealthy and hardy, and that this land is best suited for multiple-use and backcountry management. Other hackneyed cliches involving "lock-up", "jobs", and "wise-use" were delivered by representatives of the logging industry, rock hounds, jeep drivers, and horsemen. By noon we began to express surprise that twice as many supporters of wilderness had spoken as opponents. During the afternoon, however, it became clear that our opponents had not taken advantage of their numerical superiority. They were there primarily to be seen, not heard.

By contrast, every single wilderness proponent in the audience walked to the microphone to enter his or her personal views, or those of the organization being represented, into the official hearing record. The Cougar Lakes Alliance is to be commended for the excellent job of organizing an impressive array of intelligent and articulate witnesses in support of the 257,000 acre two-unit Cougar Lakes Wilderness proposal (67,000 acres north of Chinook Pass and 190,000 acres south of Chinook Pass). Many of these recognized the importance of this proposal to the protection of Mt. Rainier National Park.

Some of the contrasting views of the witnesses can be seen in the following selection of statements:

Alvin Tibbit -- Boise Cascade: "Why should ecology laws needed for Los Angeles and Philadelphia be applied to the Yakima Valley Area? Four-wheel drive vehicles are not out to destroy the land."

Bruce Blanchard -- Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association: "One can hunt in wilderness but there is no access; therefore there is no wildlife management possible."

Rus Fredsall -- Western Wood Products Association: "We are already so wilderness-poor in this state and in the Northwest and the proposed Wilderness will tip the balance even further."

John C. Harrington: "The rest of the country should stop trying to lock up our state's lands."

Philip Johnson -- Cougar Lakes Alliance: "Agriculture which supports Yakima County requires a good watershed. Logging produces erosion, as also does ORV damage, which is not acceptable in a watershed."

Gaylin Woodard -- Yakima Valley Audubon Society: "Wilderness should be created to protect a fragile resource where we should practice careful stewardship."

Tacoma Phase

About 250 people gave up all or part of a rare sunny Saturday, February 11, to attend the second of the Cougar Lakes hearings at the Tacoma PUD Building. Prominent in their bright nylon jackets and gaudy patches were packs of motorbikers and four-wheelers, and a casual observer might have anticipated that these colorful characters were prepared to dominate the proceedings with their testimony. As in many previous wilderness and national park hearings though, they were content to be seen, not heard. Only five speakers representing various segments of the gas-eating recreational field found courage enough to actually stand up and make a statement.

These bright-plumaged birds puzzle me more and more as the years go by. You never see them singly -- they're always in large flocks. Are they like starlings, dependent upon their numbers to protect each other from predation (by hungry backpackers, perhaps?) And what is the significance of the patches? One speaker, a large green four-wheeler, complete with leprechaun hat, must have had fifty patches adorning his costume. If these are some type of merit badges, why was he advertising Goodyear, STP, Quaker State, etc., etc.? Beats me!

The testimony of those of this clan who actually speak at wilderness hearings is almost always the same. They represent the aged, the infirm, the handicapped who would have no other way to experience the wilderness except straddling a dirtbike or bouncing along in a four-wheel jeep or truck. And yet you seldom see an elderly biker or jeeper at these hearings. They're invariably young or no more than middle-aged and usually over-weight. Maybe the latter is the clue.

Enough about the bikers. They were vastly outnumbered by environmentalists of every stripe, nearly all of whom spoke in favor of the Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance two-unit proposal. Final tally of the speakers showed 77 in favor of wilderness and 28 opposed. A few of the latter, especially representatives of horsemen's groups, while opposed to wilderness, favored some kind of backcountry designation where they, dirtbikers and backpackers could all share the trails, picnic tables, and fancy johns. Very democratic, these horsemen!

Lead-off speaker was Director of the Department of Ecology, Wilbur Hallauer, who read the Governor's statement. As in Yakima, Dixy was opposed to any wilderness at all in the Cougar Lakes area. Admitting that opposition to wilderness ranks in popularity with attacks on motherhood and environmental controls (Wilbur's words or Dixy's?) he said that the Forest Service's proposal was like a cracked bell: "It comes over with a dull thud. Wilderness locks up the wonderlands."

Gad! Remember when we had a governor who helped us fight for wilderness every step of the way?

Continuing the rambling statement, Hallauer/Ray proposed some kind of a vague backcountry management plan that would permit more timber harvest than even Alternative C and would permit intensive recreational facilities -- campgrounds, picnic tables, sanitary facilities, etc., etc. At the end of the Dixy/Wilbur statement, Hallauer prepared to give another statement for DOE, second on the witness list. Hard-nosed hearing examiner Arnold Reithenberg cut him off, saying he was setting the rules and that Hallauer could come back and make another statement at the end of the hearing. Poor Wilbur stalked off in a huff, and we never got to learn what our Department of Ecology thinks about wilderness. Wanna guess?

