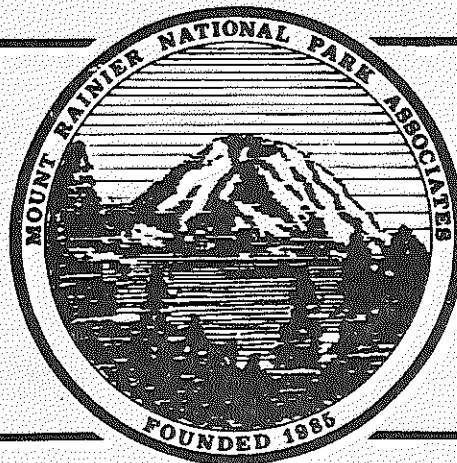


# MRNPA



# NEWS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES

### FROM THE SUMMIT...

At our most recent meeting, the board of directors began discussing the many issues facing the park. At our next meeting we will be deciding where we as an organization will place our energies over the next year. I am sharing our thoughts with you and encourage each of you to let us know which items are of most importance to you. If we have missed issues of concern to you, please let us know either by coming to the next board meeting, giving one of the board members a call or by dropping us a line. We are only able to accomplish our goals because of your efforts.

Here is a list of the issues that were mentioned:

- Transportation in general, but specifically in relation to parking and/or limiting access of private vehicles.
- Increase public participation in plans for MRNP.
- Is there a need and is it appropriate to have a toilet at Pan Point?
- Request that the Park Service redo the general management plan.
- Develop a concept plan for the Mowich Lake area.
- Assume stronger watchdog role to assume that small decisions do not get overlooked.
- Review visitor impact and develop a MRNPA philosophy regarding it.
- Consider raising funds to assist with park projects we desire to be completed.

As you can see, we have no shortage of issues to be considered. I am sure you can probably think of many more. I again encourage every one of you to get involved in preserving and improving the park by sharing your ideas, concerns and energy with us. To keep you better informed, we will be coordinating our board meetings with the issuance of the newsletter so you will quickly be apprised of our actions and decisions. I hope to hear from you and to see you in the park.

Pat Smith

### ARTICLES THIS ISSUE

FROM THE SUMMIT ...

- BATTLE OVER NORTHWEST FORESTS
- NPS OFFICIALS MEET CONSERVATION LEADERS
- MRNPA TRUSTEE RECEIVES AWARD
- COPPER TOPPER UPDATE
- PARK MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS
- MEMBERS' FORUM
- POETRY CORNER

### YOU'RE INVITED

## MRNPA Board of Trustees Cordially invites All General Members

If you're interested in what MRNPA really does, or if you'd like to take a more active role in the association, or have a special issue or concern you'd like us to address, or if you're just curious, please join us at our meetings.

#### Next Board Meeting:

Monday, November 6th, 1989.

Time: 6:30 dinner; 7:30-9:30 (?) meeting.

Place: Andy's Tukwila Station Restaurant  
16200 W. Valley Hwy, Renton.

Agenda: We will further define, clarify, and prioritize the issues for 1990. Please see "From The Summit" in this newsletter.

Need more information: Call any board member.

## Conservation Group Meets

On September 20, 1989, National Park Service officials met with representatives of various conservation groups. Pat Smith, president, and Bob Aegerter, past president of MRNPA, attended the meeting. Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Neal Guse discussed the issues that the park will be facing in the near future.

The National Park Inn at Longmire is currently closed and undergoing renovation. Work includes some restoration, foundation work and adding nine rooms over the kitchen which will increase its viability for winter lodging. The renovation is scheduled to be completed in April 1990, at a cost of \$1.5 million.

