

MRNPA**NEWS****NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES****ARTICLES THIS ISSUE**

FROM THE SUMMIT
 NATION'S PARKS NEED MORE AID
 NATIONAL PARKS TO WILDERNESS?
 ANIMAL TRACKS
 POETRY CORNER
 TOO MANY VEHICLES IMPACT PARKS
 ANNUAL MEETING
 RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!
 FOURTH OF JULY HIKES

RENEW**MEMBERSHIP TODAY****HELP SUPPORT OUR GRASSROOTS EFFORTS**

Thank you to all those who have already renewed your membership for 1988. You are our best spokespeople. Please share this newsletter with a friend -- let others know the important work you are supporting with your continued membership.

And if you haven't renewed, please do so with the membership form in the newsletter. If you continue to believe in the philosophy and goals established by Mount Rainier National Park Associates, DO RENEW TODAY.

During the past year, you have been asked to respond to two Forest Plans (Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie) -- the final decisions of which can greatly impact Mount Rainier National Park. And in the summer newsletter, you can read of possible logging operations near the Nisqually entrance to the Park which will HEAVILY impact Mount Rainier National Park.

The little "island" of protected Park is being impacted from all sides. Your letters are vital to the preservation of Mount Rainier National Park as we have been fortunate to know it. Please take this responsibility seriously. WE ARE THE MRNPA. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Thank you for your continued support. The Board of Trustees will again strive for another year, with your support, to Maintain, Restore, Nurture, Protect, and Appreciate Mount Rainier National Park.

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER**WRITE YOUR LETTERS TODAY!**

If you haven't already written your letter in regard to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Plan, PLEASE WRITE TODAY. Refer to page 8 in the Alert mailed to you in March.

By not addressing the need for recreation experiences within the National Forests (hiking, backpacking, climbing, packstock use, family walks, etc.), the Forest Service is actually encouraging greater use of our national parks and wilderness areas. This in turn creates over-use and impact in areas that are fragile. And this in turn creates a need to limit with a permit system recreational use of national parks and wildernesses.

By not addressing the need for old-growth stands, the Forest Service is jeopardizing

(See "Letters", p. 2)

RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

MT RAINIER NEWS BRIEFS

courtesy of National Park Service

Mount Rainier National Park received only three responses to its recent request for comments on proposed backcountry management actions according to Superintendent Neal G. Guse. Guse stated that the responses included a misconception that the proposal to close the horse corral at Ipsut Creek meant a closure of the Ipsut Creek Campground. He emphasized that this was not the case. As a result of the public review, Superintendent Guse has decided to take the following actions:

1. Remove the North Mowich shelter
2. Close campsite #1 at Clover Lake
3. Close the fellfields on the west side of the Muir Snowfield to overnight camping for one year in order to carry out in-depth site evaluation.
4. Close the Ipsut Creek Corral area to stock holding.

Park Information: Call (206) 569-2211, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, seven days a week; or (206) 569-2343 for a 24-hour recorded message.

Travel:	Hotel Auto Bckentry			
	Visitors	Guests	Campers	Campers
February 88	34,967	323	456	468
February 87	31,766	412	402	406
88 to date	78,696	701	1,101	1,024
87 to date	71,864	845	711	602
Percent	+10%yr	-17%yr	+55%yr	+70%yr

LETTERS (continued from p. 1)

the continued survival of certain animal species (spotted owl, red-backed vole, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, the flying squirrel). Are these our goals for our National Forests? Is this what we are going to allow the Forest Service to accomplish?

Please write today. Support your favorite areas for hiking, camping, fishing, etc. Many of them are going to be logged and clear-cut if we do nothing. In addition to your special areas of concern, please ask for the following in regard to Mount Rainier National Park.

Ask the Forest Service to support the conservationists' Alternative G, as modified by the following:

- No cutting in elk winter browse north of Mount Rainier. Elk wallows in high alpine meadows are destroying wildflowers.

- No cutting in the Chenuis Creek Valley. The complete drainage should ultimately be added to the Park.

- Increase the width of protection for the Mather Memorial Parkway. Management of the Parkway should ultimately be given to the Park Service.

- Old-growth in the Huckleberry Creek and Lost Creek drainages must be protected.

- Make special mention of wild and scenic designation for the Carbon, Clearwater, Greenwater and White Rivers.

- Expand the size of spotted owl habitat areas to 4500 acres with protected corridors of old-growth linking these areas.

- Reduce the annual Allowable Sale Quantity to below 128 million board feet.

Send your letter to:

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Attention: Forest Plan
1022 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Also, send copies to your Congressional Representative and Senators:

Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Postmark your letter by May 2, 1988.

