



MRNPA News

Volume 6 Number 3

FROM THE SUMMIT

The roadwork planned for Mather Memorial Parkway, State Highway 410, presents broad challenges for our members as well as the National Park Service. The project requires the involvement of the Park Service, the U. S. Forest Service, the Federal Highway Administration as well as the State of Washington Department of Transportation. Each staff has sub-groups with their own ideas about what is needed.

One of the early goals of the project was to have a similar appearance from one end of the Park to the other. The highway runs through both Forest Service and Park Service land. While we agree that the use of the same design for signs and architecture is a worthwhile effort, we do not wish to see the park brought down to Forest Service standards. If a common approach is necessary, we believe it should have the least damage to the surrounding environment.

The east portion of the road has already been reconstructed, cutting trees and leaving large open grassy stretches to each side of the highway. Applying this same approach to the western side would require eliminating the cathedral-like canopy of trees many of us truly admire. This approach was actually stated as a goal during the early planning phases. Adding this to the desire of highway officials to have very wide roads with large shoulders, would completely change the character of the road through the Park.

MRNPA has been working with the Park Service to minimize

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MRNPA Members build trails in 1991!

by Bob Aegerter
MRNPA Trail
Party Committee

Fifty members and friends of MRNPA worked on trail construction, maintenance, and alpine meadow re-vegetation as a part of our continuing service to the Park last summer. Work was accomplished on three separate washouts. The largest turnout, thirty, worked on the August project.

The August crew worked on the trail that bypasses the snow field past Panorama Point above Paradise. Leveling the trail and removing rocks that cause hikers to stumble were the highest priorities. After a potluck in camp on Saturday night, many who stayed over

hiked the Mazama Ridge trail on Sunday.

The September crew had a choice of working in the high alpine meadows with the re-vegetation teams or with the U. S. Army Reserve helicopters delivering trail gravel to the high country above Paradise.

Several members went down to the operations base camp after the work party to see the helicopters from another angle and to talk with the pilots and support staff. The re-vegetation work brought in a lot of questions and supportive remarks from passing hikers.

We hope you will join us next summer for similar projects. Work on the Fourth Crossing Trail has

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the impact of restructuring the road. We support minimal, if any, removal of trees and no blasting of hillsides and placing of rip rap. We would like to see the road reconstructed within the present roadbed.

An Environmental Impact Statement is to be issued on the project this year. We will need your support to avoid creating wonderful roadbeds at the expense of destroying park resources. Please be prepared to send cards and letters supporting the protection of the park!

Pat Smith

Trails in 91 continued...

had to be deferred because of damage done to man-made improvements in the Park by the November 17, 1990 storm. All of the work is done under the supervision of the Park Service's trail construction foreman. This work has been a part of the Park's administrative plan to reduce visitor impact by clearly defining the most frequently traveled trails and by restoring the adjoining damaged areas. We can take pride in having had a part in the effort to reduce visitor impact. Please join us. Call or write:

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The opinions expressed in the MRNPA News are those of those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the MNRPA.

Letters and articles from readers and members are welcomed. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar or libel.

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Air & Water

by Van Perdue

A flurry of scientific studies is documenting the deterioration of air and water environments inside Mt. Rainier National Park. News stories in the Post-Intelligencer and the Morning News Tribune stress that, while impacts are currently marginal, the outlook may not be good.

Perhaps the best news is that since the Tacoma Asarco copper smelter closed in March 1985, the acid content of alpine lakes has reduced. In 1983-84 the smelter released a total of 157,000 tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, where prevailing southwesterly winds carried them into the Cascades.

The acid rain study, conducted beginning in 1983 by Eugene Welch and Dimitris Spyridakis of UW, and Clint Welch of CWU, concentrated on six lakes in the Alpine Lakes region. The USGS acid rain specialist in Tacoma confirmed that these results should also hold true in the Park because of prevailing wind direction.

More ominous were the results of a five-year study of air quality in the Cascade range conducted by Tony Basabe, Robert Edmonds, Timothy Larson, and Wen Ling Chang of UW. Basabe said that while effects of ozone and cloud-borne acids have not yet produced readily visible effects, forests are at the threshold. He pointed out that pollution funneled into the mountains often is heavier in the Park and other natural areas than in downtown Seattle or Tacoma. He said that ozone sometimes reaches levels harmful to humans.

Animal life and plant life get pounded by ozone during temperature inversions in clear weather and by acid clouds during overcast periods. We also face a general loss of vigor and genetic diversity in Cascade forests, if steps are not taken to reduce emissions that produce cloud-borne acid and low-altitude ozone.

