

THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

WINTER 2006–2007



Remembering
Harvey Manning
1925–2006

Join us March 23: NCCC Celebrates 50 Years, 1957–2007

THE WILD CASCADES ■ Winter 2006–2007

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COVER:

Surrounded by lupine, Harvey Manning rests in the Goat Rocks.

— LARRY HANSON

The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

EDITORS: Betty Manning and Carolyn McConnell

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The North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past third of a century the NCCC has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

MEMBERSHIP

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- \$50 Contributing
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■
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Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Winter 2006-2007

Not long after I became president of this organization, Harvey Manning began sending me letters on a wide variety of subjects that seemed to have just popped into his head. He wrote these letters to people with his museum-quality manual typewriter on the back of envelopes or the blank side of bills and junk mail. He pushed the envelope on recycling. Often my letter would be a smudged carbon of something that had gone to some other NCCC member. Despite the lack of sophisticated media presentations, the content of these letters was fascinating. The topics were often rambling but never boring communiqués that could be on virtually any subject, from trails to national politics. I could never understand why an author of Harvey's stature would use his time to bring me up to speed on the latest things racing through his mind. At first I thought he wanted me to somehow take action on these matters. But then, I realized — I didn't have a clue. And that was what he was trying to tell me.

With Harvey's passing, I have spent a lot of time reviewing our relationship. He was not really interested in what I could do about some administration's policies or how we could raise money for a particular project. What Harvey had in mind, it seems, was to force me and others to think out of the box on issues of far more importance than the latest skirmish with the Forest Service or whoever. I think that he was establishing a legacy for the radical thinking that was always his forte. He was a guy who was able to see the big picture, figure out what the long-range approach should be, and then articulate his message in written form. It is unlikely that there will ever be another one like Harvey, able to use Shakespeare, the Classics, and his own wit to cut a pompous bureaucrat down to size. The best we can hope for is a core group of people with the will to stay on the cutting edge of the movement. When I look back on the truly important things Harvey was able to accomplish with his typewriter and attitude, it makes me more determined than ever to do what I can to carry on with the same spirit. If only a few of us had his way with words.

From now on, let's all think in the same vein as the ubiquitous bumper stickers adored by faith-based believers. WWHD — What Would Harvey Do?

Marc Bardsley

Where the Cascades Meet the Sea

BY KEN WILCOX

In the Summer 2006 issue of *The Wild Cascades*, Harvey Manning shared a concise history of land protection on state lands, meager as it is, and advised us all to “Take a look at the 2006 map of public land ownership in the state.” And then, he said, “Do a bit of dreaming.”

If you look at that map carefully, you find that on the coast just south of Bellingham lies what may be the finest opportunity in the greater Puget Sound region for that bit of dreaming.

The area is best known as the Chuckanut Mountains, and it includes a 4,800-acre forest on Blanchard Mountain that is managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This coastal urban wildland covers nearly ten thousand acres and lies smack between two of the state’s fastest growing population centers — Mount Vernon-Burlington and Bellingham. It’s the kind of place that other medium or large cities in America would die for if they knew what we had. Think Issaquah Alps on the sea. It’s that good.

In one contiguous block of wannabe future ancient forest, there are almost 1,500 acres of city and county parkland, 2,800 acres of state park (Larrabee), a couple hundred acres of

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land, and 4,800 acres of DNR land on that gem known as Blanchard Mountain. There are also a few thousand acres of private forest land, some with relatively high ecological and recreational values. Some of the latter could be acquired to complete a more perfect whole. In total, it’s a 10,000-acre wild place.

By comparison, the DNR’s West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area extends across 4,500 acres, or roughly half of the 10,000-acre “preserve” known as the Issaquah Alps. Adjacent to that, another 10,000-acre block of DNR land is managed primarily for timber. If we had that much DNR land at Blanchard, we could probably tolerate chain saws buzzing across two-thirds of it. But we don’t. It’s 4,800 acres and it’s all special. It needs to be saved. As various maps and an hour or two of study make clear, there is nothing else on the entire east shore of the greater Puget Sound region that even comes close to what we have here.

Geographically and geologically, the Chuckanuts are anomalous: the only place in the Cascade Range, from Canada to northern California, where the foothills of the mountains extend all the way to the sea.

The Chuckanut Mountains, including Blanchard, are, by far, the least populated and least developed coastal area of its size anywhere from Vancouver to Tumwater. From space, it actually looks dark here at night. It is also within an area known as the Puget Lowland Forest Ecoregion that includes all of the once-forested lowlands from the Fraser River to the Columbia — an area that the World Wildlife Fund considers to be in “critical” need of new protected areas. As a stressful drive along I-5 will attest, the vast majority of this ecoregion has been severely changed from pre-settlement times. The best of what’s left, it turns out, is right there in the Chuckanuts.

Wildlife habitats are diverse and significant. The area supports the only known coastal nesting area in the greater Puget Sound

region for marbled murrelets, a threatened seabird that nests only in big old trees, most of which are far inland (where most of the remaining old growth is).

Migrating raptors, turkey vultures, and a host of neotropical migrant birds like warblers and flycatchers use the area for nesting or feeding. Once, while munching lunch atop a spectacular hundred-foot-high sandstone cliff on the Raptor Ridge Trail, we watched ravens, vultures, eagles, red-tails, and marsh hawks fly over while a pygmy owl tooted at us from behind.

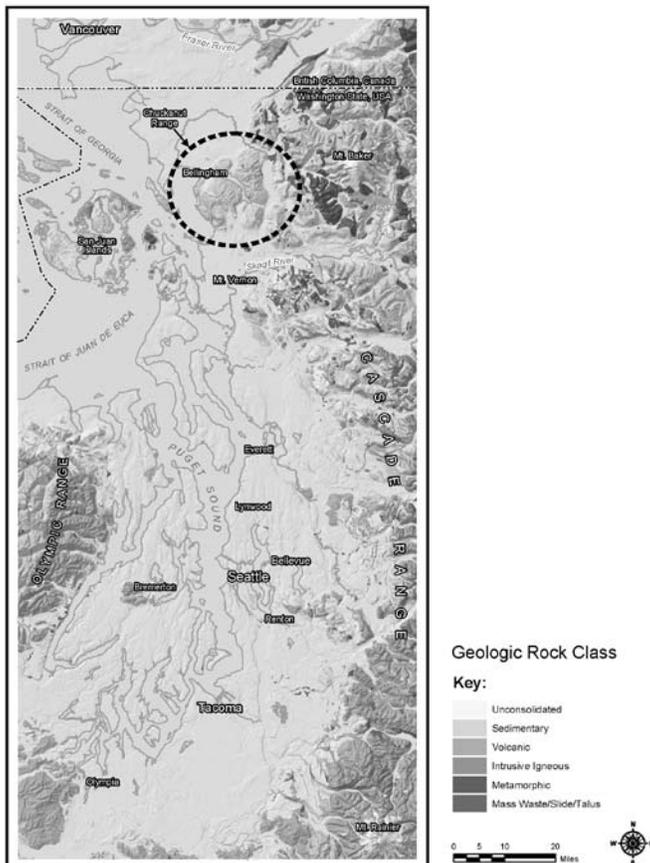
There is much prime habitat here for western toads, a species that has declined precipitously over the past decade. A sensitive bat species spends its winter hibernation hanging out in caves and crevices at the base of Blanchard’s 300-foot high cliffs. We have rare moths and butterflies here, as well as rubber boas and alligator lizards. A rare cougar or black bear is known to ramble through. Eager beavers have helped engineer an extensive matrix of ponds linked to numerous natural lakes and wetlands.

There are rare plant communities, carnivorous plants, an extremely rare lichen, and some impressive and maturing forests that have naturally regenerated since they were first logged in the early 1900s — quite unlike the single-species Douglas-fir plantations that dominate other cut-over lands in the region. A patch of old-growth forest also remains, with a few trees up to nine feet in diameter.

Imperiled salmon and steelhead use many of the area’s creeks. Grebes and loons winter in near-shore marine waters where shellfish beds are also regionally significant. Grey whales and sea lions are occasional visitors.

In fact, one could make a pretty good argument that protecting Blanchard Mountain and the rest of the Chuckanuts would contribute substantially to the Governor’s Partnership for Puget Sound, which among other things is supposed to support “priority projects to restore damaged forests, rivers, shorelines, and marine waters.” Of course, we can spend millions (or billions) of dollars restoring the places we’ve mucked up already, or we can spend far less just taking care of those few good places that are still intact — like Blanchard Mountain and the Chuckanuts.

Publicly owned park land in the Chuckanuts is spread out in an amorphous blob with some weird tentacles, but it’s reasonably secure. The private lands, of course, are not and will likely remain in active commercial forestry, at least over the short run. Most of the land owned



by timber companies has been logged during the past two or three decades, and there is pressure there and on neighboring Lookout and Galbraith Mountains to the east of I-5 to turn some of these lands over to private development. Hopefully, the legislature can be persuaded to help purchase a few key parcels to add to the parks.

Unlike public park lands in the Chuckanuts, the bulk of Blanchard Mountain (all of which is in Skagit County) is not at all secure for public use and enjoyment into the future. In fact, the DNR intends to intensify logging activity there later this year and next, unless the public convinces them to do otherwise. Logging roads will penetrate the wilder roadless portions, crossing numerous trails, and otherwise disrupting a prized recreational experience for tens of thousands of trail users annually.

Most of the environmental and economic benefits — and they are substantial — of protecting Blanchard Mountain in its natural state have not been seriously studied or acknowledged by DNR. Although the agency and Conservation Northwest, based in Bellingham, cooperated on a fiscal impact study several years ago to explore the benefits of logging versus not logging Blanchard, the study was glaringly incomplete, the results predictably skewed in favor of logging.