TRAIL WORK PARTY

Save the last weekend in July for our annual fun and work party at Mount Rainier National Park. In past years, the Park Service has reserved camping spots for us at one of the campgrounds for a Friday and Saturday night. Some workers and families arrived Friday evening, some on Saturday morning. The actual WORK DAY will be Saturday, July 30th. Potluck dinner follows at 6 p.m. with lots of fellowship and an evening campfire.

We need help with the organization of the work party - coordinating through the Park Service - as well as with the food organization. Anyone interested? Please contact Pat Smith at (206) 241-5704.

CIRCLE THE DATES:

July 29 (Friday night)

July 30 (Saturday - WORK)

July 31 (Sunday - hike and play)

If interested in signing up for the Work Party, please send your name and address to Pat Smith, 17209 - 6th Pl SW, Normandy Park, WA 98166; OR call her at the above number. More information will be sent to you regarding the Trail Work Party.

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LAY-OUT: Van Perdue, Jeff Goulden, Peg Engel
MAILING: Arlene Conde, Sally Soest
ARTICLES: Submitted by committee heads,
board members, and members-at-large

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 1988
7 - 10 p.m.
at BARANABY'S in Tukwila
16401 West Valley Highway

Guest speaker to be announced.

Plan to attend this yearly gathering in which you can meet the new Officers and Board of Trustees; socialize a bit; learn about, comment on, make suggestions for the Mount Rainier National Park Associates. You are our supporting membership. We'd like to meet more of you.

More information, including a map, will be mailed to each member by mid-May. CIRCLE the date NOW. See you there!

FOREST PLANNING: HOW GOOD, HOW RELEVANT?

With the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1971, the public has become more involved in the decisions about harvesting timber on federal lands. Aware that increased timber production during and after World War II was depleting public lands, concerned citizens pushed for passage of the Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as a way of resolving conflicts between environmentalists and the timber industry.

For the National Forests, the critical legislation is the 1976 National Forest Management Act, which mandated minimum forest practices and required that 10-year plans be written at the individual forest level. The Northwest has the largest, most productive forests, and therefore the most controversial plans. The most recently released plan, for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, is "state of the art" with computer graphic plans and computer modeling of alternative resource uses and their economic impact. While we disagree on basic assumptions and goals for the Forest, there is good reason to commend the professional quality of the planning activity.

The Plan presents a number of alternatives and the public is invited to select among them. Not made explicit are more basic choices about the basic assumptions on which the plans are based. Without intending to misdirect the public, attention is directed at the details and misses the big picture. Reading the 5-inch-thick plan with its 11 alternatives, you can't see the forest for the trees. More study and understanding of resource management than that presented in the plan is required to make an appropriate response.

Fortunately, help is available. A number of "experts" have contributed to a critique which was mailed to you as the Forest Planning Alert.

Read the alert and the cover letter from MRNPA with care. Writing a good letter that will make a difference is not difficult and you will be making a contribution to the planning process.

In another article in this newsletter we point out the importance of supporting Alternative "G" with modifications. There are items specific to Mount Rainier that we hope you will mention, as well as your personal concerns for the future use of the forest.

Most of all, thank you for your concern expressed in action. Your effort today insures a better Park tomorrow.

OUR MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

A LOCAL CONCERN

submitted by John Thompson, who lives within a couple miles of the northwest entrance (Ipsut Creek) to Mount Rainier National Park.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MB-SNF) Proposed Land and Resources Management Plan - DEIS - Summary - Appendix and 14 Maps makes a stack of tough reading and tougher comprehension 4-1/2 inches high. Though I've been in, on, or over much of the MB-SNF, it seems impossible to comment on the proposal - the Alternatives - in other than general terms. Of the Alternatives, my personal preference is "C"; it will do the least damage and save some options for future people. I understand most conservation groups are promoting "G" as more realistic; it is a poor next-best in my opinion. (Refer to back page of the March Alert for a description of the Alternatives.)

Experience indicates that the Forest Service responds only to specifics, so I will limit my concerns here to three roadless areas planned for logging that range within two to eight miles of our home.

South Chenuis. "Old growth below 4000," "mountain goat habitat," "tentatively suitable for timber production," "adjacent to Mt. Rainier National Park" (Forest Service Action Plan 1986-1990 & 1988-1992). And as of 1984 it is also within a mile of the Clearwater Wilderness. It is a narrow neck of the prime forest managed by the White River Ranger District of the MB-SNF.