The timber industry and its apologists like Tacoma Mayor Mike Parker were well represented with more than a dozen speakers. Common to their themes was the loss of jobs if the last sticks of timber are not mined out of the Cougar Lakes. Many also urged that reclassification of

Cougar Lakes was premature -- that the entire RARE II evaluation should be completed first.

An interesting feature of the Tacoma hearings was the number of handicapped persons and workers with handicapped children who spoke. All refuted the tired argument that wilderness "locks out" the handicapped. Many pointed out that the Clearwater Valley, in particular, is an easy wilderness to get into for people who are not physically up to walking into steeper, more remote terrain.

All in all, it was a good showing, troops, in only the second skirmish of what promises to be a long drawn-out campaign.

A few interesting quotes:

Stewart Bledsoe, executive director, Washington Forest Protection Association: "This state has already paid its dues to the environmental movement."

Colleen L. Campbell: "I have 8-month old twin daughters who went on a hike up the Bumping Lake trail at the age of two months. The Cougar Lakes area is well suited to hiking by young families."

Mike Ruby: "I suggest calling this area the William O. Douglass Wilderness Area."

Robert E. Ordal: "If the Cougar Lakes area were in New York State, it would have been a National Park fifty years ago."

Steve Edmundson, Gem and Mineral Club: "Many of our members are elderly and want roads into the Cougar Lakes so we can pursue our hobby. We have no intention of standing aside to let the younger generation use these areas as wilderness."

Robert A. Warfield: "In my heart of hearts, when I come home, it's not to concrete and steel, beauty bark and cultivated rhododendrons; it's to the wilderness."

Wesley K. Wallace: "Wilderness is essentially a non-renewable resource and, like other such resources, is increasingly in short supply."

Patrick Parker, real estate salesman: "In King County, the Real Estate Association issues weekly 2800 multiple listing books each weighing seven pounds. At the end of the week they are thrown away and replaced by new books. All efforts to recycle them have failed because of the grade of paper. In the Seattle area alone, 500 tons of these books are land-filled annually. The total in all the country must be mind-boggling. Similar wasteful practices are the reason timber companies oppose Cougar Lakes Wilderness."

Dick Fiddler: "Many of us here today have really come to talk about the severe crowding problems of Mt. Rainier National Park."

"We have to fault the Forest Service for public misconceptions of what wilderness is. This is a result of their misguided emphasis on wilderness purity."

Harold Wood: "Wilderness is not like an amoeba. It is not about to engulf Tacoma. Wilderness is actually shrinking."

Gary Paull: "For those speakers who complain about no sanitary facilities in wilderness, I would like to comment that in the Glacier Wilderness Area we have some of the most beautiful toilets in the world."

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE DIXY LEE RAY

COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS STUDY

FEBRUARY 4, 1978

The U. S. Forest Service proposal for establishing a Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area is of great concern to the people of Washington State. There is a rapidly increasing demand (estimated to be in excess of 10 percent increase per year) for "backcountry" type recreation opportunities. We refer to areas left largely in their natural condition, but providing minimal conveniences and opportunities for camping. Those primitive areas that we do have are much cherished by the people of the state. New and expanded areas are needed to provide for this burgeoning demand where people can get to the region and enjoy it. Wilder-

ness is not an effective way of providing these kinds of opportunities. Wilderness is available for use only by the elite, the wealthy, and the hardy.

The State of Washington already contains over 1.4 million acres designated under the national wilderness system, but even this vast area has a relatively small capacity for public use and little can be done to increase this capacity . . . Rather than providing facilities to accommodate public use, the only management tactic is to restrict and ration use.

Wilderness designation also removes timber producing lands from potential harvest and stops all other kinds of resource utilization such as mining and geothermal energy development. The net effect is that with wilderness classification: 1) resource utilization is not possible, and 2) recreation opportunities are not provided except for a very small segment (less than 10%) of the public in a manner that really accommodates public use.

An alternative to wilderness is needed. Even though the Forest Service evaluated four alternatives for Cougar Lakes, we do not feel adequate treatment has been given to developing innovative roadless recreation area concepts as solutions to some of the many problems wilderness creates. Except for Alternative C, no consideration is given to an alternative to wilderness that would provide wilderness type recreational opportunities, but would permit the application of sophisticated management techniques to provide for the rapidly increasing demand for roadless recreation.