A recent effort to bring loggers and conservationists to the table to work out a compromise appears to have failed at the group's final meeting in early January of this year. Although loggers and Conservation Northwest supported a loose agreement laid on the table at that meeting, many, if not most, activists who have been dogging the Blanchard issue for the last fifteen years are not biting. While not opposed to some logging, the pro-conservation conservationists (as opposed to the quid-pro-quo conservationists) believe the process itself forced an outcome that strongly (and unfairly) favored timber interests.

Language in the agreement that some may find stunning includes a requirement that conservationists begin lobbying our legislators to maintain, or preferably, increase logging in local forests, not just on state lands managed by DNR, but on private lands as well, and not just at Blanchard, but potentially everywhere.

In exchange for a small and weakly protected 1,600-acre-maximum "core area" (where new roads and limited logging would still be allowed), conservationists would also have to accept a policy of increased timber harvest on National Forest lands where logging was severely curtailed more than a decade ago to protect the spotted owl and to help recover some battered federal forests. It's a little like a local organic grocer being asked to support the opening of a Wal-mart.

The Blanchard agreement appears to stand little chance of winning broader acceptance by the public. Bottom line: the battle over Blanchard Mountain marches on.

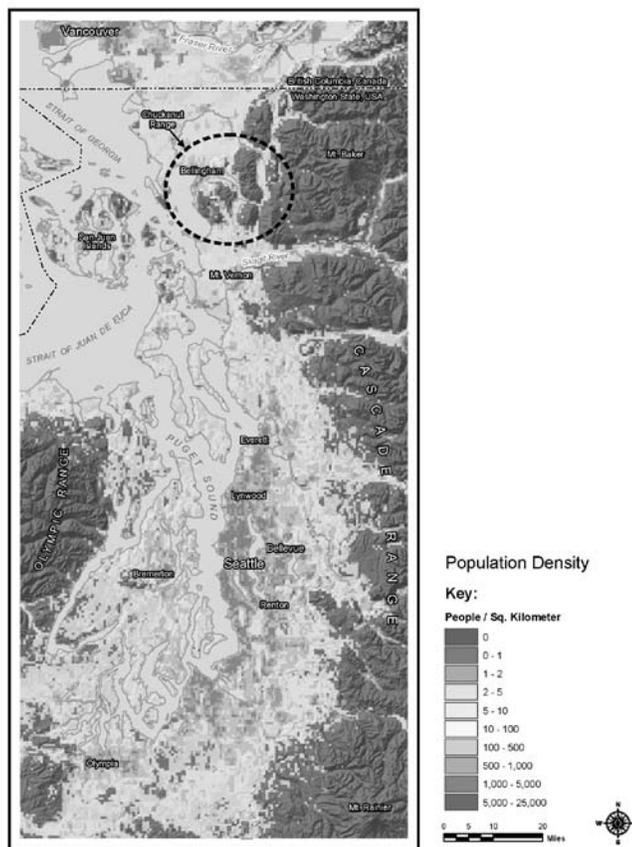
The answer to the Blanchard question might just be what Harvey alluded to in his recent article: a new Natural Resource Conservation Area, or NRCA. Trust status of the lands involved may require a creative land exchange as part of the deal, but it's entirely feasible in a region of the state that is bereft of designated NRCAs.

In mainland King and Snohomish Counties, for example, more than 42,000 acres of NRCAs have been established, including West Tiger Mountain, Mount Si, Rattlesnake Mountain, Grieder Ridge, Morning Star, and Mount Pilchuck. In Skagit County, the total acreage of designated NRCAs on the mainland is zero. Whatcom County has one NRCA totalling a whopping 137 acres.

In the two northern counties where the DNR maintains an enormous land base, one would imagine that something more than 137 acres might be worthy of protection. NRCA-designated land in Whatcom and Skagit Counties amounts to three-tenths of 1 percent of what's been set aside in Snohomish and King Counties. Something's wrong with that picture.

You can help by telling DNR, as well as your own state legislators (who may be asked to support the Blanchard agreement), that the current pro-logging agreement for Blanchard does not even come close to representing the public interest in long-term management of this unique place. The lore, according to Harvey, says that Blanchard was once known as Elephant Mountain. It's a fitting name, given how difficult it's been to get the DNR to budge.

So visit the place. Take a little time to explore, whether by trail, or from the slow lane along Chuckanut Drive, or from the DNR road to the spectacular overlook above Samish Bay. Look for the elephant. That ought to help make it clear why this area deserves to be designated an NRCA or perhaps even a new state park. Maybe we could call it Edward R. Murrow State Park (assuming the family agrees). It's a little known fact that Murrow, awarded the Presi-



Maps — CHRIS BEHEE

dential Medal of Freedom and an honorary knighthood from Great Britain for his groundbreaking journalism, spent his boyhood years playing and hiking in the woods on Blanchard Mountain.

To learn more, contact Ken (marmotlegs@yahoo.com) or browse the maps, photos, and more at these two websites:

- www.blanchardmountain.org
- www.chuckanutmpd.org



Blanchard sun.

—KEN WILCOX

Remembering Harvey Manning

1925–2006

All of us who love America's "Wilderness Alps" — those gorgeous mountains in our own backyard, otherwise known as the North Cascades — have lost a legend. Harvey Manning, best known as the author of the *100 Hikes* series of hiking guides published by the Mountaineers, died in November at the age of 81.

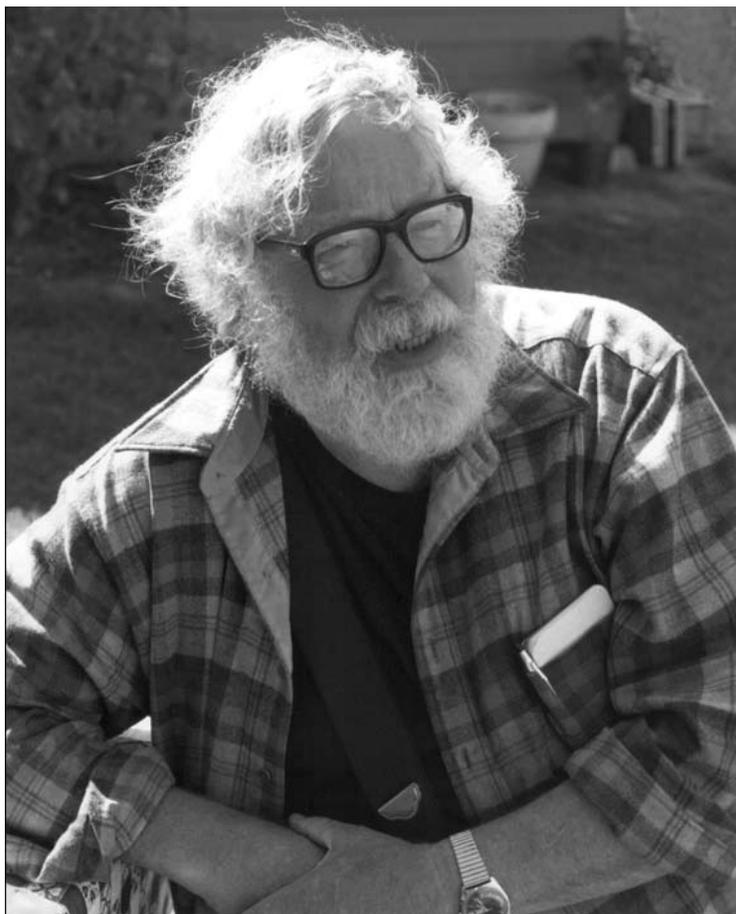
I first met Harvey at a wilderness conference in Seattle in the early 1980s. He sat quietly in the back of the room. I was almost too nervous to introduce myself. There he was, the legend, sitting right there, talking to no one. When I did introduce myself, within seconds he had me feeling like an old friend.

I soon joined the board of directors of the North Cascades Conservation Council, which Harvey had belonged to since shortly after its founding in 1957. Co-founder David Brower would attend meetings on occasion and with him and Manning and other Northwest conservation greats huddled together in a living room somewhere, all I could do as the board's newbie was keep my mouth shut.

In early 1989, I invited Harvey to be our guest speaker at a meeting of the Bellingham Mountaineers, a couple of years after his book *Walking the Beach to Bellingham* was published. "What do you want me to talk about?" he asked. I had no idea. I just wanted others to have a chance to meet the man.

Harvey had an edge and some people disliked it. But it was a loving edge that was easily misunderstood. It was love for the wildness that was being destroyed by the timber beasts and the miners and developers and the politicians they all carried around in their pockets. Harvey put it all on the table and demanded that we learn to be sensible, or else.

He wrote dozens of books, many of them presumed to be hiking guides. But mostly they were personal invitations to those who might go to these places and care about them, defend them from the exploiters, help save



—TOM MILLER

them as parks and wilderness areas. He wrote beautifully, with true insight, and a kind of humor that could rattle your bones. And he revealed an impressive knowledge of classical literature and world history behind almost everything he said or wrote.

Harvey brought us the mountaineering bible known as *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, which led to creation of Mountaineers Books. He wrote compelling text for coffee-table wilderness books with photographers Ansel Adams, Philip Hyde, Bob and Ira Spring, Pat O'Hara, and many others. He wrote the old-fashioned way: on a typewriter, corrections scribbled in the margins, and always on the back side of used paper.

Harvey Manning's books may have helped bring me to the North Cascades, but it was his passion for the planet that helped bring me to my senses. I will miss him.