The above notwithstanding, there is more in the Action Plan: (1) Nine clearcut units in the Chenuis Creek Drainage; (2) 12.8 million board feet; (3) 242 acres; (4) 5.3 miles of new road; (5) 3.8 miles of road reconstructed.

This seems an example of reaching beyond reason to cut trees. Though ancient, these old growth fir, cedar and mountain hemlock are relatively small. The cut is on the dark, cold north slope at 3000-3500', which is a terribly difficult situation for reproduction. The 1/4 mile narrow strip between the Park boundary and Chenuis Creek allows very little opportunity for satisfactory riparian treatment. The distance from the market reduces the value of the cut. The new road will probably serve few if any additional logging shows. The area is subject to above average rainfall and the steep slopes of Chenuis Mountain create excessive run-off and, thus, erosion.

There are additional reasons why this area of the Forest should be saved for future generations to manage. For instance, many people feel the perimeter of the Park should be protected land, possibly enlarged to join the Clearwater Wilderness Area. Certainly a strip of public land roughly five miles long by two miles wide, traversed by a pristine stream between two segments of beautiful land set aside by Congress, should be saved for future appreciation. Because the Forest Service had built fine roads (Nos. 7810 & 7840), the immediate area could not be included in the Clearwater Wilderness back in 1984. But with an ever growing interest in outdoor recreation, the area might become part of a National Forest Recreation Area.

Clearwater Area #6055. Still very close to home, the Management Plan describes 8806 acres up the road as the "Clearwater Roadless Area 6055," and in part has this to say: "The eight parcels are heavily influenced by adjacent logging and road building. No parcel could stand on its own, **but would make logical additions to the Clearwater Wilderness.**" "Opportunities for solitude...none due to roads...." "This small parcel (8806 acres) has little to contribute to the wilderness system due to the lack of special or unique features."

Nonsense!!! At the top of the same page, "Old growth forest stand volumes average 50-60 million board feet per acre...." Not special or unique? Jammed between Mount Rainier and Clearwater Wilderness, it is darned unique! That it still has old growth is unique!

Tolmie Creek. Now go back around the northwest corner of the park to a little-known area less than two miles up the road - Tolmie Creek (RARE II #6056, 275 acres):

"The parcel is bordered on the east by Mt. Rainier National Park . . . the surrounding National Forest land is managed for multiple-use and appears heavily modified" (logged-logged-logged!). "There are no known special attractions within the area..." It makes an excellent buffer to the exposed northwest corner of the Park. "Due to its small size, it is not manageable as wilderness." Does it have to be managed? Leave it as a buffer for the Park. Only 147 acres are accessible for timber anyway.

So much for details. Now you know more about a couple of "little" areas soon to be consumed if nobody cares. Write the Forest Service. Help them do the "logical" thing. Tell them you care and do it soon. And if you want to see the areas first hand, come up. I can point out part of the area from my back yard and much more from a few minutes ride up the road. Bring your camera when you come and

TOO MANY VEHICLES IMPACT PARKS

An unexpected over-abundance of motorized vehicles in Mount Rainier National Park during the 1987-88 winter holiday prompted Park officials to warn the public that "they may eventually have to consider some type of limit on vehicle numbers." Cars were backed up nearly a mile outside the western entrance of the park on the Nisqually-Paradise road at some times during the Christmas-New Year holiday period. "That raises concerns about the impact on the park environment as well as visitors' safety in an emergency."

William Penn Mott, the nation's parks director, at a recent meeting in Seattle described automobiles as "a great threat to parks."

As far back as 1912, the very introduction of the automobile into the Park system was considered a threat to the Parks' environment by John Muir, who envisioned the consequences that future generations would pay. "Doubtless, under certain precautionary restrictions," John Muir stated, "these useful, progressive, blunt-nosed mechanical beetles will hereafter be allowed to puff their way into all the parks and mingle their gas-breath with the breath of the pines and waterfalls; and, from the mountaineer's standpoint, with but little harm or good." Muir, who deprecated the fact that "most visitors have to be rolled on wheels with blankets and kitchen arrangements," might have wished to reconsider whether the mechanical beetles did but little harm. Since 1912, millions of dollars have been budgeted for road building and maintenance.

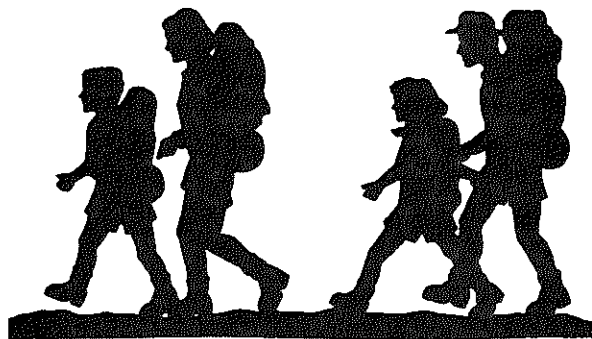
What's the alternative? Perhaps a bus system is in the not-so-distant future. Or even worse, more paved roads. Which would you prefer?