We, therefore, recommend that the Forest Service not pursue its recommended plan, but reevaluate the Cougar Lakes Area in light of the following proposal:

1. No wilderness designation.
2. Designation of the American Ridge--Cougar Lakes--Tumac Plateau area as "backcountry" management unit.
3. Designation of the Mt. Aix Area as a "backcountry" management unit.
4. Designation of the remaining areas, especially the Rattlesnake Creek drainages, the Courtright and Limited RARE areas, and the Little Bald as multiple-use areas. (Editor's note: this means logging.)

The principal reason for not recommending any wilderness designation is that wilderness only allows recreational use in a restricted manner. As an alternative, the backcountry management units would be managed to accommodate a much higher level of use than "wilderness" under the legal definition.

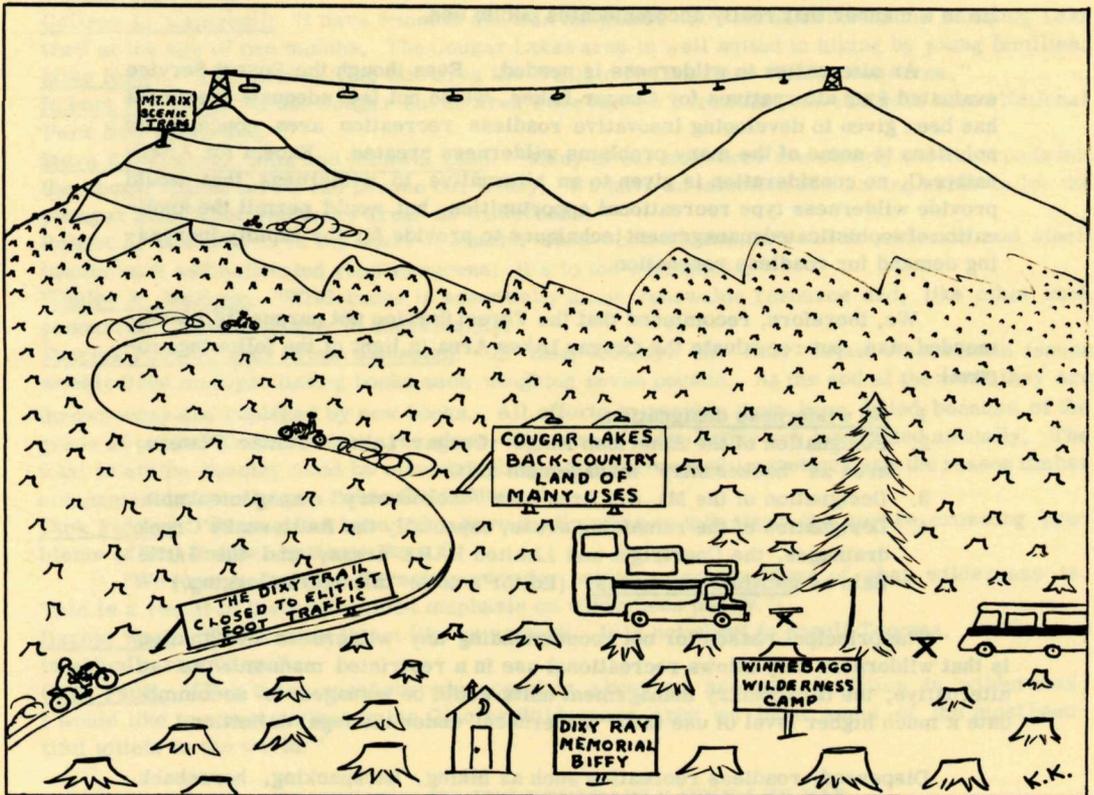
Dispersed, roadless recreation such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, photography, hunting, and fishing would be emphasized. Motorized recreation would not be allowed . . . Our proposal would allow protection of key scenic alpine areas without causing as great an impact on timber harvesting and resource use as the Forest Service alternatives do. It will also allow for proper management of public use so as to better accommodate a much broader range of visitors than is possible in wilderness areas. . . .

Under our proposal, a substantial portion of the approximate 150 forest industry jobs that would be lost with wilderness classification would be saved and also a significant amount of the roadless recreational use would still be provided.

In summary, we request that none of the Cougar Lakes area be design-

nated as Wilderness, but that it be managed under multiple-use principles where backcountry recreation would be emphasized. In addition, the Forest Service should undertake a detailed and comprehensive evaluation, including public response, of our proposal before making a final recommendation.

(Editor's note: underlining emphasis is ours.)