—KEN WILCOX

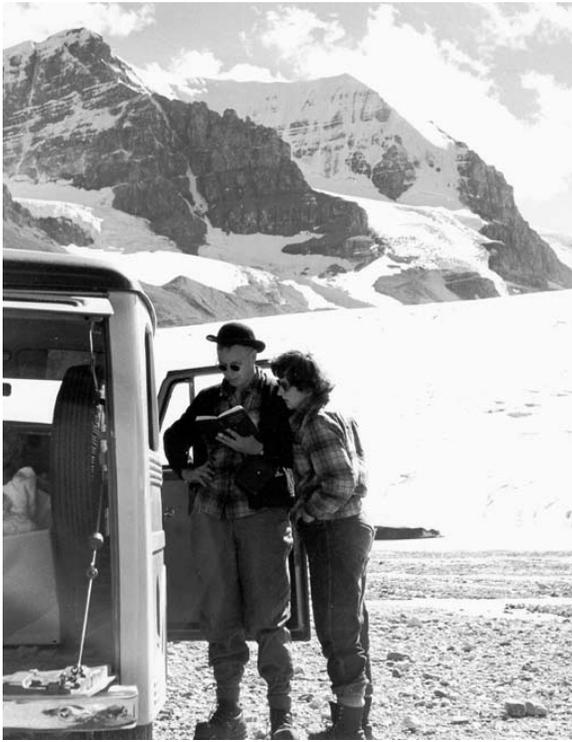
"I turned up Oyster Creek, the incongruously small dribble that issues from the disproportionately grand cleft that separates Blanchard Hill from Chuckanut Mountain. Its little delta was a pig farm. The swine rushed out snuffling and oinking, restrained by the electric wire from offering me a warmer welcome. I wondered how it would be to eat our dogs ...and take our pigs walking."

—Harvey Manning,
Walking the Beach to Bellingham (1986)

My first encounter with Harvey came years before I knew who, or what, he was. As a teenager in Everett, Washington, I was fascinated by the impressive mountains visible to the east and distressed by the frantic pace at which the forests cloaking their slopes were being ripped away. Even more alarming was the calm acceptance of their liquidation that prevailed at the time. "Yeah, kid, those woods up in those mountains there are for logging." That

pretty much summed up the attitude of those times. In a back drawer of the Everett library, I stumbled upon issues of *The Wild Cascades*. In those pages I found writings of the "Irate Birdwatcher," who decried the ongoing destruction of those dark, mysterious forests. It was a revelation. There actually were other people out there who thought that forests shouldn't just be cut down. Who thought that wild places should stay wild, and wrote about them informatively, eloquently and with sometimes savage wit.

It wasn't until years later that I learned that the Irate Birdwatcher was the real person named Harvey Manning, and still more years until I came to know Harvey as a friend. From the vantage point of today, it's sometimes hard to imagine what the Cascades were like as recently as the 1970s. There was more wild country, but it was being consumed at a breakneck pace. Fleets of logging trucks,



Harvey and Betty, Mt. Athabaska, Columbia Ice Fields, 1950. —TOM MILLER

on the Metro,” was his idea, which led to the preservation of much of the “Issaquah Alps,” which until he gave them that name were just a bunch of neglected foothills bypassed on the way to more famous beauty spots. Harvey was the first conservationist to push for “saving the second growth,” taking back and re-wilding areas that had been logged but then left alone for decades, growing back on their own into respectable forests. That cause was taken up enthusiastically by others, leading to efforts to preserve low-elevation forests in the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt River valleys, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Trails were always one of Harvey’s main concerns. He and Ira Spring introduced generations of hikers to the trails of the Cascades, and, thanks in large part to Harvey, dozens of miles of new trails were built in such places as the Issaquah Alps. He was a leading proponent of new trails, but only in what he considered appropriate places. Harvey was a great defender

of “blank spots on the map,” untouched places with no trails at all, and was against the proposed Pratt connector trail for that reason. Harvey loved the idea of trails to wilderness-edge vantage points (such as the proposed “Garfield Balconies” trail in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, and many others,) while keeping the interiors of wild areas inviolate. “Just outside, looking in,” was how he described his idea of the perfect trail.

It was often not easy dealing with Harvey. Expecting much of himself and of others, he did not suffer fools or frauds gladly. He could spot a phony a mile away. Nothing infuriated him more than “sheep in wolves’ clothing,” as he referred to faux-conservation efforts, intended not to accomplish anything real on the ground, but to harvest money from foundations or other well-intentioned but naive groups or individuals. He hated the idea of focus group-driven campaigns, “messaging consultants,” and the ever-growing bureaucracy of professional environmental organizations. He was a volunteer, start to finish, and did all he did because of no other reason than he thought it needed to be done. Conservation was never a business proposition for Harvey. He called things the way he saw them and never worried about making enemies, or what others thought of him. Perhaps he went a bit far on one or two occasions. He was never, ever, boring.

Above all, he was a superb writer. He could lay out information concisely, but was no mere technician. No one has rendered the Cascades

in words better than Harvey, and it’s unlikely anyone else ever will. He had some of the expository talent of a Henry James, though more economical with words. His ability to cut through fog and make the overlooked seem obvious was reminiscent of Noam Chomsky. He had a great sense of the relative importance of things, and his own unique, hard-hitting style. It was always a pleasure to read anything written by Harvey, something notably lacking in many modern-day hiking guides published solely as business ventures. It’s hard to put forth any opinions on what his greatest work was, but my own favorite is *The Wild Cascades — Forgotten Parkland*, the 1965 Sierra Club coffee table picture book that did so much to put the Cascades on the national map. The book is much more than pictures, though. The chapter “Low Valley,” probably did more than any other piece of writing to awaken public appreciation of the forests that were then being so rapidly destroyed. And no one has ever described the quintessential Cascades experience better than Harvey did in the short but lovely chapter entitled “Rain Sleep.” The title says it all. Rain Sleep. That phrase alone is one of the best two-word poems ever written in any language.

Those of us who were lucky to know Harvey will always miss him, and forever ask ourselves, “What would Harvey do?”

—RICK MCGUIRE

Harvey Manning is one of my heroes. He backpacked since the 1930s, and he wrote many books of great importance to the hiking, mountaineering and conservation communities. He was a climbing instructor for The Mountaineers in the 1950s, and then he chaired the editorial committee that produced the textbook *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*, first published in 1964. That book was such an unexpected success that The Mountaineers Books was born, with its *100 Hikes* guidebook series produced by Harvey and his long-time collaborator, Ira Spring. Their *100 Hikes* books were instrumental in stopping the loss of trails after World War II, and set the standard for hiking guidebooks everywhere. Harvey also wrote the popular instruction guide *Backpacking: One Step at a Time* in 1972.

Harvey’s books continue to introduce people to some of the most beautiful country in the world and exhort people to protect these lands for future generations. “Environmental impact is a central concern of our organization,” said Helen Cherullo, Publisher of Mountaineers Books. “One of our trademarks is the ethic first promoted by Harvey Manning and Ira Spring — that it is not enough to hike responsibly. It is also incumbent upon us to

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Remembering Harvey Manning 1925–2006

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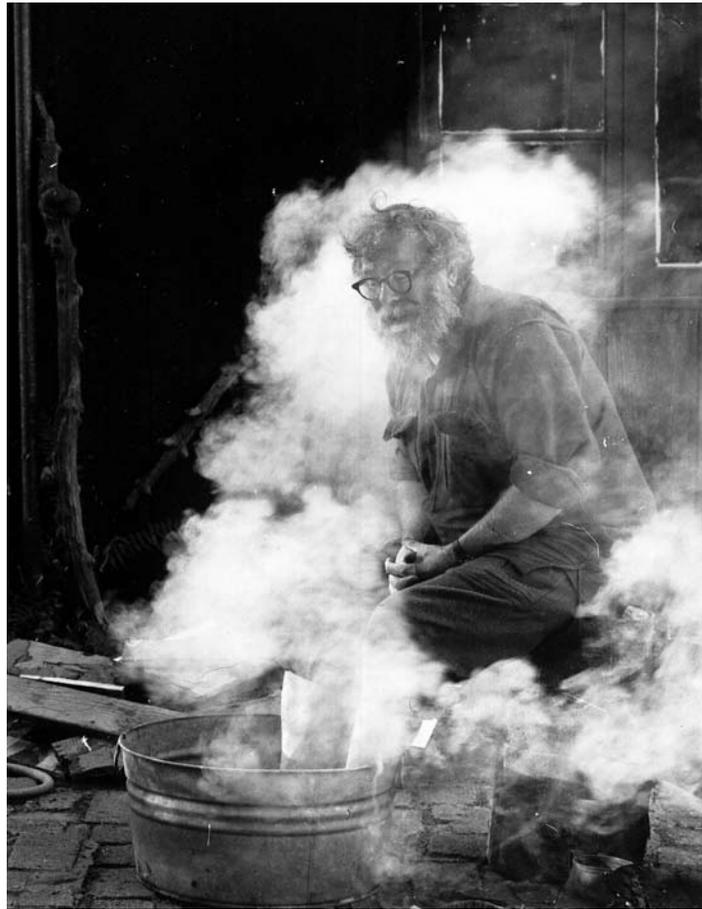
understand the environmental issues and become an active voice to protect and save the wilderness.”