LOCAL CONCERN (continued from P. 4)

I can also show you a Plumb Creek (Burlington Northern) logging operation just beginning across the river - one that is cutting down beautiful ancient old growth!

John Thompson
Carbonado River Ranch
(206) 829-0377

We invite other members to express their opinions and concerns. Send letters to: Ellen Ostern, 4401 - 127th Ave. E., Sumner, WA 98390.



YOU'RE INVITED

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND HIKES

Roger Garrett will lead three day-hikes on the east side of Mount Rainier National Park on July 1-2-3. His wife Becky will assist and provide first-aid backup for blisters. Destinations are based on weather, but we will go somewhere rain or shine. Hikers should carry adequate clothing, food, water, and emergency items. This is a holiday weekend - a zoo at the campground - so please arrive early at Ohanapecosh to secure a campsite. We will meet at 7 a.m. each morning in front of the Visitor Center to carpool to trailheads. The three hikes are lesser-used trails, and all have interesting appeal for hikers. Roger will lead a moderate pace, with frequent rests.

Friday - Three lakes (Laughingwater Creek). Elevation gain 1700 feet, about 6 hours RT. Beautiful, seldom-used trail through old-growth forest. Good elk spotting possibilities. Three Lakes is a beautiful spot, with an old patrol cabin on the edge of one of the lakes. Roundtrip mileage about 11.6 miles.

Saturday - Shriners Peak. Fine views of the Mountain from an old lookout on top. Elevation gain 3434 feet, about 5 hours RT. Most of the trail is through an old burn area with no water. Total mileage about 8 miles.

Sunday - Crystal Mountain. Seldom-used trail, site of a former lookout. Good views of Rainier and Lower Crystal Lakes. It's a trudge, but always worth hiking to escape crowds and for the views. RT about 7.6 miles, in about 5 hours.

Wear sturdy boots and carry at least a quart of water. Call Roger at (503) 620-2533 if you need additional information. Hope to see you on one of more of these fine hikes!

NATION'S PARKS NEED MORE AID

reprinted from the Seattle Times

The country's national parks system is in better shape today than at any time in the past 10 years, but changes in management and use are needed if the parks are to be wildlife preserves and not just tourist destinations, the nation's parks director said Monday night.

William Penn Mott, Jr., who has served as director since 1985, told a gathering at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture that federal budget cuts and a lack of unity within the parks service have not crippled its ability to protect the environment, as some critics have charged.

The system "is in good shape," Mott said, "although we never have enough money to do a good job."

Critics say the natural areas are deteriorating in the push over the past two decades to make the parks more appealing to visitors. Examples of the problems include overpopulation when predators such as grizzly bears are eliminated, the introduction of non-native animals and plants to an area, and encroachments from the outside, such as air and water pollution, pressures from increasing population, and industrial development around the parks.

In response to such concerns, Mott in 1986 proposed a 12-point plan concerning how the Park Service manages itself and how parks will be used.

On the non-administrative side of the proposals, Mott said the parks system must reverse the harmful effects of past meddling with the natural environments of the parks. He said that next to acid rain research, the regulation of biological diversity within parks is next on the Park Service's priority list.

Mott named projects now under consideration to reverse the hazards of manipulating the natural environment. One is the reintroduction of predators into parks to keep other populations down. Affected parks include Yellowstone and Washington's North Cascades, where Mott plans to reintroduce wolves.

"We need to educate people that wolves are not bad and wicked animals," he said. "They're needed for biological and ecological reasons, to keep the balance of nature."

Mott has also proposed getting rid of non-native, exotic plants and animals introduced into the parks which are now causing the decline of the areas' original species.

Mott said that in order to do so, many animals will be destroyed. Problems arising from transporting the animals to other parks served as one justification for the animals' destruction.

"Some people are going to be upset by this," he conceded. "You can go to a zoo and see them (the animals that will be removed) there."

Mott also said keeping the environment within the parks compatible with the outside environment is important. Everglades National Forest in Florida is one example where agriculture around the park is harming the environment within, he said.

"We have to know the ecosystem before tampering with it," Mott said. "We have to keep research ahead of the curve, instead of behind it."