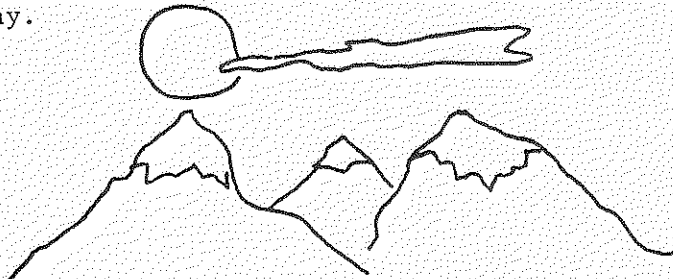
Construction on the replacement or rehabilitation of the lodge at Sunrise will begin in 1992 if Congress approves the funds. Four alternatives are being considered: (1) bring the current lodge up to code; (2) increase the renovation of the current lodge; (3) replace the lodge with a facility on the south side of the parking lot; (4) replace the lodge with a facility on the north side of the parking lot. A draft will be issued to the public in mid-October.

A 10-year effort is being made to restore the meadows at Paradise. The rehabilitation efforts are supported by the fee money returned to the park.

Construction is proposed to replace or rehabilitate the ski dormitory next to the Visitors Center at Paradise in 1991.

The west side road reopened on September 2, 1989. The cost was \$300,000.

The park is currently negotiating with the National Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration about work to be done on SR 410, otherwise known as Mather Memorial Parkway.



### "WILDFLOWERS"

-By Larry Carreau

I conversed with a wildflower, the other day--  
It peddled some information, and had this to say:  
"Let the trail take you away--  
But remember where your wildflowers can be found,  
So that you may touch ground with them--

Someday."

## MRNPA Trustee Receives Award

This year's Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award was presented in September to Polly Dyer, a leading conservationist in the fight to preserve and protect Olympic National Park in Washington.

Each year, the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Bon Ami Company present the Douglas Award to an individual for outstanding efforts to protect a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System.

Dyer has been a conservationist for decades. She is involved with groups that are active in protecting Washington's three national parks -- Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic.

Dyer has been instrumental in protecting and expanding Olympic National Park. In the 1950s, she successfully fought logging and a coast road slated for the park. In the 1970s, Dyer helped head the campaign to add fifteen miles of roadless beach to Olympic, and to keep the Quinault area from being dropped from the park.

More recently, she successfully rallied conservationists behind the Washington Wilderness Act, which designated wilderness in Washington's national parks and other areas.

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### MRNPA OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

|            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
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| Vice-Pres: | Jon Soest     | 206/863-3507 |
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EDITOR: Ellen Ostern

TYPISTS: Peg Engel or Sally Soest

LAY-OUT: Van Perdue or Peg Engel

MAILING: Arlene Conde, Sally Soest

ARTICLES: Submitted by committee heads,  
board members, and members-at-large

# The Battle over NW Forests

By Philip Shabecoff  
The New York Times

The struggle over the last remnants of the ancient virgin forests of the Pacific Northwest is the latest battle in a fierce, century-long contest for control of the nation's publicly owned woodlands.

Environmentalists and their allies are trying to stop wholesale logging of the last of the old growth trees in Oregon and Washington -- towering firs, spruces and hemlocks, many of them hundreds of years old.

Conservationists have argued in court that cutting these trees threatens to wipe out the spotted owl, a bird protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The timber industry contends that the environmentalists are valuing owls above people and that a ban on cutting would threaten jobs and the existence of dozens of mill towns sprinkled across the two states. Congress is trying to legislate a solution.

But as James Overbay, deputy chief of the Forest Service, said in a recent interview, "This is really a debate over two philosophies: should the national forests be used or preserved?"

While the debate currently centers on the old growth forests of the Northwest, it continues to flicker throughout much of the National Forest System. Of the 191 million acres within this domain, 108.1 million acres have been developed for recreation, logging and other uses; 32.5 million are protected as official wilderness, and an additional 50.4 million acres remain roadless with 5.5 million of them recommended for classification as wilderness.

While the Forest Service argues that an important part of its mission is to supply wood for housing and industry, environmentalists say that it is selling off too much timber, building too many roads into areas that could be preserved as wilderness, disfiguring too many forests by allowing clear cutting, and continuing to lose substantial amounts of money by spending more for opening up areas for timber sales than it receives in return -- in effect, subsidizing the timber industry.