Harvey has done great things for wildlands protection, and you have probably hiked in and cherished the wildness of places that Harvey helped keep wild. In 1957 he joined the North Cascades Conservation Council and learned activism from NCCC Board members such as Dave Brower, Polly Dyer, and Grant McConnell. In the 1960s Harvey wrote *The North Cascades* (with Tom Miller) and *The Wild Cascades: Forgotten Parkland*, publicizing the area’s natural beauty — both of which were instrumental in establishing North Cascades National Park in 1968. He edited the 1971 book *Alpine Lakes*, which helped convince President Ford to sign the bill creating that Wilderness. Washington state’s Senators and Representatives were given copies of Harvey’s 1984 book *Washington Wilderness: The Unfinished Work*, helping to establish much new Wilderness that year, including the Henry M. Jackson, Indian Heaven, Juniper Dunes and William O. Douglas Wilderness areas. His *100 Hikes* books have played a crucial role in protecting these and

other wildlands. He continued his vigorous advocacy until his death, battling against commercialization, privatization, motorization, and other dangers to wildlands. He and his wife Betty long served as editors of NCCC’s excellent journal *The Wild Cascades* (truth be told, Betty did most of the editorial work, with Harvey contributing material. Betty continues the work).

Harvey also founded the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in 1979, leading hikes, wrangling with politicians and saving thousands of acres of lowland forests on Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor and Rattlesnake Mountains, the wild backyard of Seattle-Bellevue urban areas. He wrote of the lowlands and “the wildness within” in his four-volume *Footsore* series, and in *Walking the Beach to Bellingham*. Later he helped launch the Mountains to Sound Greenway, linking and protecting green lands along the I-90 corridor.

I’m personally grateful to Harvey for the help he’s given me over the years. Things were tough in 1992 when I became president of WTA, with its shrinking membership and



Harvey, cooling his feet on the patio and promoting the “Footsore” book series. —VICKI SPRING

plummeting finances. Harvey loudly rejoined WTA and its Issues Committee, adding his energy to our turnaround effort, and WTA has been getting better ever since. It was a pleasure to have Harvey and Ira at my dinner-table meetings. Harvey introduced me to the boards of the Greenway Trust, Issaquah Alps Trails Club and NCCC. Later he and Ira wrote a series of columns for Washington Trails Association newsletter, providing timely updates to hike descriptions in *100 Hikes* books that were years away from revision — a great resource to readers. And in our court battles to protect wildlands from off-road vehicle damage, the lawsuit papers included many of Harvey’s ideas. Both hikers and ecosystems have benefited immensely from Harvey’s informed books, his ceaseless activism, and his principled stands.

Harvey called the little sermons he wrote for the *100 Hikes* books “Fighting Forewords” and the name is fitting. Yet he views his advocacy leadership role with humility. “As an old chicken rancher, I can confirm the observation that individual chickens are the

definition of stupid, but the flock is pretty smart, does a good job of managing the chicken business,” Harvey recently wrote. “I became distrustful of my personal opinions, became a strong supporter and advocate of the party line. That is what my forewords have been.” Current and future generations of hikers are fortunate to have someone fighting so tenaciously on their behalf.

Reprinted from the
Washington Trails Association
newsletter

—KARL FORSGAARD

First, the backstory to put you in the picture for the tales that follow: I first met Harvey in 1953 at the time Erik Karlsson, Tom Miller, Bob Grant, Mike Hane, and I were embarking on what became the ‘Second Ptarmigan Traverse’. Except for Mike, who had just finished high school, we were all undergraduates at the University of Washington (Erik and I, forestry; Bob, geology; Tom, engineering). Shortly after I began graduate work at UW a few years later, my wife and family moved to Cougar Mountain. Those early years (1957–1962) on the mountain and the long friendship with Harvey and Betty profoundly

shaped my life, personally, professionally, and environmentally. Many all-night homebrew discussions broadened and clarified my thinking on everything from aerodynamics to McCarthy-era politics. Harvey had no patience with empty rhetoric or feel-good expressions; one was induced to sift, refine, and winnow until a meaningful thought finally emerged, and that process worked in both directions. Those were precious evenings. Harvey understood science at a level more basic than most ‘professional’ scientists (of which I am one); he comprehended the complexity and limitations of science and was not bothered by its contradictions — all of which he regarded as ‘temporary’.

I retired from the UW faculty nine years ago and endured the takeover of Cougar Mountain by McMansions and development until 2003, when we fled to the west side of Puget Sound. Since then, contact with Harvey became limited to notes and postcards. The stories that follow are representative. The *Summit Magazine* capers are still fun memo-

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The Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Griping Society 1968–2006

BY TED BECK & PAT GOLDSWORTHY

More than once, Harvey Manning mentioned the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Griping Society in his guidebooks, but without identifying its members. In addition to Harvey, the organizing chairman, the original group consisted of Ted Beck, Dick Brooks, and Pat Goldsworthy.

A Little Background

Ted and Dick had both hiked and climbed in the Cascades with Harvey from 1947 on. Both men were chemical engineers and had met Harvey when he manned the chemistry stockroom in the basement of Bagley Hall at the University of Washington. All three took the Mountaineers climbing course and went on Mountaineer climbs as well as private climbs together — Ted taking time during grad school from 1948 to 1952.

Even when Ted left the state for nine years, he and Harvey carried on extensive correspondence. As well, Ted and his wife, Ruth, traveled back to Washington to spend several one-week summer vacations hiking with Harvey and Betty. There were hikes to Spider Pass, Lyman Basin, Buck Creek Loop, Cascade Pass, Kool Aid Lake, and White Chuck Basin, plus climbs of Magic Mountain and Glacier Peak.

While Ted sojourned out of state, the Dick and Grace Brooks family and the Mannings survived a supremely soggy trip. From Stehek in the party traveled to Grizzly Creek, where they became involved in a tremendous rain-storm that came close to wiping them out.

Ted returned to Seattle in 1961 and the Becks and Mannings made a number of family trips to the mountains with the kids. Harvey and Ted continued their annual September weekend in the mountains, stopping when Harvey organized the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Gripping Society (EBH&GS) in 1968.

Enter Pat. He and his wife, Jane, arrived in Seattle from Berkeley and the Sierra Club in 1952. Pat met Harvey when he walked over from his University of Washington Medical School biochemistry lab to Harvey's top-floor office behind the gargoyles of the UW administration building, where he drafted public statements for the university president. Pat had fallen in love with the Cascades on his first hike to Cascade Pass and, in 1957, organized the North Cascades Conservation Council.

The initial objective of the NCCC was “to seek out, solicit, and enlist as members those with a collective intimate knowledge of the details of the assets of Washington's Cascades,” and included Phil and Laura Zalesky from Everett and Chuck and Marion Hessey from Naches. Harvey, Ted, and Dick also became early members. The (ultimately successful) NCCC proposal to create a North Cascades National Park drew in hundreds of supporting members.

Birdwatcher Travels

Harvey coined the name. At the start of the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking and Gripping Society the members were in their 40s but, as Dick Brooks said, “We grew into the name.” (Harvey's daughter Claudia once asked him after a trip, “How many elderly birds did you guys see?”)

The group's first official trip was in August 1968 to Ross Lake and the northern Picketts. They hiked for six days up the Little Beaver Valley to Challenger Ridge, then down Big Beaver. Harvey noted in *100 Classic Hikes in Washington*, 1998, “Each of us set out separately on the last day down the Big Beaver.” In his trip notes he added, “. . . through the cathedral of the cedars. We all had the same feeling that never before had we come down from the high country through such magnificence.”

Upon their return to Ross Lake Resort the men learned that Seattle City Light had plans to raise Ross Dam by 122½ feet, flooding Big

Beaver Valley. And driving home, they decided unanimously that flooding of the “cathedral of the cedars” would not happen. The subsequent history was a triumph for the NCCC.

Planning for their trips began early in the year. Each February Harvey mailed a prospectus outlining proposed hikes for the coming summer. Depending on distance and terrain, trips (many were cross-country) lasted from nine to eleven days.

Menus were varied, but meal planning was set. Dick was breakfast cook and Ted took care of lunch, while Harvey and Pat alternated with dinners. Somehow the dinners seemed to get better and better with each trip, with spirited competition between the two cooks. Everyone slept under Dick's big nylon tarp, never condescending to shelter in “little sissy tents,” as Harvey called them.

Harvey's wit always enlivened the party. Camped near Mt. Daniel, the group watched a horseman across a pond. The man struggled on his horse as he tried to drag a spiky log he had roped for firewood. No matter which way he dragged, the log's spikes dug into the ground. “That's how the West was won,” cracked Harvey. “Aw, shut up,” came the reply from the other side of the pond.

In the 1950s, Harvey was engaged in his first major publication — the monumental *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*. Soon after, writing hiking and climbing guides became a full-time endeavor. He always carried a pocket notebook and stub of a pencil on mountain trips and meticulously recorded times: starting and stopping for rest, mileage walked, views, flowers, rocks, experiences and thoughts. He said that, unlike some other guidebook authors, he walked every inch of the way on trips that he described.

One outstanding experience was described as “The Night on Bald Mountain” in the Pasayten Wilderness — a night that was clear, with blazing Northern Lights and a symphony of coyotes in the valley below.

Harvey organized and participated in the first fifteen trips of the EBH&GS. Then, in 1983, he stopped hiking with the group after hurting his feet on a beach walk from Tacoma to Seattle. The tradition continues, with various members joining or leaving: Ted (39 trips), Dick (30), Pat (23), Roger Colvin (15), Chuck Allyn (12), Carsten Lien (4), and Don Allyn (2).



Original members of the Elderly Birdwatchers Hiking & Gripping Society pause near the west side of Mt. Adams on their 1979 bike around the mountain. From left: Harvey Manning, Pat Goldsworthy, Dick Brooks and Ted Beck.