DIXY'S VERSION OF COUGAR LAKES



John Warth Photo

WILDERNESS SUPPORTERS

. . . speaking in Yakima

- Cascadians
- Clearwater Mountain Club
- Cougar Lakes Wilderness Alliance
- Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
- Intermountain Club
- League of Women Voters of Yakima County
- * National Parks and Conservation Association
- North Cascades Conservation Council
- The Ptarmigans
- Sierra Club, Yakima Group
- * Washington Native Plants Society
- Wilderness Society
- Yakima Valley Audubon Society
- 27 individuals with personal testimony
- - - Total testifying: 40

. . . speaking in Tacoma

- Black Hills Audubon Society
- Early Winters Corporation
- Environmental Affairs Commission (UW)
- Friends of the Earth
- Green Peace
- Mt. Saint Helens Protective Association
- The Mountaineers
- * National Parks and Conservation Association
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Recreational Equipment Incorporated
- Seattle Audubon Society
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Club, Puget Sound Group
- Tahoma Audubon Society
- Washington Environmental Council
- * Washington Native Plant Society
- Wilderness Preservation Student Union
- 60 individuals with personal testimony
- - - - Total testifying: 77

(*testified at both hearings)



WILDERNESS OPPONENTS

. . . speaking in Yakima

- * Governor Dixy Lee Ray
- * Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
- Boise Cascade Corporation
- Northwest Mining Association
- * Northwest Pine Association
- * Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association
- * Washington State Horsemen
- Washington State Sports Council
- Western Wood Products Association
- 12 individuals with personal testimony
- - - - Total testifying: 21

. . . speaking in Tacoma

- * Governor Dixy Lee Ray
- American Plywood Association
- Association of Washington Business
- * Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
- Bear Creek Mining Company
- Burlington Northern
- Industrial Forestry Association
- National Campers and Hikers Association
- * Northwest Pine Association
- * Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association
- Pacific Northwest Ski Association
- Puget Sound Plywood
- Shelton Big Four's
- South Central Washington Cascades Committee
- Tacoma Chamber of Commerce
- Tacoma Mayor
- Washington Forest Protection Association
- Washington Mineral Council
- * Washington State Horsemen
- 9 individuals with personal testimony
- - - - Total testifying: 28

highway hijinks

On completion of the North Cross-State Highway, most of us thought the project was finished. Nicknamed the North G. D. (Golly Darn) by our infamous Irate Birdwatcher, the highway bisects the most primitive wilderness in the state. Now it appears that the highway will be a toy for the engineers to tinker with forever. Their latest project is to rebuild the road shoulders from Bacon Creek (at the Ross Lake National Recreation Area boundary) to Newhalem. The project is to be undertaken by the Office of Federal Highway Projects (OFHP), no less. The state had its crack at this section by rebuilding the roadway surface a few years ago. Now, the federals are in the act to rebuild the Thornton Creek bridge, and in "flattening and grading the shoulder reinforcement". The second phase of the project is to widen and resurface the highway in a few years. The total cost will be \$2.35 million of federal "Forest Highway" funds. The project may also qualify for "Federal Aid" monies. The main reason for the work is to remove "overhanging roadside vegetation so as to improve "sight lines"; also to correct "narrow gravel shoulders" and "substandard approaches". The work done by the state in 1976 is only considered "interim", because it did not substantially widen the highway, and is "not in lieu of the overall plan". The federals are prepared to spend the funds in spite of the fact that Copper Creek Dam could flood the whole miserable project.

The Project's Environmental Impact Statement recognizes the desirability of preserving the brush and trees, "where possible". Does anyone believe the trees will take precedence over highway standards? The EIS recognized that the cross-state is a recreational highway, but one of the major reasons proposed for the highway improvement is the closure of local schools in Diablo and Newhalem, and the need to bus children to Concrete. The EIS assumes that highway traffic will double over the next 20 years, but there is no data on which to base the assumption.

The project's advantages as set forth in the EIS read as follows:

"The State of Washington will benefit from the reconstruction of this highway as it will upgrade the present deficient highway . . . "

"Better roads will result in an increased value to the surrounding land . . ." The surrounding land is a National Recreation Area administered by the National Park Service and how cutting the shoulder trees will benefit it is not explained.

Finally, "Present traffic volumes are not sufficient to warrant maintaining this route for winter travel. This factor severely restricts the development of cross-state commercial traffic". To this last statement we add an exclamation point.