Much of the timber, environmentalists point out, goes to feed the export market and benefits economic competitors like Japan.

The debate over preservation versus development goes back at least to the end of the last century and the public quarrel between Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the Forest Service, and John Muir, the naturalist whom

many revere as the prophet of the modern environmental movement.

Pinchot, a European-trained forester and confidant of Theodore Roosevelt, was the primary force in creating a new conservation movement in the United States as the 19th century drew to a close.

In response to the destruction of trees by commercial interests, Pinchot preached a utilitarian approach to the management of the recently created national forest reserves: timber and other living resources would be withdrawn only on a sustainable basis.

Conservation, he wrote, "demands the complete and orderly development of all our resources for the benefit of all the people, instead of the partial exploitation of them for the benefit of the few."

Pinchot often ran afoul of Muir, who defended the right of nature to exist for its own sake and who called for much of the public land to be preserved intact.

In the first half of this century, in fact, the Forest Service stressed the protection of trees as much as timber cutting.

Forest Service officials including Robert Marshall and Aldo Leopold were pioneers in preserving public lands as untouched wilderness.

After World War II, emphasis shifted to supplying wood for a growing economy. But increasingly this approach has come in conflict with the demands of newly affluent Americans for more outdoor recreation areas and with the demands of the growing environmental movement for preservation of the natural landscape and its wildlife.

In 1976, Congress passed the National Forest Management Act, which called on the Forest Service to draw up long-term plans, with the participation of the public, to achieve balanced use of the forests.

While most of the plans have been completed, the debate continues over how the tradeoff between conservation and development should be made.

"The forest system is being degraded in a number of ways," said Kaid Benfield, a lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

"Trees are being cut where they should not be cut and in ways they should not be cut," he said.

While the debate reached its height during the Reagan administration, which sought to transfer public resources to private hands, so far there is no sign of a shift of priorities under President Bush, environmentalists say.

The amount of timber stripped from national forests peaked at 12.7 billion board feet in (See "NW Forests" p.4)

NW FORESTS, continued from p. 3)

1987 but would have been exceeded last year, had not logging been curtailed by forest fires.

In the Northwest alone, a record 5.5 billion board feet was logged from 19 national forests in 1988, about 20 percent more than 10 years ago.

Environmentalists argue that the amount of timber cut from the national forests remains high at nearly 12 billion board feet a year. But Overbay pointed out that the Reagan administration had aimed for a harvest twice that large, an amount that is now considered excessive.

By training and by self-interest, members of the service are mostly concerned with harvesting timber, said Barry Flamm, chief forester of the Wilderness Society, a conservation group.

The Forest Service's budget depends in part on how much timber it sells.

For a local journalist's excellent review of the Northwest's old-growth controversy, see Bill Dietrich's articles in The Seattle Times of Monday, October 2, 1989.

## COPPER TOPPER UPDATE

Received from Packwood Ranger District  
July 1989

A high level of interest was expressed by private citizens, newspaper, local businesses, Federal, state and local government, and elected representatives concerning the future management of the project area. A comprehensive range of issues was identified from a review of written comments and from input gathered during public meetings. A review of the issues clearly indicates that the majority of the public response received supports deferring management activities for the next ten years. However, the concerns over long-term management and the availability of timber for harvest from the area will likely remain high.

The interdisciplinary scoping and analysis of the Copper Topper project area has concluded that timber harvesting needs to be delayed for this ten-year planning period. The Packwood District Ranger supported this conclusion during the IDT presentation on May 22, 1989. Moreover, there are indications that a period longer than ten years may be needed before key environmental limitations to harvest will be ameliorated.

## MRNPA ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

Dr. Jerry Franklin, widely respected for his knowledge on plant ecology and botany, and research on the ecology of old-growth forests, addressed the Annual MRNPA meeting held at Barnaby's Restaurant in late May. Dr. Franklin's background includes 25 years of research and forest management and ecology in the Pacific Northwest and Japan with particular emphasis on structure and function of coniferous ecosystems and the importance of old-growth forests.