Annual Summer Outings Elderly Birdwatcher Hiking and Griping Society

	1. 1968 — Aug. 9–12	Northern Picketts, Wiley Pk., Little and Big Beavers	Be, Br, G, M
	2. 1968 — Aug. 8–17	Devils Dome, Jackita Ridge, Crater Mt. loop	Be, Br, M
	3. 1970 — July 31–Aug. 8	Southern Picketts, Sourdough Mt., Elephant Butte	Be, Br, G, M
	4. 1971 — Aug. 8–18	Boundary Trail across the Pasayten Wilderness	Be, Br, G, M
	5. 1972 — Aug. 11–19	Ice Lakes, Mt. Maude, Entiat Basin	Be, Br, G, M
	6. 1973 — Aug. 9–20	Bear Lake, Custer Ridge, Whatcom Pass loop from Chilliwack Lake	Be, Br, G, M
	7. 1974 — Aug. 9–18	Robinson Pass, Shellrock Pass, Lost River loop	Be, Br, M
	8. 1975 — Aug. 8–17	Hanging Gardens	Be, Br, G, M
A,B	9. 1976 — July 23–Aug. 1	Fisher Basin, Kangaroo Ridge	Be, Br, G, M
	10. 1977 — July 28–Aug. 4	Around Glacier Peak	Be, Br, G, M
	11. 1978 — July 27–Aug. 7	High Pass, Napeequa loop	Be, Br, G, M
	12. 1979 — Sept. 14–24	Around Mt. Adams	Be, Br, G, M
	13. 1980 — Sept. 10–19	Ladies Pass, Chain Lakes loop	Be, Br, M
	14. 1981 — Sept. 11–20	Jade Lake, Robin Lakes	Be, Br, M
	15. 1982 — Sept. 11–19	War Creek, northeast Chelan Crest	Be, Br, G, M
	16. 1983 — Sept. 1–11	Freezeout Devils Dome	Be, Br, G
	17. 1984 — Aug. 10–18	Goat Rocks	Be, Br, G
	18. 1985 — July 12–21	Pasayten, Rimmel Lake and Peak	Be, Br, G
	19. 1986 — Aug. 8–17	Alpine Lakes	Be, Br, G
	20. 1987 — July 31–Aug. 10	Twisp River high country	Be, Br, G
	21. 1988 — July 15–24	Hagen, Bacon, Blum	Al, Be, Br, G
	22. 1989 — Aug. 4–13	Green Mt., Kennedy Hot Springs	Be, Br, G
	23. 1990	Stevens Pass, Glacier Peak	Al, Be, Br, G
	24. 1991 — July 26–Aug. 4	Southwest Chelan crest	Al, Be, Br, C
	25. 1992 — July 17–27	Pasayten, Canada forays	Al, Be, Br, G
	26. 1993 — Aug. 6–16	Mt. Hood, Oregon loop	Be, Br, C, L
	27. 1994 — July 22–Aug. 1	Pasayten, Bunker Hill, Whistler Basin	Al, Be, Br, C, G
	28. 1995 — July 20–31	Glacier Peak, Kennedy Hot Springs, Milk Creek	Al, Be, Br, C, G
	29. 1996 — July 22–31	Wallowas and Snake River, Oregon	Al, Be, Br, C, L
	30. 1997 — Aug. 7–17	Slate Peak, middle fork of Pasayten River	Be, Br, C, G, L
	31. 1998 — Aug. 1–8	Olympics, Elwha River, Queets Basin	Al, Be, C
	32. 1999 — Aug. 18–27	Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, Oregon	Al, Be, C
	33. 2000 — Aug. 22–29	Three Sisters, Oregon	Al, Be, C, D
	34. 2001 — Aug. 20–22	Goat Rocks, aborted because of heavy storm	Al, Be, C, D
	35. 2002 — Aug. 2–12	Goat Rocks	Al, Be, C
	36. 2003 — Aug. 8–15	Holden, Lyman Basin, Agnes River	Be, C
A, B	37. 2004 — April 26–30 Aug. 2–6	Lake Chelan lakeshore Necklace Valley	Be, C Be, C
A, B	38. 2005 — April 28–May 2 Aug. 1–6	Lake Chelan lakeshore PCT north, Slate Pass	Be, C Be, C
A, B	39. 2006 — April 26–29 July 28–Aug. 2	Lake Chelan lakeshore PCT Mt., Adams	Be, C Be, C

Participants and number of Trips

Al: Chuck Allyn, 12	D: Don Allyn, 2
Be: Ted Beck, 39	G: Pat Goldsworthy, 23
Br: Dick Brooks, 30	L: Carsten Lien, 4
C: Roger Colvin, 15	M: Harvey Manning, 15

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Dick Brooks and Harvey

ries; I don't think the publisher would hold us accountable after 45 years. Others can, have, and will speak to Harvey's accomplishments far more eloquently than any words I could offer; however, I will say that the North Cascades National Park and the Mountains to Sound Greenway owe much to the 'irate birdwatcher' and the King County Regional Park on Cougar Mountain (the Issaquah Alps) owes its very existence to him. (Anyone for renaming the park after him?)

Home brew: Harvey's was the worst (other than my own). One long evening in May 1958, the two of us got hopelessly lost after too much home brew and stargazing. I woke up mid-morning (somehow back at Harvey's house) to find that my wife, Lyn, accompanied by Betty, had bought a coal-miner's shack and six acres on Cougar Mountain, near the old Newcastle coalmines. The two of them figured it would cut down the number of sleepovers if we lived closer to each other. Harvey immediately put up a sign on my new dwelling: 'Coles carried to Newcastle'. The site became our home (the coal-miner's shack was eventually replaced) for 45 years.

Mail carriers: Cougar Mountain had but one postman in the 1950s — a far-right evangelical who stuffed our mailboxes with religious tracts, disapproved of our choices of magazines (Harvey subscribed to several far, far left newsletters just to rile him), and censored postcards. Harvey would send me

salacious (innocuous by today's standards) unsigned postcards from wherever he traveled selling textbooks; the postman would put each one into an envelope and add a painfully incoherent note denouncing my 'friends' and their influence on my innocent kids. Harvey also liked to leave my name and address on 'I am interested' signups whenever he traveled Mormon country. Lots of missionaries visited me and left disappointed.

No Name Peak: During a mountain trip in the Chilliwack Group in August 1959, Harvey repeatedly expressed annoyance with the new breed of climbers who obsessed on first ascents and ignored the true value of the mountains. We were camped high on the flank of Glacier II (now Mt. Spickard) with the nearly vertical face of southeast Mox Peak directly across the valley. Harvey put together an imaginary climb up this face, I doctored a map and added dotted lines indicating our 'attempt' to a photo taken by another member of our party; Harvey submitted it to *Summit Magazine* (May 1960)—renamed and relocated as 'No Name Peak' (located up Noname Creek) describing it as "the great wall that awaits a first ascent". Harvey hoped to lure competitive peak-baggers into a frustrating search. The article was published under the name Paul Williams (Betty Manning's father). It received a flurry of attention until someone actually familiar with that area poked a hole in our balloon. *Summit* paid with free subscriptions in those days, so Betty's dad got a 3-year subscription to a magazine he'd never heard of. The article almost was published in the AAC Journal, but 'Paul' missed the deadline by a week.

Sleeping system: Of all the adventures I had with Harvey, the one I remember most fondly was our 'sleeping system'. Once again Harvey was on a tirade, this time against the high price of mountain equipment, especially sleeping bags. Our initiation into mountaineering had been with genuine WW2 surplus equipment, which was really cheap (\$4.50 bought a double down bag in 1950). By the late-'50s these bags were patched

rags, with failed zippers, no loft, and too fragile to clean (disgusting, in other words); new ones were either poorly designed or expensive — sometimes both. One evening we designed (aided by large quantities of Harvey's home brew) a sleeping system that was to be comprised of tubing and a mask to take the heat from breathing and re-circulate it to body extremities where heat loss is greatest. Using a desiccant to recover the moisture from breathing, we were able to claim an even higher efficiency of heat recovery for our system. The system would weigh a few ounces and cost very little to assemble. Again, *Summit Magazine* was chosen; the article, written by the president of the Cougar Mountaineers (made up of the Manning and Cole households), was duly printed. We would have left the stage laughing at this point except...except a major manufacturer of outdoor equipment (Gerry Cunningham himself) wrote a scathing letter to *Summit* debunking the notion of any 'sleeping system' and earnestly explaining why his equipment was the real deal, which, excepting price, it was. Of course Harvey couldn't resist the challenge and in the next few months letters were posted to *Summit Magazine* (and published) from all over the Northwest (Harvey was still traveling the college circuit as a book salesman) purportedly written by Boy Scouts, recreational hikers, climbers, and even university research faculty all endorsing the idea, cheering for the 'little engine that could', or detailing the elegant physics of the system, complete with equations. A few such letters were actually authentic.

Overt piousness: Harvey was far more than a man of pranks and outspoken supporter of causes, both worthy and whimsical. We all have our own examples of times when he



Harvey Manning atop Mt. Persis.

—TOM MILLER

showed profound insight and understanding of how things should be. My example relates to an occasion when he asked me to accompany him to Glacier Basin to lay to rest the ashes of Ray Riggs. We were to meet Ome Daiber and another mountaineer in the Basin to perform the ritual. A knoll within the basin was selected as an ideal location to place the ashes (the spot is still known to a few of us as 'Ray's knoll'). Harvey was never one to be duplicitous. When asked by Ome if he would lead us in prayer in behalf of the deceased, I knew there was no way Harvey would do that, but I also knew he wouldn't want a confrontation on such an occasion. He looked thoughtful for a few seconds and then suggested that a moment of silence would be more fitting and speak louder than words. And that's what we did.