Meaningful reductions in harmful emissions will be difficult to achieve in the face of current growth projections for population, cars, and industry. The situation certainly calls for our vigilance and active participation in land use and transportation management plans currently under preparation or review.

Fay Fuller

"An Account of the First Ascent of Mt. Rainier by a Woman"

*Excerpted from: Island in the Sky
Pioneering Accounts of Mt. Rainier,
1833-1894*

*Paul Schullery
The Mountaineers, 1987.*

"In starting this trip, although knowing of no party that would attempt the full ascent, I prepared for it, hoping some opportunity would present itself. Dressed in a thick, blue flannel bloomer suit, heavy calfskin boys' shoes, loose blouse waist with innumerable pockets in the lining, small straw hat in order to get the benefit of the sun, and astride my horse I left Yelm Monday, August 4 1890, at 10 a.m. with Mr. and Mrs. Van Trump and their ten year old daughter.

About four miles ride through woods and over river beds take you to the murky, glacial Nisqually river, near the foot of the Nisqually glacier, where the river finds its source. Formerly it was necessary to ford this stream near the glacier. But about two years ago, Mr. Longmire built a log bridge over the river that is now crossed without difficulty. For about an hour we traveled higher and higher through timber land until, at an elevation of about 4000 feet, we entered the most beautiful parks that could be created.

A tiny patch of snow covered part of one of these rolling prairies, which are composed of the greenest grass, prairie firs and a myriad of flowers. Still farther back rise the Cascades. By climbing a few feet higher than Camp of the Clouds, St. Helens, Adams, Hood and Jefferson appear in the scene. Towards evening the Seattle and Yelm parties arrived and passed on across the valley, pitching tents at Paradise and Yelm camps. I found several anticipated trying the ascent, and they made me happy when they kindly invited me to join them.

The next morning we prepared for the trip, and at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 9th, five of us bade good-bye to those who remained in camp and started. Before starting, I donned heavy flannels, woolen

hose, warm mittens and goggles, blacked my face with charcoal, drove long caulks and brads into my shoes, rolled two single blankets containing provisions for three days, strapped them from the shoulder under the arm to the waist - the easiest way by far to carry a pack - and shouldered one of Uncle Sam's canteens. Grasping my alpenstock, I was resolved to climb until exhausted.

The sun was hot, the packs then seemed heavy and warm, but we soon became accustomed to them, as we toiled upward, first over long snow fields, then over ledges of rock, onward and upward throughout the afternoon. There was no danger this day, only one crevasse appearing in our way and that easily jumped, but it was the first day and the perpendicular rocks and fields seemed miles away before we reached them.

After an unusually long steep hillside, we landed at Camp Muir, between ten and eleven thousand feet at 5 P.M. There we waited for the rest of the party. Among us we had dried beef, fried ham, cold boiled eggs, sardines, bread and butter, extract of beef, cheese, chocolate, dried peaches, raisins and prunes, a bottle of brandy and a small flask of whiskey. The most beautiful cloud effects below us were visible. The sunset afterglow shone on the mountain peaks beyond and a light resembling moonlight rested on Tahoma.

At 4:30 a.m. we rose and shouldered our blankets, ready for the hard day's work. Not waiting to eat breakfast, we nibbled some of the melted chocolate, now frozen solid, and began the ascent. Right over high ledges of loose moving rock, where every step started immense boulders down the glacial slopes, only over the ledge when another and higher one would rise to be surmounted, so on hour after hour, growing more dangerous and toilsome as we approached the cliff, we climbed and climbed until we stood at the foot of the great Gibraltar.

This is one of the most dangerous and difficult points of the journey. The Gibraltar climb must be made before the sun gets warm enough to loosen the rock. It was hard climbing without water, for the canteen was dry, and in the morning the streams were nearly all frozen and for several hours we had nothing to drink and had eaten nothing that day save a few raisins and prunes. We did not think of eating. Time was more than precious, and

Continued on next page

Fay Fuller continued ...

unless we made Gibraltar early our work was of no avail.

Gibraltar, as is pretty well known, is the rocky cliff about 1,000 feet high which blocks the passage to the summit. For half a mile the route lies around that cliff on a shelf along the edge with that great wall above you and the Nisqually glacier stretching away miles below. If this shelf, scarcely three feet wide, were only level, it would make the traveling on it much easier, but it slants down towards the glacier and is composed of nothing but loose sand and rock. There is no way of fastening one's pike firmly and there is only occasionally a solid rock to cling to.