In his remarks to the annual gathering, Dr. Franklin mentioned that in his boyhood he had recreated in the Park. What follows is a brief synopsis of his presentation:

We have very little old-growth left in this region; perhaps 10% may remain in an undisturbed condition, and much of this is open to logging. The Olympics and North Cascades contain the last large areas of old-growth, perhaps 2.5 to 3.5 million acres, of which only 800,000 acres is protected. These forests are very special in terms of their size, longevity, and biomass, and they deserve our stewardship. We have been conducting ongoing research into old-growth ecosystems for the past 20 years, and have identified many organisms. The Department of Fish and Wildlife originally perpetuated the myths of the sterility of old-growth forests, but we now find these areas are rich with invertebrates. The spotted owls are typical of the organisms in old-growth which require large areas of old-growth, as well as the Vaux Swift. But even young natural forests support large wildlife populations.

Many of the insects in these forests are predators, and keep the herbivorous insects at a minimum. Water quality is at its best in old-growth forests, as there are low levels of erosion. Flooding from rain on snow events in warm snow zones is prevented. These forests are "high-productivity" forests, and do not fit the decadent image which is frequently presented. The

(See Franklin Speaks, p. 5)

**FRANKLIN SPEAKS**, continued from p.4.

structure of the forests -- their canopy, biomass, etc. -- is very diverse, with 200' canopies creating rich habitat.

We have only realized the importance of dead trees within the last decade. Downed trees may contribute to the ecosystem for an additional 300 years. Old-growth forests may help create new forests through their structural diversity. Much of our current research has focused on the individual organism rather than the whole ecosystem. The western yew is primarily an old-growth species, and research is currently underway to determine its value in cancer prevention. It is a dioecious species (separate male and female trees), and we haven't learned how to grow it commercially. What is needed is decision-making based on the total ecosystem -- not just the owls.

It is important that legislators like Senators McClure and Hatfield hear our views on these issues. We need more creative ideas along the lines similar to the Timber, Fish, and Wildlife agreement in Washington State. We need to start recognizing that placement of wood into streams may be the most important aspect of protecting riparian areas.

Global warming will reap radical changes on Mt. Rainier National Park. Industry would like to cut all the old-growth forests now and replant forests that rapidly produce carbon dioxide. But converting old-growth to tree plantations will only contribute to global warming. Dispersed clearcutting is also an idea which does not work. What is needed is leaving more downed wood in place, more snag retention, and at least 10-14 live trees per acre.

Dr. Franklin ended his presentation by responding to questions from those present.

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**Mount Rainier National Park  
Information**

**(206) 569-2211**

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"Too many people use their automobiles not as a means to get to the parks but rather use the parks as a place to take their automobiles. What our national parks need are not more good roads but more bad roads....There's nothing like a good bad dirt road to screen out the slightly interested and invite in the genuinely interested. And it's perfectly fair and democratic."

- Joseph Wood Krutch, 1968

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## **MEMBERS FORUM**

[This space is available for comments by members-at-large.]

I wonder if the number of hikers/backpackers to Summerland decreased this past summer after the NPS set up boulders along the roadway as a means of discouraging over-flow parking near the trailhead? The number of lined parking stalls available for hikers has been inadequate for the past several years. It seems that the NPS is attempting to solve a long-term problem with a short-term attempt to discourage hikers by making it impossible to park within a half-mile of the trailhead (unless one arrives early enough to secure one of the few marked parking slots).

I really question this band-aid attempt to solve a deeper-lying problem of visitor impact. Perhaps it's time to initiate day-use permits as well as overnight ones. I personally do not like that idea; but the need for long-term problem solving is evident.

Perhaps the Park Service is waiting for public complaint/comment. Perhaps it's time for users of the Park to get more involved in what's happening in the Park. Perhaps it's time for an MRNPA member to respond to this article in the next issue of the newsletter. Or better yet, write to the Park Superintendent!