—DALE COLE

It is such a privilege to be able to share some thoughts about Harvey Manning and what his life, his words and his deeds, has meant to me. In fact I believe it may not be too much to say that, were it not for some basic things I learned from Harvey early on, my whole conservation career might have taken a very different course. In the early 1960s I had just moved to Seattle after graduating from law school in the Midwest. I thought I had landed in paradise. And since I had really chosen to live here for the country, not for any particular job, I immediately signed up to take the Mountaineers Climbing Course — my ticket, I thought, to those magic and beautiful wild mountains, gleaming and beckoning at every turn and from every vantage point of my adopted city.

I started climbing and exploring immediately; and for the first year or so, I KNEW this was paradise; "heck, I can climb or backpack to a new place every weekend of my life and still never know it all," I would often say to myself amid much self-congratulation.

But it wasn't too long before I started realizing that something was wrong out there — terribly wrong. Trail after trail that I had enjoyed one summer, then dreamed about the following winter, would — when I returned — be just gone, dissolved in a jackstraw heap of mud and slash, the broken bones of the ancient forest giants that once sheltered it sent off to be ripped apart in some mill.

I was stunned, outraged — "How can this be? Lookit the map, this is public land!"

And I became almost as shocked that many, too many, of my companions — not to mention nearly all of the Establishment Class of the times — seemed to be NOT that upset. "Oh, that's multiple use, something for everybody,"



Clockwise from top left: Harvey below Forbidden, 1951; Tumwater Canyon, 1950; Rattlesnake Ledge, 1995; The Illecillewaet Neve, Selkirks, 1951; after climb of Sir Donald, Selkirks, 1950.

—TOM MILLER

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they'd say. Or, "it's called 'harvesting those decadent old trees'... just nature's way"

Well, that wasn't the way it felt inside my aching heart, especially when I began to realize — after returning from one too many clearcut-ravaged backpacks — that this was what "They" were going to do to ALL of it: rip down every tree that could be sold, and destroy the wilderness along with it. I was desperate — wanted to do something to stop it, but what? I was just a kid, didn't know anything, and besides, 'can't fight City Hall,' I had been told.

But I reread Harvey's great book, *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, and saw in it the biting words I had missed the first time. At last, I thought — here is a man who tells it exactly how it is! Someone who fights back, and in public and in print! Says it right up front — "This Emperor has no clothes!" Exposes the shams of "multiple use" and the inherent obscenity of the wilderness-destroying logging going on all around us.

So it was Harvey's words, his special gift of pithy eloquence, that gave form and shape to my own rising anger, showed me that it could be channeled into more than just outrage — but also, profoundly so for my career, to Action. Action to save the places we loved, Action to make a Difference!

I joined the NCCC as soon as I heard about it, devoured every issue of *The Wild Cascades*, specially the Irate Bridwatcher column... joined the Mountaineers Conservation Division, and there (and through the NCCC too) met a whole new pantheon of heroes, mentors, people like Polly and John Dyer, Phil and Laura Zalesky, Pat and Jane Goldsworthy, Frank Fickeisen, Emily Haig, Mardy Murie, and so many others, Harvey and Betty of course, and constantly. At last, I felt, my troubled heart had found its true home: here in my adopted land among such fellow-warriors, who loved it too — and who actually knew what to DO about it!... people of the greatest integrity, people who taught me to never quit, never give up, never back down — just keep moving towards the final goal.

And, always, above all — to speak out. That was Harvey's great inspiration to me, way back in those hard early days...and the myriad and always creative ways he did that for so many of us always will be his finest monument, I think.

—BROCK EVANS

Harvey had a mythical quality even in my childhood, when his arrival in Stehekin

to visit my grandparents would be long heralded. He would come in his outrageous costumes of many patches. Long bouts of conversation would ensue, only after a cold beer had been produced. Many years later, long after my grandparents had died, I woke one morning in Stehekin (on the occasion of a meeting with the director of the National Park Service) to find Harvey asleep on our porch, having rejected softer accommodations.

In discussing a planned memorial service for Harvey with my mother, I mentioned that there had been some controversy as to who should organize it, as many who might organize it had quarreled with Harvey. "Oh, Harvey quarreled with everyone, at some point or another," she said. "Except Grant." Harvey and my grandfather, Grant McConnell, who many of you may know of as one of the leaders in the fight for the North Cascades National Park, carried on a great friendship through the second half of their lives. Harvey, I think, was the best friend of Grant's later life.

Through my childhood, Harvey and Grant carried on a monumental correspondence for decades. They were among the last great letter writers and together they inspired each other to their greatest artistry. The sight of letters from Harvey provoked great grins in Grant and reading them often produced howls of laughter. I sadly don't have those letters, with the exception of one dated 1969 in which Grant reassures Harvey that he won't be too hard on the first superintendent of the North Cascades National Park, Roger Contor. The thought of Harvey thinking someone was too hard on a federal bureaucrat boggles the mind. I guess Harvey was soft in his youth. But it gives one an inkling of why Harvey and Grant hit it off so well; here was someone likely to be as demanding of federal employees as Harvey himself.

Toward the end of his life, I was a recipient of Harvey's letters, those crazy photocopied collages. I'm afraid I did not carry on where Grant left off, did not hold up my end of the correspondence. I think Harvey forgave me, chalking it up to the inevitable decline as the old passed away into the lesser new. But I do hope all of us continue to take Harvey's memory as a challenge to carry on the good fight and be unafraid to be hard on those who deserve it.

—CAROLYN MCCONNELL

I first ran into Harvey in 1948 at a Mountaineers Climbing Course field trip. Harvey was an important instructor and I was a fuzz-cheeked teenaged beginner, yet he treated me as he would an adult—that is,

with a kind of bemused acceptance, reserving judgment until later. We started climbing together the next year, and we continued to travel the hills together off and on until 1999, when his body quit on him. Through those years, he was always a great guy to walk with — sharing good conversations and his wide range of interests, free with his opinions, and with a seemingly endless store of bawdy limericks and humorous poems.

Harvey is well known for his conservation and writing efforts, but my best memories of Harvey are from climbing. In his early years he was a capable and respected climber, just another of us ragtag peak baggers. I'll mention a couple of climbs as examples. One was a climb of Mt. Sir Donald in the Selkirks. In September of 1950, Harvey and I climbed the northwest Ridge up and down (all downclimbed, no rappelling) in what in those days was a very good time. Perfect weather, gorgeous rock, and a strong and amusing companion. It doesn't get any better than that. Another was a July 1951 climb of Forbidden with Harvey and John Dyer (yes, the John Dyer of the first ascent of Shiprock fame). The same adjectives apply, but with two good companions. Those trips stand out in my memory as two of my very best days in the mountains. One trip that was not on Harvey's favorite list was a 1950 climb of the North Peak of Index with Vic Josendal, Ted Beck, and me on the hottest day of the year. To find out what Harvey thought of that day, you'll have to wait until someone publishes his climbing memoirs.

In 1955 Harvey was put in charge of a subcommittee to revise and update the club's Climbers Notebook, which was used as the text for the climbing course. I was lucky enough to have been on this subcommittee and watch as the project grew from an update of a slim, bare-bones manual to the comprehensive book *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*. I say I was lucky to have been there because, although the development of the manuscript was a long and serious process, we all had fun. Harvey made it fun. He didn't order people around and didn't belittle others' sometimes pathetic efforts at writing. Somehow he kept us all going for the years it took to get it done. I'm absolutely convinced that *Freedom* would never have happened without Harvey.

Freedom was published in 1960 and immediately started selling like gangbusters. This was a surprise. There were other how-to-climb books, and there weren't that many climbers anyway. *Freedom* was different; Harvey and club elders had insisted that it cover all aspects of wilderness mountain travel, not

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Prospects Brighten for Wild Sky Passage

BY RICK MCGUIRE

With the Democratic victory in the recent Congressional elections, prospects for passage of the long-awaited Wild Sky Wilderness have improved dramatically. First introduced in 2001, the Wild Sky bill has twice made it through the Senate only to founder on the rocks of the House Resources Committee and its anti-environmental chairman, Richard Pombo. Now that California voters have sent Pombo and his pointy boots back to his ranch, and Democrats have taken back Congress, 2007 may be the year that Wild Sky finally makes it over the finish line. Sponsors Patty Murray and Rick Larsen plan an early re-introduction. The new House Resources Committee chairman, pro-environment Nick Rahall of West Virginia, has said that passing Wild Sky is one of his "top priorities."

Conservationists have been working with Murray and Larsen to fix several minor problems with the bill and hope to insure full inclusion of the "Hubbard Grove," an area of impressive and easily accessible old-growth forest growing on flat land along the upper North Fork Skykomish river, featuring 700-year-old Douglas fir and cedar trees. Some

acreage may also be added along lower Salmon Creek, and other acreage removed in the lower North Fork valley to facilitate reconstruction or relocation of the severely washed out North Fork Skykomish road above the town of Index. A small acreage, inadvertently added by Forest Service GIS mappers, may be removed at the "Goblin Creek Bench," to allow future campground construction on a gently sloping benchland next to the North Fork road, possibly the only potential campground site in the otherwise steep North Fork Skykomish valley.

If and when it finally passes, the Wild Sky will mark a distinctly new approach to Wilderness in Washington state. Although it includes mountains and high country, its main focus will be protection of biologically rich lower-elevation forests, both old growth and second growth. The Wild Sky Wilderness would include a far greater percentage of land below 3,000 feet than any other Wilderness area in the Cascades, and significant mileage of salmon spawning streams, something almost totally lacking in other Cascade Wilderness areas. Most notably, the Wild Sky would protect more than 6,000 acres of mature, naturally

regenerated, second-growth forests, another first for Washington Wilderness. These 80- to 90-year-old forests grow on productive low-land sites, and have many trees two to three feet in diameter and 150 or more feet tall, well on their way to old-growth.