Under disadvantages, the report comes up with this statement:

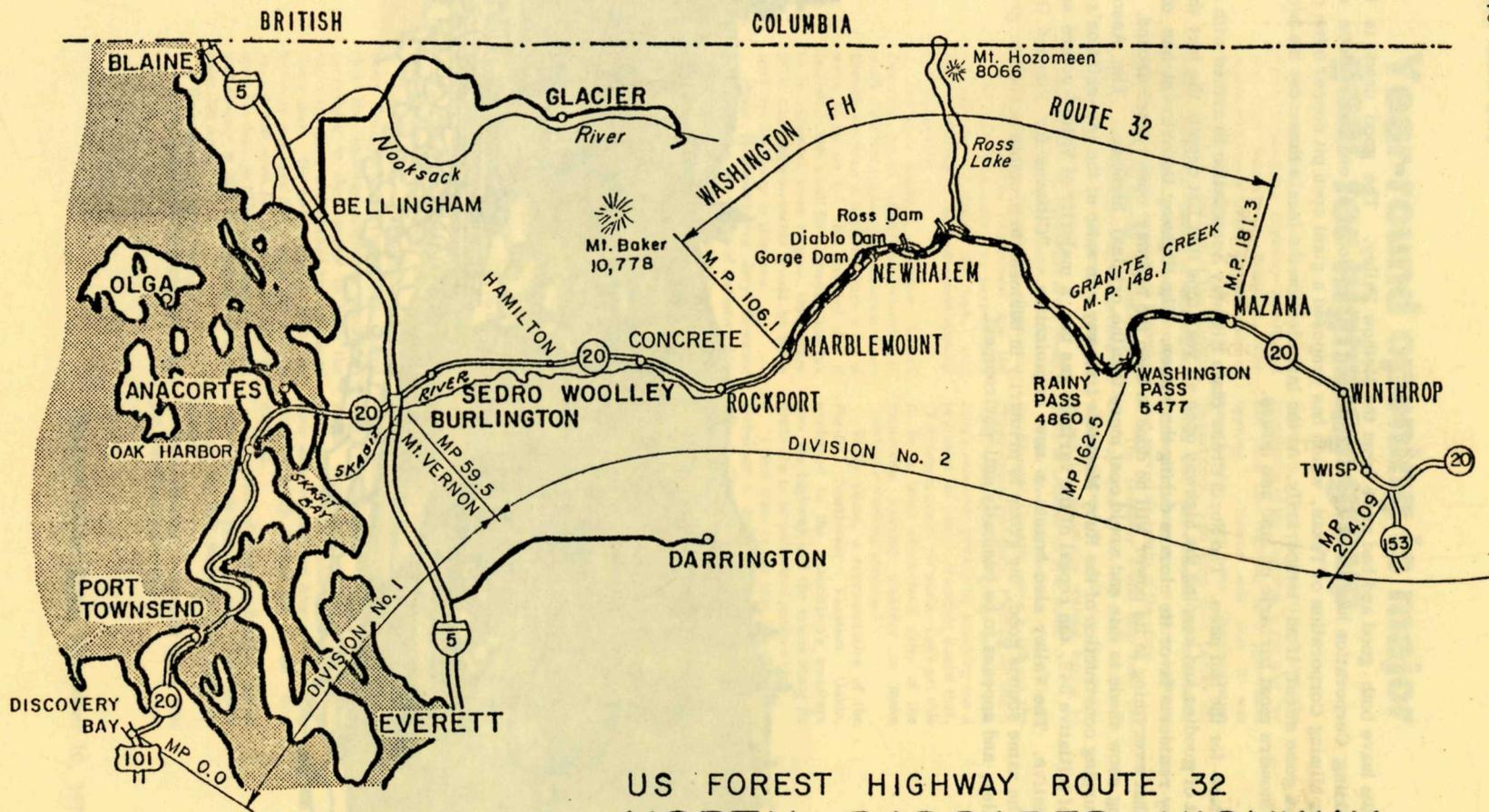
"The improved highway will permit an increase in travel speed and may, therefore, contribute to additional traffic accidents, including accidents involving animals, domestic and wild." Amazing.

If one thinks this project will end for all time improvements to the North Cross-State, the EIS ends that speculation, offering shimmering visions of "future improvements to upgrade the highway section from Newhalem to the existing one-way tunnel, including adding roadway widths, snowsheds, correcting tunnel deficiencies. . ." Moreover, it is planned to repave with concrete a section of asphalt roadway about 30 miles east of the National Recreation Area boundary.

It's obvious that the state and federal highway builders won't stop. They are aided by land developers and merchants astride the highway on both the east and west. Nowhere does the Environmental Impact Statement address the issue of the effect of their works on the mountains.

If we don't like what they propose, we can write to the State Highway Commission in Olympia and to the Federal Highway Administration, 610 East Fifth Street, Vancouver, Washington 98661.