Any suggestions/comments regarding the inadequate parking available at the Summerland trailhead or any other issue in the Park are welcomed and wanted. Join forces with the Board of Trustees as they attempt to prioritize issues that should be addressed by MRNPA. Look for meeting place, time and date in this issue.

Margie Goulden

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**RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

## Poem to a Trail Worker

This year's 5th Annual MRNPA Trail Work Party was held above Paradise--  
Beneath Rainier's glistening cone--  
And in order to show my appreciation for this year's trail participants--  
I'm submitting this poem:

Jon Soest showed off his youthful trail exuberance, he even did a sitting glissade--  
And upon our return, his ice-cold beverages were ready and waiting-- NOT LEMONADE!!!

And then there's Ruth Ittner, recipient of the Governor's Award for this year--  
Her dedication runs deep, her experience-- far-reaching, her heart so very dear!

Founding president Margie Goulden made a showing-- in fact, a first-time member of the bunch.  
Her husband Jeff and daughter Molly rushed up the trail to compliment her at lunch.

Edith Goodman, the veteran mountaineer and historian, was there to help between hikes--  
She has climbed Rainier 3 times, while taking the word "voluntarism" to equal heights.

Mount Rainier National Park trail leader Steve Scott was there to give our group direction.  
Please don't let the word get out that Steve's a nice guy--  
And his trail-work borders on perfection.

Past president Bob Aegerter and his wife Mary Jo were there to set things straight--  
Bob and his wife have attended every work party since 1985-- now ain't that great!!!

John Myatt lent a big hand and told us of his adventures on the Nisqually River--  
John's love for the outdoors out-weighs Gibraltar Rock, and his tales will make you shiver.

Jo Marpert came to help all the way from Redmond, and she's currently trekking in Nepal.  
I hope the big rocks of Mount Rainier didn't scare Jo away, but I'm sure she had a ball.

There was a new face in our group this year, Phelps Freeborne of Seattle--  
Phelps holds an impressive degree in geology-- but showed us his flair for shoveling gravel.

Paul Kiehn represented the famous "Kiehn clan," and he didn't leave without leaving the  
Famous "Kiehn mark."  
His brother Art organized the first trail work party back in 1985--  
And to this day it still remains "a work of Art!"

John and Jane Titland rounded out the bunch-- John is our treasurer and his wife is his  
Treasure.  
These residents of Bellevue know that trail work can be tough--  
But its rewards are truly beyond measure.

THE TRAIL IS TO THE HIKER AS THE IMAGE IS TO THE POEM.

THANK YOU, ALL!!!

-- Larry Carreau  
MRNPA Trails/Outdoors

And thank you, Larry, for your dedication to the preservation of the Park and all  
your volunteer hours in support of MRNPA.

## MRNPA NEWS BRIEFS

From time to time we print summaries of significant projects and work accomplished by Natural Resource Planning staff of Mount Rainier National Park.

### Wilderness and Backcountry Management

Impact inventories of backcountry and recently established Wilderness conducted since 1973 show that some damaged areas have been restored or are recovering. However the major problems apparent today include denuded areas from the development of numerous social trails and campsites in cross-country zones, improper human waste disposal, and shoreline erosion of lakes and streams. The effects of backcountry use on wildlife have not been explored. Additional research is needed to address sociological aspects of Wilderness management.

### Inventory of Wilderness Trailside Camps

Starting in 1985, campsite impacts in 15 Wilderness Trailside Camps were monitored in Mount Rainier National Park by obtaining bare-ground measurements (through radial transects) and establishing photographic and vegetation transects for fifty-nine campsites. Thirty-nine campsite impacts were documented and included mutilated trees, presence of severely eroded social trails, litter, illegal campfires, and human waste problems. Twenty-six out of these 59 campsites were located less than 100 ft from lakes and/or streams with distances ranging from 1.4 m to 29.0 m.

Neal Guse, Superintendent at Mt. Rainier National Park, made several announcements at the Annual Meeting.

The snowfall had been measured at 737", which was about 111" more than normal.