The Wild Sky is a stand-alone Wilderness bill, without any attached "quid pro quo" price tags, such as the mandated timber cuts, land privatizations, and "economic development" provisions that have blighted Wilderness bills in other states. NCCC hopes that Wild Sky can be a precedent that will help future efforts to protect as Wilderness other low-elevation Cascade places such as the Pratt River valley near North Bend.

NCCC also wishes to express heartfelt thanks to Senator Patty Murray, Congressman Rick Larsen, and their staff members for their hard work, patience, and persistence in sticking with the Wild Sky effort over the past eight sometimes discouraging years. Good things take time. Wild Sky has been a long time in coming, but it looks as though 2007 may be when the stars align to finally make it real.

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just climbing skills. A perhaps more important difference is that *Freedom* was an entertaining and enjoyable read. Here again you must credit Harvey. There were literally hundreds of writers who contributed copy for the book, and usually this kind of process would result in an uneven, herky-jerky manuscript. Harvey did an enormous amount of editing and re-writing, making the thing whole. All through early editions of the book you find little bits of pure Harvey such as in the dishwashing section of the *Alpine Cuisine* chapter, "...the climber merely avoids eating all the way down to the germ cultures at the bottom of the plate." Harvey always shucked off credit for the book's success, saying that it was the work of many and that people only bought it to see Bob Cram's cartoons.

The money kicked off by *Freedom* allowed the publishing group to continue to have fun. Known at this point as the Literary Fund Committee, we were able to publish *The North Cascades* in 1964, *Routes and Rocks* in 1965, and *100 Hikes* in 1966. *100 Hikes* also

benefited greatly from Harvey's editing, and it also turned into a money gusher. With two good cash streams flowing, we were able to publish a really expensive color book, *The Alpine Lakes*, in 1971. Harvey and I disagreed about doing *The Alpine Lakes*. I thought that big exhibit format books were passé, and that trying to get wilderness status for the proposed area was hopeless. I told him, "Look, Harvey, it's mostly Snoqualmie Pass stuff, not nearly impressive enough." He and the Alpine Lakes Protection Society guys felt strongly that we should try. So, reluctantly, I put the book together, grumbling all the way that this wasn't going to do any good. As usual Harvey could see more clearly than me. He never said "I told you so," but from time to time couldn't resist telling me the story of how Governor Dan Evans and President Ford inspected the book in the Oval Office.

Others can better describe Harvey's many accomplishments on the conservation front and in the writing world. They stand large for me as well, but I think most of Harvey as mentor and friend, and I miss him very much.

—TOM MILLER

While I met Harvey for the first time only months before his passing, I knew him, or at least understood him, long before that. It was in 1982 that I first read *101 Hikes in the North Cascades*. At that time, I was looking for ways to access the North Cascades to complete climbs and to discover remote places that the range has to offer. What I found was a message of conservation — not just how or where to go, but, most importantly, how to behave once there. I not only practice "Leave No Trace" when I'm in the hills, but as a matter of course in my everyday life. I have Harvey to thank for that, and so thankful I am.

Last week, as I skied on the heels of the first big snowstorm of the year in the headwaters of the Stilly Valley, the dark and sodden storm clouds parted for just a moment. A patch of blue appeared over me, and through the swirling snow, the big faces of DelCampo and Morning Star appeared. I should like to think Harvey was telling me to keep up the good work. I plan to.

—TOM HAMMOND



Predator Conservation in the North Cascades

BY JIM DAVIS – Conservation Partnership Center

With its rushing streams, towering trees, and remote meadows, the North Cascades is one of the most magnificent wild ecosystems in North America. The North Cascades National Park, Manning Provincial Park, and several major wilderness areas provide a vast core of roadless public lands that are unsurpassed in habitat complexity and sheer beauty. Extensive U.S. National Forests, Washington state forests, and British Columbia Provincial forests provide a roaded, but still substantially wild buffer to surrounding private lands.

But all is not well in this beautiful wilderness paradise. Large predators are present only in small numbers, nowhere near their natural population levels. The grizzly bear is the icon of the American West, but only a few roam the North Cascades. Although sighted occasionally, the elusive gray wolf is also extremely rare in the North Cascades.

These large predators are essential for the proper functioning of natural ecosystems. Rushing streams, towering trees, and remote meadows are but a blank canvas without this top trophic level fully represented. As clearly demonstrated in Yellowstone Park, large predators control herbivore populations and smaller predator populations, ultimately improving vegetation growth and other major ecosystem characteristics.

I marvel that this status quo (the near absence of grizzly bears and gray wolves from the North Cascades) is in any way acceptable to conservationists in Washington. To be fair, many dedicated conservation advocates are doing everything possible to carve out new wilderness, protect roadless areas, enhance wildlife habitat, stall off-road vehicles, halt mindless urban sprawl, and educate the public about our wildlife heritage. But few are speaking up directly for predator conservation. Perhaps it is not politically correct to focus too much attention on charismatic mega fauna. Perhaps some hope that protecting habitat will prompt natural (i.e., less controversial) recovery of predator populations.

But natural recovery is not happening for grizzly bears in the North Cascades and this approach may not work for recovery of the gray wolf population. Complacency in the face of severe grizzly bear and gray wolf population declines may usher in the final extinction

of these magnificent predators from the North Cascades.

Grizzly Bears

Grizzly bears are often portrayed by the media as vicious and highly unpredictable. In



Grizzly

—JOHN HECHTEL

fact, they are very reclusive creatures that act aggressively toward humans only in specific situations, usually when they feel threatened by human actions. Grizzly bears are most often found in high alpine meadows, avalanche chutes, and valley wetlands. Grizzly bears in the North Cascades are omnivores, with about 10 percent of their diet as meat or fish, and much of that winter-killed carrion.

Before Europeans arrived, grizzly bears were thriving throughout most of western North America. Hudson Bay Company trapping records show almost 4,000 grizzly bear hides shipped from trading posts in or near the North Cascades from 1827 to 1859. Today, it is estimated that only 20 to 40 grizzly bears remain in the North Cascades of Washington and British Columbia. This steep population decline is attributed to commercial trapping, habitat loss, and unregulated hunting. An isolated population, a restricted gene pool, and a very slow reproductive rate will make it almost impossible for North Cascade grizzly bears to recover naturally. Aggressive and proactive strategies are needed now to save North Cascades grizzly bears.

Preliminary steps have been taken toward grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades. The grizzly bear was listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated the North Cascades as one of six recovery areas in the lower 48 states. Agency research has indicated that suitable habitat exists in the North Cascades for maintaining at least 200 to 400 grizzly bears. Protection for grizzly bears has been built into federal land management plans (e.g., National Forest Plans). Important steps have also been taken to reduce non-natural food attractants for bears (such as garbage, birdfeed, pet food, and other foods that attract bears to residential areas). Opinion surveys have demonstrated that a strong majority of residents in and around the North Cascades support grizzly bear recovery. Everything is ready to go, but the process has stalled at the federal and state levels.

Federal funding is needed for the USFWS to implement an Environmental Impact Study for grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades. The USFWS recognizes the need for EIS funding, but states that funding is precluded by necessary spending on other endangered species. Conservation Northwest and Defenders of Wildlife have sued the USFWS to prompt more aggressive action on grizzly bear recovery. We eagerly await the results of this lawsuit, but strong advocacy for funding will still be needed to make an EIS happen.

Washington state could also be more proactive on grizzly bear recovery. Although listed as an endangered species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), very limited state funds are available for WDFW to take action on grizzly bear recovery. The agency is further hobbled by a state law that forbids WDFW participation in grizzly bear augmentation programs (bringing in bears from outside the North Cascades). WDFW desperately needs additional funds to work on grizzly bear recovery and the absurd restriction on population augmentation needs to be lifted.

During the past decade, British Columbia has moved ahead of the U.S. on grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades by planning and partially implementing an augmentation program using bears from Wells Gray Provincial Park. Candidate bears were collared

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and tracked for suitability and lists were created of people to serve on a citizen's grizzly bear recovery task force. Unfortunately, the augmentation effort has been put on hold by the British Columbia Ministry for the Environment. The delay has been attributed to concerns about the effectiveness of grizzly bear augmentation programs.

A citizen's task force should be appointed in the British Columbia North Cascades to help assess the potential effectiveness of a grizzly bear augmentation program. The task force should have access to the best available scientific advice on grizzly bear augmentation programs and should carefully examine the social and economic aspects of grizzly bear population augmentation in the British Columbia North Cascades. Further delay in implementing this program will only increase the chances that grizzly bears will disappear entirely from the North Cascades.

Gray Wolves



Canis lupus

—GARY KRAMER,
*US FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE, 2003*

Wolves are probably the most maligned predator in the world. The public's perception of wolves has been influenced by everything from childhood stories of Little Red Riding Hood to exaggerated claims by ranchers of wolf predation on livestock. In fact, wolves are extremely intelligent animals with a complex and fascinating social structure that is essential for their success. There have been only two documented incidents in North America of wild wolves involved in human fatalities. Healthy, purebred wolves rarely if ever attack humans.

Wolf livestock kills are also not nearly as common as rumored. Wild dogs are far more likely to be responsible. Wolves generally prey on large ungulates, with elk likely being the preferred prey in the North Cascades and deer a close second. Beaver and marmots are also common prey for wolves and may become important for survival of wolves in the North Cascades. Wolves usually prey on old or injured animals, thus helping to maintain the vigor of prey species.