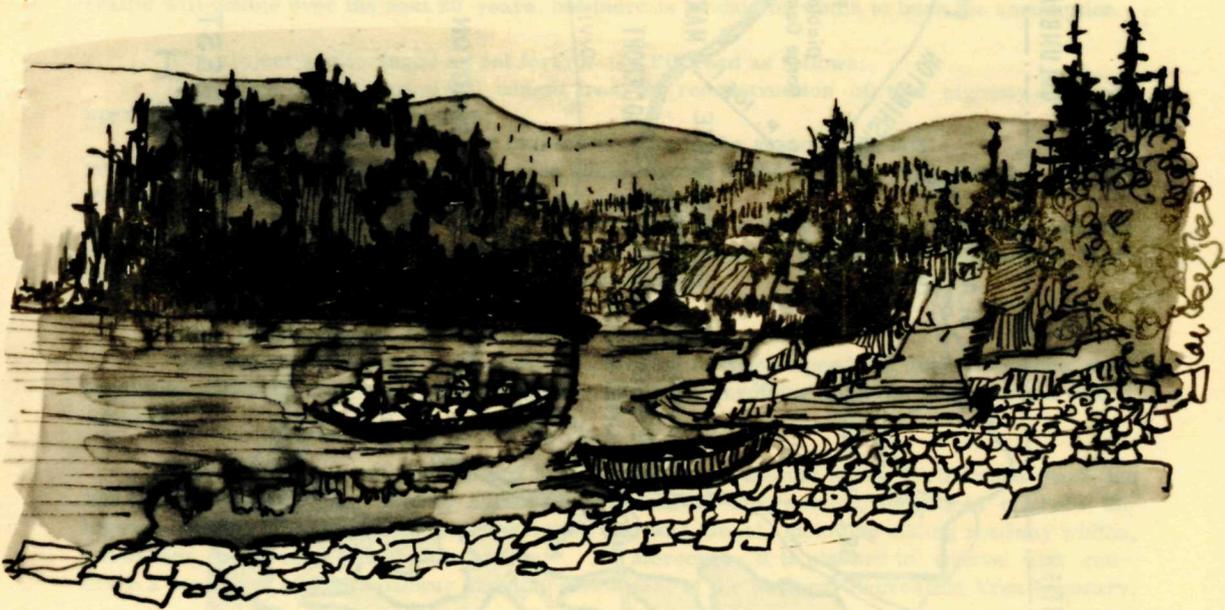
These are our mountains to preserve; they do not belong to others to exploit. How the whole North G. D. Highway finally turns out is up to you as much as anyone.



US FOREST HIGHWAY ROUTE 32
NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY

We have both good and bad news from the Methow Valley. The good news is that the Aspen Skiing Corporation has abandoned its proposed ski development on Sandy Butte and the Quintana Mining Corporation of Texas, which has proposed a giant open pit copper mine on Goatwall, has gone silent, if only temporarily. At the last election the locals threw out the two county commissioners most barbaric on land use issues.

Now for the bad news. The North Cross-State Highway Association is armed with a shopping list of goodies and keeping the highway open all year tops that list despite the fact that 70% of Valley residents favor its closure during the winter. The Highway Department has officially stated that everything in its power will be done to keep the highway open year-around. Constructing snow sheds to this end would cost more than the original highway. The Association also is urging construction of the Ruby Mountain tramway. In spite of the Association's urging defeat of Initiative 348, the repeal of the variable gas tax, a majority of Valley voters approved the initiative. The Valley also boasts a new organization -- "Citizens for Planned Growth". While the name sounds good, the group is primarily in business to promote economic growth of the Valley, and appears to be basically anti-environment.



Year-round opening is major goal for highway group

The eastside annual meeting of the North Cross-State Highway Association was held Saturday in Winthrop, with representatives of towns from both sides of the Cascades attending.

Pat Jesmore, president of the highway group, opened the meeting by outlining the goals of the Association. The year-round opening of the North Cross-State Highway, an earlier spring opening, the possibility of a Ruby Mountain Tramway, and promotion of the area in the national media head the list, according to Jesmore.

Jim Mullen, vice-president of the group, acted as master of ceremonies for the rest of the meeting, introducing dignitaries from the highway department and the legislature. "Remember, we have to work together to accomplish this task," said Mullen, referring to the year-round opening of the highway.

Keynote speaker, Senator Lowell Peterson, stated, "It has been rewarding to work with this Highway Association. Even though we have a road, we have a lot of work to do on it." He stressed that if Initiative 348, a call for a two-cent gas tax to be repealed, were to pass, then every little road improvements would be made between the towns in this area.

State Representative Jerry Broomon also called for the defeat of Initiative 348. "If the people in our rural areas turn out, then we can defeat it," he claimed. "And I am confident we can do just that."

According to Jesmore, one of the major problems facing the North Cross-State Highway is the lack of adequate signs pointing the way to the road. "Friends come to see me," he said, "and they can't find the highway and wonder why it takes them so long to drive over here."

Jesmore presented a slide show picturing several key intersections around North Central Washington that do not have signs mentioning the North Cross-State Highway. Other slides showed what the intersections would look like after the proper signs were added.