Research is just one area Mott said must be improved. The other two are the interpretive and resource management functions of the Service. In the past, these areas have taken a back seat to the public use purpose of the park system, critics say.

Mott said the Park Service is re-educating itself to identify, evaluate and determine how best to preserve what he termed these "historical landscapes."

Another deficiency in the past has been securing adequate funding for these three functions. However, Mott claimed that now, 100 percent of public admission fees to parks goes to research, interpretation, and resource management.

Mott also stressed the importance of unifying the National Parks Service. Mott has proposed that regional contacts for the National Park System be installed to facilitate communication between the different branches.

Underlying these proposals, Mott said, is public support and education about the environment. In a time when more people live in urban centers, support for the country's parks will be difficult to come by.

"By 2000, 90 percent of the people will live in urban areas. Massive education programs are needed to build up urban constituents for state park preservation," he said. "We have to educate people about their responsibility to the out-of-doors."

BILL WOULD LOCK NATIONAL

PARKS INTO WILDERNESS

reprinted from The Seattle Times

Sen. Dan Evans and four other members of Washington's congressional delegation are pushing legislation that would preserve the bulk of the state's three national parks as undeveloped wilderness in perpetuity.

The bill, which the congressmen introduced yesterday [3/15/88], essentially would preserve the status quo. The Park Service has no plans for new roads, campgrounds, tramways or lodges in the vast undeveloped reaches of Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic national parks.

There is nothing in existing law that would prevent the Park Service from proposing such development in the future, so the bill "will really give some long-range certainty to the way in which we manage the three national parks," said Evans, R-Wash.

"I view this bill as an insurance policy for the future," said Rep. Rod Chandler, R-Bellevue, who introduced Evans's bill in the House.

Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., Rep. John Miller, R-Seattle, and Rep. Al Swift, D-Bellingham, joined in co-sponsoring the legislation.

The bill would include 96 percent of Olympic, 92 percent of Mt. Rainier and 95 percent of the North Cascades complex in the federal wilderness-preservation system.

Roads, motor vehicles and most other forms of development are prohibited in wilderness areas.

Millions of acres of Forest Service land in the state have previously been designated wilderness. However, never before has the concept been formally extended to national parks in Washington.

For the most part, the park areas the bill would exclude from wilderness follow the corridors of existing roads. The Stehekin Valley in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, a part of the North Cascades complex, would be among the areas excluded.

Other excluded areas include:

- Lake Ozette in Olympia National Park. Wilderness designation would eliminate existing use by motorboats.

- Camps Muir and Schurman, climbers' cabins high on the slopes of Mount Rainier. Wilderness designation would prevent helicopters from servicing the camps.

- The Big Beaver and Thunder Creek valleys

in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, also part of the North Cascades complex. The valleys would have been flooded by proposed Seattle City Light hydro projects that have been placed on hold, but remain permitted uses. Both valleys would be classified "potential wilderness" in the bill.

Evans said development pressures on the parks could intensify in the future. An aging population could demand more amenities, he acknowledged -- but "I'm part of that aging population," said Evans, 62, "and I don't intend to quit hiking anytime soon."

Some wilderness areas already are experiencing problems with overcrowding, he said.

Some environmentalists had asked Evans to consider major additions to the parks -- especially the North Cascades -- as part of the legislation. Evans said he decided not to because those proposals haven't been subjected to sufficient scrutiny and might generate more controversy.

"I think you would sink this bill by doing that," Chandler added.

The bill does add 240 acres to Mt. Rainier National Park, to take in stray sections of park roads that wander across the existing park boundary. It also deletes 31 acres that include part of a Crystal Mountain ski lift.

POETRY CORNER

EXPEDITION OF 1888

This poem commemorates in sonnet form John Muir's August 14, 1888 climb of Mt. Rainier. The mountain dazzled Muir when he climbed its icy slopes. "Out of the forest at last, there stood the mountain, wholly unveiled, awful in bulk and majesty, filling all the view like a separate, newborn world..." Of all the peaks he had scaled, John Muir wrote of Mount Rainier: "the most magnificent solitary mountain I had ever beheld."

Above the sound- celestial light crowned
Mount Rainier- That magnetic mystery.
Majesty abounds- where dreams are still found
John Muir became part of its history.
A time for steel caulks and alpenstocks-
While gazing in silent admiration.
Yawning crevasses- a shower of rocks-
The mountain still keeps its reputation.
Muir got excited and soon was on top-
His objective was Columbia's Crest.
Now thousands contemplate the highest spot.
And they seldom give the Park Service a rest.
"Sparkling influence-" only Muir could know-
Our pristine peak- one hundred years ago.

Lawrence Carreau

RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

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