Reconstruction on the National Park Inn at Longmire will continue until the end of April, 1990. Asbestos problems have complicated the effort which was to be finished next March. However, the contractor is competent, according to Guse, and work could be completed by Christmas.

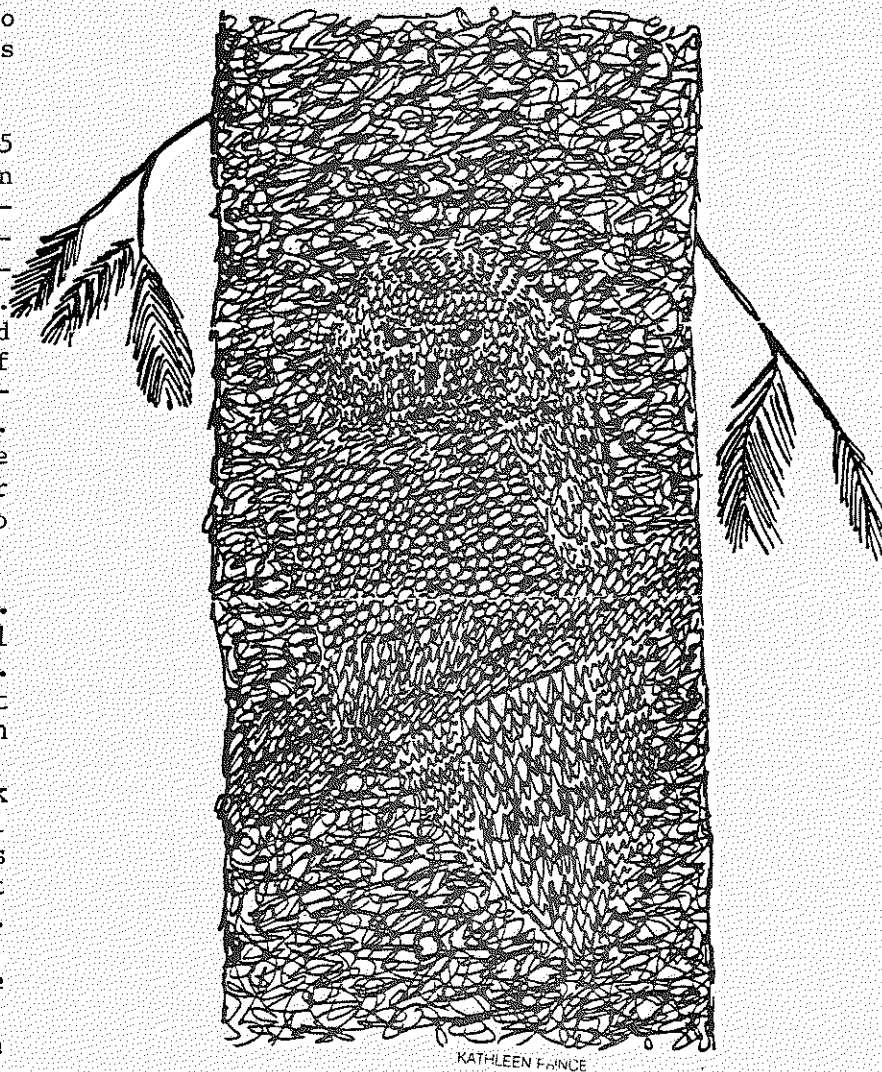
Resurfacing of Highway 410 has been delayed due to funding problems, but the north end of the road could be finished by the end of 1991.

The Sunrise Lodge project has been put on hold due to the Yellowstone fires, but will be active again in June.

The Park sustained about half a million dollars damage from spring

storms, which includes the road to Carbon River, the Tahoma Creek Bridge, and Longmire structures near the river.

Other issues discussed by Guse were a year-long study to sample visitor opinion on the feasibility of shuttle busses, which has been completed, and a Wilderness Management Plan incorporating a 10-page document of comments received. Overall visitation stabilized at about 1.8 million.



**RENEW MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY**

# RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

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