Wes Bogart, a representative of the State Transportation Department, stated that the highway engineers would do everything in their power to keep the highway open, and praised the efforts of those men. He added that in 1973, the highway was open 207 days of the year, in 1974 it was open 156 days, in 1975 it was open 174 days, in 1976 it was open 224 days, and already in 1977 the highway has been open 300 days.

"We're gaining on it," he said.

On the subject of the Ruby Mountain

Tramway, Vern Simms stated that the completion of the Tramway is one way "we can push the Highway to a year-round opening." Simms said that it was questionable why the Transportation Department could keep open twenty ski roads that dead-ended in the mountains, yet couldn't keep open a major highway that served six-tenths of the state.

"The Tramway would help keep the highway open by stirring public interest," claimed Simms. "It would also allow people to see the mountains without having to drive or trample all over them."

John Huselton, treasurer of the Citizens for Planned Growth, gave a talk on the group's plans and goals. Pointing out that a small environmental group setback the area's economic growth by knocking out a proposed ski resort, Huselton stated that, "Tourism is one of our goals. Let's get this to be a team effort—both sides of the mountains working together to make tourism a working solution."

Wally Olson, a representative of the Pacific Northwest Vacation Guide, explained to the Association's members how the highway and the towns along its route are to be publicized nationwide.

"I first want to say that I feel that our Governor is definitely pro-tourism," said Olson. "She gave a very comprehensive speech at the Governor's Travel Conference—the first conference, by the way, where the governor actually attended."

Olson stated that he thought the state of Washington had hardly scratched the surface of tourism. "I have been assured," he said, "that the North-Cross State Highway is one of the most scenic in the world."

Olson along with the Highway association have plans to purchase a page in a national brochure which will outline the attractions of four northwestern states. The page will include all the scenic attractions along the North Cross-State Highway.

"People in New York think there are only Indians west of the Hudson River," he said. "What's more exciting, salable, and scenic than the North Cross-State Highway?" Olson also stated that he had done some research on American traveling families which turned out to be "very exciting."

"One third of American families take an auto trip each year," he said. "And meals account for 30% of every \$100 spent on travel."

"It is our hope," concluded Olson, "to put your area on the map."

Land-use and mill closure are topics at Planned Growth Meet

By Mike Irwin

Past progress and future plans were the topics of discussion Thursday when the Citizens for Planned Growth met for their second general membership meeting.

Lew Cooley, Chairman of the Board of Directors, read both the articles of incorporation and the by-laws for the group, and asked for a verbal approval of the articles of incorporation. There was no opposition to the articles.

John Huselton, treasurer for the Planned Growth group, stated that in just one month the members had raised over \$16,000 towards the group's goal of \$24,000. The money is to be used for the salary and operational expenses of Pete Arnold, the director of the Citizens for Planned Growth.

Cooley then turned the members' attention towards the problems that, according to the group, are facing the Methow Valley and Okanogan County.

"The Chief Forester is now awaiting oral arguments by the appellates of the Forest Service Land Use Program," said Cooley, and stressed that the members should write letters to the Chief Forester

expressing their support for the Forest Service's plan. "Timber sales in the roadless areas of the Twisp, Winthrop and Concorully districts have been blocked by the appeals to that plan," he said. "Those appeals have had an immediate affect on the valley, and could have drastic affects in the long run."

Cooley stated that the Citizens for Planned Growth had met with the Regional Forester, who predicted an impending national shortage of wood. According to Cooley, the Regional Forester said that is a heavy pressure to expand

wilderness areas, it will be necessary to learn how to make our forests produce more. "We need to treat our timber as a crop," said Cooley.

"We have to have a reasonable balance," he continued, "between economics and wilderness. The reason we want you to write the Chief Forester now is so we can get back into the manufacturing of timber. Already we have one industry out and another likely to go."

Pete Arnold continued to emphasize the point by giving the details of his trip to McCall, Idaho, reportedly a town where

conditions comparable to that of Twisp forced the closure of McCall's mill complex.

"As I see it," said Arnold, "the situation in McCall is very similar to here. The blocking of timber sales by certain appeals cut mill production to 50%."