Before Europeans arrived, wolves roamed nearly all of North America from Alaska to Mexico and the Pacific to the Atlantic. Trapping for pelts decimated wolf populations in the North Cascades and much of the rest of the North America. Extermination programs (trapping, poisoning, and shooting) further suppressed wolf populations in the North

Cascades. By 1930, wolves were thought to be extirpated from the Washington North Cascades and were rarely seen in the British Columbia North Cascades.

Today, the gray wolf population in the North Cascades is extremely low. However, there have been occasional sightings. Since the early 1990s, three packs with pups have been observed in the Washington North Cascades, indicating that reproduction has taken place. Gray wolves with pups were photographed in 1991 near Hozomeen along Ross Lake. Adult wolf sightings have also been reported from the Pasayten Wilderness, the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other sites in the North Cascades.

Gray wolves are currently listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. They are also listed as endangered by the state of Washington. These listings preclude the hunting, trapping, shooting, harassing, or capturing of gray wolves in the Washington North Cascades. Gray wolves are classified as big game animals in British Columbia, although hunting is very limited in the Canadian North Cascades.

The biology and behavior of gray wolves is conducive to population recovery in the North Cascades. Wolves reproduce at a young age and often have large litters. Research has shown that wolf packs form and dissolve quickly. Areas with good habitat and adequate prey abundance can be colonized rapidly. A wolf recovery program in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho has resulted in a few of these wolves moving into eastern Washington and Oregon. It is likely just a matter of time until small packs from northeast Washington colonize the North Cascades and create the potential for wolf population expansion throughout the North Cascades.

Primary threats to the long-term survival of wolves in the North Cascades include habitat loss (from residential development of lowlands needed by wolf prey species), overhunting of wolf prey species (elk and deer), and human-induced wolf mortality (predator control, poaching, and hunting in British Columbia). Gray wolves will not return to the North Cascades unless all of these factors are adequately addressed.

WDFW is responding to wolf colonization through development of a wolf-management plan. The plan will identify appropriate locations and population goals for gray wolves in Washington. It will also outline appropriate responses to wolf predation on livestock. WDFW will work closely with representatives from multiple stakeholder groups to develop the plan.

Now is the time for conservationists to speak up for wolf recovery in the North Cascades. WDFW, the Washington Legislature,

and the British Columbia Ministry for the Environment need to know that North Cascades residents support wolf recovery. Wolf population goals in Washington state should reflect the public's support for recovery. Conservationists must also remain vigilant in protecting lowland habitats for wolf prey species. For example, lowland habitat loss may be a primary reason for elk population declines in Skagit and Whatcom Counties.

Elk and deer are considered big game animals. Hunting quotas for these species need to reflect a balanced approach that leaves adequate prey for wolves. Wolf recovery advocates must be present to speak up for the needs of wolves when these hunting quotas are being set.

Limiting human induced mortality of wolves should be a top priority for conservation groups. Predator control by wildlife agencies is driven by frequent complaints from a vocal minority opposed to wolf recovery. Conservationists need to counter this pressure with frequent calls for wolf protection. USFWS and WDFW enforcement of legal protections for endangered wolves is essential. Conservationists should encourage wildlife agencies to follow-up aggressively on every illegal wolf kill. Efforts should also be made to end all legal hunting of wolves in the British Columbia North Cascades.

The Path Forward

The North Cascades Conservation Council and other conservation groups in Washington and British Columbia can make a difference in predator recovery in the North Cascades. Public opinion surveys have shown that rural residents of the North Cascades strongly support recovery of grizzly bears. Opponents of recovery are only a vocal minority who purport to speak for all North Cascade residents, but are truly out of touch with their neighbors. Conservation groups need to reach out to rural partners and work together to bring back these magnificent animals.

Land management and wildlife agencies, as well as the legislative bodies that provide their funding, need to recognize that feared controversy surrounding predator recovery is more hype than reality. Scientifically-based plans and careful communications with citizens can overcome nearly all potential conflicts over predator recovery. Government decision makers need to listen to the general public, and not just the vocal minority who stir up opposition to predators.

Agencies should also fund education programs for North Cascades residents that emphasize the simple steps that can be taken to prevent conflicts with bears and wolves. Programs should reach out specifically to minority populations (e.g., Hispanics, Asians,

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USFS Salvage Logging Plan: 2,800 Acres

BY TOM HAMMOND

The USFS is planning a salvage logging operation in primary tributaries of the Methow River, the Chewuch River, Beaver, Bernhardt, Boulder, Brevicomis, Bromas, Cabin, Cedar, Granite, Lightning, McCay, Pelican, Ramsey and Twentymile Creeks. This huge operation would encompass 2,800 acres, much of it burned in the Tripod Fire, but not all. Perhaps most distressing, the USFS is seeking to amend the 1989 Forest Plan to allow:

- Removal of green, living trees greater than 21 inches in diameter at breast height.
- Log in designated Management Areas to include MA14 (emphasis supposedly on wildlife habitat diversity), MA12 (Lynx territory), MA5 (recreation), MA25, MA26.
- Adding 3.5 miles of new roads in a burned area, as well as reconstruction (read: construction) of an additional 6.5 miles of road. That is, at this time when so many roads and trails are so damaged, they're proposing adding 10 miles of roads to log a forest-fire area! The technical term for all of this is that the USFS would "exceed open road density standards" established by the Forest Plan of 1989.

The board of the NCCC takes exception to this plan, and we hope our membership does too. When you read this, it'll be too late to get a letter on the official record (the USFS gave less than a month for comments), but here's the one we sent. We highly recommend every member of this organization send Ranger Newcom a letter as well, if for no other reason than to let him and the USFS know we're watching and taking this very seriously.

Please send your own letter to the Forest Service.

John Newcom
Methow Valley District Ranger
24 West Chewuch Road
Winthrop, WA 98862

Dear Ranger Newcom,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed salvage logging in the Tripod complex area of the Methow Valley. I have a question, an observation, and a suggestion.

If the purpose is to remove hazard trees along forest routes to improve public safety, why are new roads required?

To be sure, at a time when we the taxpayers are confronted with extensive road damage from recent floods (2003, 2006), not to mention road maintenance backlogs that present formidable challenges for all elements of our forest health, the idea of building more road miles goes counter to common sense, and cannot be sanctioned.

Perhaps as part of an effort to salvage those trees that pose a real threat, the USFS can engage in decommissioning (permanently where applicable) roads or otherwise mitigating the impacts brought by roads, and the fire as well. We will be happy to work with the USFS to identify candidates for such work.

Scientific research has proven that burned areas are not destroyed and that fire is an essential part of forest health. Furthermore, research indicates burned areas are more susceptible to ground disturbances associated with logging: soil erosion, stream siltation, and destruction of seedlings and ultimately inhibit forest regeneration.

It runs counter to all common sense and scientific research to engage in extensive salvage logging activities in these areas. It would appear that the proposed salvage efforts would cause more harm than good and at a time when forest service resources should be focused on trail and road repair, not increased road building and forest product removal.

Sincerely,

Thomas P Hammond
North Cascades Conservation Council

Proposed Radio Upgrades Threaten Park and National Forest Integrity

BY TOM HAMMOND

The USFS and NPS have been working on a plan to upgrade their radio communications to a narrowband system. The proposal originally called for use of 12 repeater sites throughout the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. This has now been downsized to nine sites. Unfortunately, all five proposed sites within North Cascades National Park are still on the table. Of the five, the only site that doesn't currently have radio infrastructure is Desolation Peak/Lookout.

The NCCC continues to seek less intrusive options—the radio-repeater infrastructure is a building that measures eight by eight by six feet and may have a mast antenna some 50 feet high. In addition to the structures, installation and maintenance of such infrastructure will be highly disruptive to Park visitors and wildlife, what with helicopter construction and service flights.

Predator Conservation in the North Cascades

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and others) whose conservation knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors will become increasingly important for preserving future predator populations in the North Cascades.

For more information on grizzly bear and wolf recovery in the North Cascades and how you can contribute to recovery efforts, contact Jim Davis at jimdavis-cpc@comcast.net.



And on sunny days the antennas on mountaintops are visible for miles.

The NCCC proposes instead using satellite phones and conference-bridging technology. But the NPS is not yet embracing the idea due primarily to line-of-sight limitations on transmission, but I suspect a bit of organizational (and contractual) inertia may be in play as well. We will continue to work with the NPS to find an alternative solution, or mitigate their proposal.

Please contact Mount Baker Ranger District (attn: Samantha Chang) at 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284, to convey your thoughts on the appropriateness of large radio infrastructure in a Wilderness setting.

Remembering Karen Fant

KAREN FANT, one of the founders of the Washington Wilderness Coalition (WWC) in 1979 (and a former NCCC board member), died in July 2006; however, her death had not been reported until November. Her friends and family had assumed that Fant had gone on one of her occasional unannounced overseas trips.

Known for her independence, Fant had numerous friends and admirers in the wilderness-preservation movement, but many said she kept many of her plans to herself.

Fant, 57, was credited with a major part of the grassroots work that resulted in Congress enacting the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, preserving one million acres of wilderness. She was known among her colleagues as someone who could mediate and bring diplomacy to sometimes heated meetings and discussions.

Norm Winn, former Mountaineer conservation chair and WWC president, remembered Fant for her diplomatic skills. He said, unlike many others who fought for the wilderness, Fant took the time and effort to visit local groups and small towns affected by legislation, such as that for the Wild Sky Wilderness.

She was born in Altadena, California where she grew up going on hiking trips in the Sierras with her family. She earned a degree in geology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and later married Ron Yarnell, an Alaska outfitter who led wilderness excursions. The two later divorced.

A memorial serve is being planned for the coming spring in Seattle.

—Norm Winn, *The Mountaineer*, January 2007

Membership Application

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

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

Please check the appropriate box(es):

I want to join the NCCC

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

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