Over the most dangerous places, they tied me with a rope and two men ahead and two behind helped me safely over. When the ridge was almost passed we found we had a steep glacial side of solid ice to climb for about fifty feet, and then tied with ropes, our guide cut steps with a hatchet, and we waited, one step only firmly planted for step after step to be cut. After the ice one more ridge of moving rock and we had reached the top of Gibraltar cliff and felt free to rest.

It was now nearly 12 noon. For seven long hours we had hurried on over these loose rocks without food or drink and only now were able to think of ourselves. We knew the most dangerous part was over, but were prepared to be disappointed yet, for the crevasses looked broken and numerous and breathing was getting more difficult.

At 12:30 tied with a rope at intervals of about ten feet, we again started upward on the snow fields, first passing through an ice aisle, walked about to our waists and just wide enough to walk through, with a glacier on each side sloping way below. Of course it was solid, but still one could not help thinking of the peculiar situation of walking on the backbone where the two glaciers met and that two feet either way would precipitate thousands of feet below.

The first crevasse we came to was not very large and over it we found a solid, though narrow, bridge where we stood and got the first look inside the mountain. Bluish green ice walls on either side of a big crack look like caves up the mountain sides. Some are large enough to drop a house into, and one seemed bottomless.

The great trouble here in this thin atmosphere is in breathing. I could sometimes

only travel fifteen feet for loss of breath, being obliged to stop and rest, but only a moment or two is needed to recover, when your lungs are again ready, you think, to climb a long distance, but not so; quickly exhausted, soon refreshed, is the rule, and it is not possible to do otherwise.

We moved slowly on with the rim of the crater in sight, but a long way off. We felt the wind growing stronger all the time and the air rarer, making it more difficult to climb.

At last, at 4:10 p.m., we stood on the rim of the big crater, where the wind was blowing so strongly we could hardly keep our footing, and oh, it was bitter cold. The middle peak was some ways off, and for fear anything should happen we hastened on to the great high knob and at 4:30 p.m. August 10, 1890, we stood on the tip top of Mount Tahoma.

It was a heavenly moment: nothing was said—words cannot describe scenery and beauty, how could they speak for the soul! The scene below was a wonderful panorama. Some years when it is very clear the Sound can be seen, and the Olympic range is visible. Clouds prevented that sight this year, but besides Adams, Hood, St. Helens and Jefferson, we could see Mount Baker away to the north and miles of mountains forming one great circle round the horizon.

Standing on the summit we see below us two large craters looking like immense bowls with a central common rim. The large crater is about three quarters of a mile across. They are filled with snow and solid ice with the rim around the circumference of bare rocks rising about 60 feet in some places. The steam keeps these rocks bare all the time. Coming down from the summit where we could hardly stand on account of the wind, we were sheltered in the crater and examined the steam jets, looking as if a row of boiling teakettles had been placed along the ridge."

Olympic Battleground: The Power Politics Of Timber Preservation

- excerpts from chapter six

by Carsten Lein

Franklin Lane, President Wilson's Secretary of the Interior, held the concept of preservation for the national parks in contempt. He ordered the national parks opened to grazing during World War I and approved the invasion of Yellowstone by irrigation interests and even went so far as to order the Park Service to report favorably on the Yellowstone project.

Ironically, Lane would be the man to whom the responsibility would fall to launch a new agency dedicated to preservation. He cared so little about the park system that in the fall of 1914, when he received a routine letter of complaint about the way the national parks were being run from Stephen Mather, he wrote back, "Dear Steve, If you don't like the way the national parks are being run, come on down to Washington and run them yourself."

The decision to hire Mather was made on Lane's personal whim. All he knew was that Mather was an influential Chicago businessman and a millionaire. Lane then introduced Mather to Horace Albright, a twenty-four year old law student on a one-year internship.

What Lane found out about Mather's national park views fit perfectly with his own anti-preservation philosophy. "Golf links, tennis courts, swimming pools and other equipment for outdoor pastime and exercise should be provided" for the parks, Mather said. "Secretary Lane has asked me for a business administration. Our national parks are practically lying fallow and only await proper development to bring them into their own."