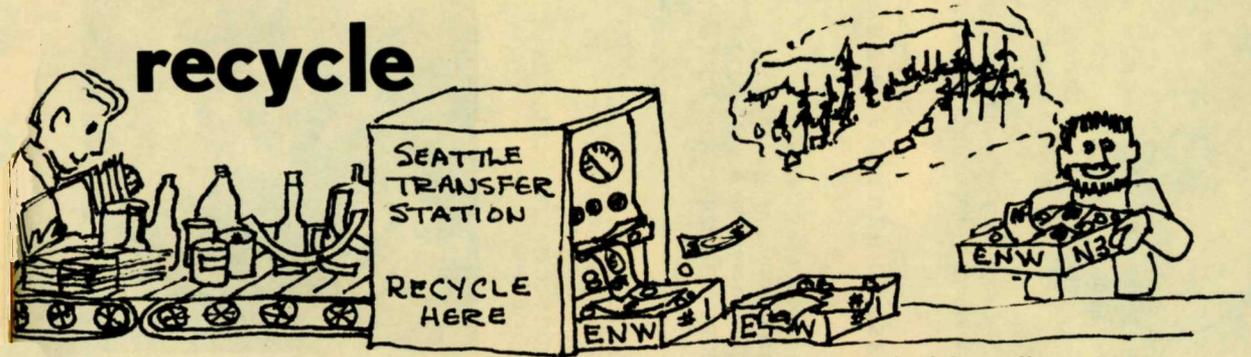
Archie Eiffert, a member of the valley's land-use advisory board, gave a report to the group on the status of the county land-use meetings. "I felt at the last workshop meeting that there was some misunderstanding," he said. "Up until the final vote for the advisory board's plan, the voting had come out 7-3, 6-4 --all of it pretty lopsided. Only in the final vote was it close, 5-4, with the president abstaining."

Eiffert then stressed support for the advisory board's plan, noting that it was a compromise, but that it was in the best interest of the group and valley to do so.

Lew Cooley added that "without the land use plan we're in a precarious position. No one wants indiscriminate development. We want to keep the valley beautiful, but if we can't make a living and our children can't make a living, then we have nothing. We need a sound land-use plan."

In conclusion, Cooley stated, "The prime objective of this group is to develop recreation in the valley. Not just fun but to develop a place for the arts and other quality activities. We don't want this to be a winter activity, but a year round endeavor."

recycle



One of the simplest ways to raise funds is to turn into money much of the stuff we put into the garbage can. With even ten per cent of our North Cascades Conservation Council members participating in a recycling program, about \$2000 will be earned per year. Two thousand people participating will bring in about \$24,000 per year, enough to make real progress toward solving our environmental problems. The question is, will dedicated environmentalists practice what we preach.

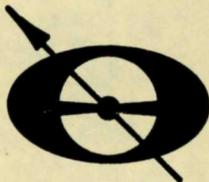
Environment Northwest is composed of seven directors from the major environmental groups. The organization is dedicated to raising funds for environmental purposes and makes annual contributions to the North Cascades Conservation Council. Environment Northwest was instrumental in working with Seattle City Council to start the charitable organization recycling program with the City of Seattle. The program has been in operation a little over a year and from it Environment Northwest received over \$200 last year, largely from the materials recycled by only a few people.

To recycle, save newspaper (tied in bundles), glass bottles (separated into clear, green, and brown), tin cans, aluminum and scrap metal. Paper labels should be removed from the tin cans only. If both ends are cut and flattened, several months worth of cans can be collected in one container. Aluminum cans are easy to stomp flat. Save your materials until you have a full trunk load to make the trip to the transfer station worthwhile. You might even ask your neighbors if you can help them get rid of their materials.

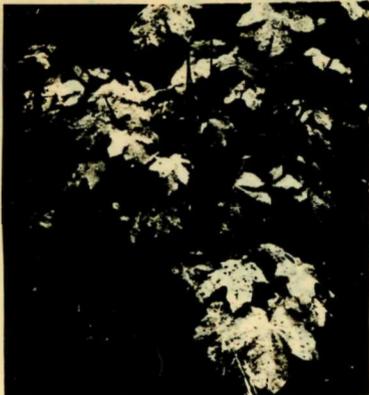
To date, only two transfer stations in Seattle are available for the program. The North transfer station is at North 34th and Carr Place, near Stone Way. The South transfer station is at 2nd Avenue South, a short distance south of the 1st Avenue Bridge. Both stations are open every day.

To get credit for the materials, stop at the weigh house and ask for a charitable organization slip for Environment Northwest--Account No. 1. Weigh the various materials on the platform scale inside the station behind the recycling bins. If you have a large load of only one material, such as newspapers, ask the attendant to weigh your car, full and empty, and mark the slip as above. Environment Northwest is paid quarterly by check for the City for the materials credited to Account No. 1.

The City of Seattle is studying a variable garbage can rate, which would give real monetary benefits to those who cut down on their garbage. Recycling, if combined with composting of leaves, grass clippings and wet garbage from the sink, is one way of reducing garbage to the point where the use of one can a month is possible.



**ENVIRONMENT
NORTHWEST**



THE WILD CASCADES

Winter 1978

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Betsy Lewis

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