Mather and Albright put themselves, even before the final passage of the Park Service bill, in the business of selling park trees to finance park acquisitions that lacked Congressional appropriations. The endorsement of Senator Walsh's move to log the parks, endorsed by Lane since 1912, created a culture of ambiguity in the Park Service. When Mather was struck down by mental illness, Albright took over the Park Service management, send-

ing directives to Secretary Lane. The Lane letter permitted:

1. "the grazing of cattle in isolated regions not frequented by visitors, and where no injury to the natural features of the mark may result from such use." This ignored the needs of the park's wildlife for the same forage and the destruction of wilderness values involved.

2. Legitimized the leasing of park lands "for the operation of hotels, camps, and transportation facilities." Mather's mass-use strategy required massive facilities of all kinds and required legitimization in the face of strong and rising interest in wilderness.

3. Approved the cutting of park trees when the "timber is needed in the construction of buildings or other improvements within the park." Approved the "thinning of forests or cutting vistas" when the scenic features of the parks will be improved. Approved "forest destruction when necessary to eliminate insect infestation or diseases common to forests and shrubs."

4. "Every opportunity should be afforded the public, whenever possible, to enjoy the national parks in the manner that best satisfies the individual taste. "Automobiles and motorcycles will be permitted in all of the national parks; in fact the parks will be kept accessible by any means practicable." "All outdoor sports... will be heartily endorsed and aided whenever possible." Motoring was specifically defined as an outdoor sport, and the definition allowed for golf, tennis, and anything else normally done outside. Mather's mass-use strategy was diametrically opposed to what the preservationists who had created the Park Service expected.

Mather's management excesses in Mount Rainier National Park met the preservationists head on. His first concern for Mount Rainier was the construction a full-fledged resort in Paradise Valley to replace the tent camp run by John Reese. Even though the Milwaukee Railroad had already built a good hotel at Longmire, it was not where the "scenery" was. Mather convened a meeting of local business giants in Seattle's Rainier Club. He asked them to form the Rainier National Park Company to build an inn in Paradise Val-

Continued on next page

Olympic Battleground continued ...

ley, and he offered them concessionaire monopoly.

Mather had tied the development of Mount Rainier to the timber industry, and he basked in the triumph of the Paradise Hotel as it was built. He knew that the monopoly would give the public the expanded facilities and services that would contribute to his mass-use goals. By 1922, however, his monopoly grant at Mount Rainier came under attack. Upon returning from Washington, D.C., its manager reported that the Park Service was "thoroughly demoralized and practically without friends in the House." The attacks on Mather's policies "have had such weight with the House of Representatives that there are few friends left for the Service... Mather will probably resign..."

He did not resign and instead pressed ahead to enforce the monopoly positions he had awarded. By the end of the year, the Mountaineers became so incensed at the monopoly policy as it was being applied in Mount Rainier, that it mounted a nationwide attack on the Park Service.

Mather created other enemies. He steered the new Park Service on a collision course with the scientific community over the killing of predators. The scientific community embraced the Park Service Act as it passed in 1916 requiring Mather to administer the parks to "conserve the wildlife therein as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of further generations."

Mather believed there were good animals and bad animals, the bad ones being those which ate others. He launched a greatly expanded carnivore extermination program throughout the park system. He got around the constraints of the law by defining wildlife in the law as "desirable spe-

cies" and the carnivores as "enemies of wildlife".

He tackled the job of killing carnivores in the parks with the same energy that he pursued his mass use and road building strategies. The pressures to get on with the task of ridding the parks of the "enemies of wildlife" made it necessary to call in outside help because the new Park Service was not able to deliver the results that Mather wanted.

Illustrative of Mather's strange and convoluted thinking is the statement of Roger W. Toll, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, which Mather included in his 1920 report. Toll reported that "the reduction of the predatory animals in the park is very desirable in order that game and wildlife may be permitted to increase."

"This work can best be done by cooperation with the United States Biological Survey in placing the paid hunters in the park. These men should be adequately paid and devote their time exclusively to predatory animals, without the necessity of trapping fur bearing animals to supplement a nominal salary. The animals classed as predatory and whose presence in the park is detrimental to game and other animals are cougar, bobcat, lynx, coyote and wolf."

In fact, the whole of the predatory extermination program was another revenue source for the "business administration" Mather said Secretary Lane had asked for. By 1922 the sale of hides of park carnivores, along with the sale of dead timber, had become one of the four major sources of Park Service revenue. "The intensity of the campaigns carried on against park predators after 1916 would seem to indicate that extermination was desired."

How to express your opinions to your elected Representatives

State your case simply, clearly and without rancor.

Don't use more than two typewritten pages.

Write often. If your statements make sense to the staffs, your regular correspondence will be read.

Use the correct addresses...

Your U. S. Representative
(Jolene Unsoeld, Rod Chandler, etc.)
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Your U. S. Senator
(Brock Adams or Slade Gorton)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Gray Wolf Recovery In The Northwest

*by Dr. Paul Joslin, Director of Research
and Education, Wolf Haven International*

In recent years there have been a number of possible and probable sightings of wolves in the Cascade Range of Washington State. The sightings were spotty over a wide area. Since transient wolves often move large distances, sometimes over hundreds of miles, and the records at best were considered probable wolf rather than certain, the approach of the agencies at the time was to keep their investment in monitoring activity to a minimum.

In 1990 came the good news of a pair of wolves and their cubs having been documented near Ross Lake close to the Canadian border. Further evidence of cubs was recorded in the weeks that followed in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Washington had joined the growing list of states with a resident wolf population.

Over the next few months a multi-agency, multi-institution Wolf Working Group was formed. Included were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Animal Damage and Control, Washington State Department of Wildlife, Wool Growers Association and Wolf Haven International. The group was divided into three committees—Steering, Research and Management, and Education and Information. Funding also became available to undertake both research and management.

Wolf surveys were considered a high priority. More than a hundred agency staff, students and volunteers were trained at Wolf Haven. During the summer of 1991, surveys were carried out in various parts of the Cascades. Procedures were put into place to rapidly verify public sightings, including an 800 number for public sightings.

By the time the summer was over, five areas had been identified where wolves appeared to be frequenting — one of the areas was east of Mt. Rainier National Park. More evidence of wolf cubs being born also came to the fore in the North Cascades.

Surveys will be carried out again during the summer of 1992. One of the techniques involves systematically howling over

large areas at night in hopes of initiating wolves to respond. The summer months are the best time to do this kind of work, as wolves howl more at this time than they do at most other times of the year, and field conditions are optimal. A second peak in howling activity occurs in late winter when wolves are sexually active.

An animal control plan has been drawn up in anticipation that sooner or later, domestic livestock will be taken by wolves. The most probable area where this will occur is in the northeastern part of the state.

Some of the wolves will be radio-collared in order to monitor their activities.

Among the benefits will be the identification of small but key areas, such as den sites, so that they may be temporarily closed from all forms of human activity if at risk during the critical spring and summer period. Other benefits are keeping track of where they are moving relative to areas of potential conflict, such as high livestock usage.

Wolves have appeared in other northwestern states in recent years. Idaho is thought to have less than 15 wolves, while Montana is estimated to have about 40 to 50. Canada, with an estimated 55,000 wolves, is the source of these wolves. Wolf control efforts in the southern areas of Canada have been reduced in recent years, removing the major barrier for wolf movement. Some individual wolves have subsequently been documented moving from Banff National Park in Alberta and Glacier National Park in Montana.

Recognizing that wolves are returning to Washington State, Washington, in 1991, was made a part of the program for Gray Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. The decision to make us part of that program rather than a distinct entity acknowledges that wolves do not respect political boundaries. It may also have some benefits with respect to allocation of funds from Washington, D.C.

The multiagency Wolf Working Group in Washington and its associated committees will continue to work as before. The chairman of the group, Jim Michaels of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and his associate Jeff Haas, will represent the group at the higher level meetings.

Lookouts in Mt. Rainier National Park

*Excerpted from Lookouts and Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics
Ira Spring and By Fish
Mountaineer Books*

The nation's fifth highest mountain outside of Alaska was a part of the original Pacific Forest Preserve, created in 1893. Yet, Mt. Rainier's unique status as a huge volcano without surrounding peaks to lessen its impact earned it national park status after 1899.

Since much of the mountain is above timberline, it was the Forest Service, not the National Park Service, that took interest in Rainier as a site for lookouts. It afforded outstanding views of Columbia National Forest (later Gifford Pinchot) to the south, and Snoqualmie to the north and east.

When the Forest Service chose Anvil Rock, a lava outcropping on the south side of the mountain, as the site for a lookout, it became the state's highest, though soon-to-come stations at Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens were higher. Built in 1916, the 9,584 foot Anvil Rock station peered down on the Tatoosh Range as though it were a ridge of foothills. In clear weather, the lookout could see far past Adams and St. Helens to Mt. Hood and Jefferson in Oregon. Early enthusiasm over this immense range of vision and the spotting of some fires that otherwise might have gone unseen, led to a proposal in 1920 to build the ultimate in lookouts — one on the summit of Mt. Rainier itself.

Before that grandiose scheme could be put into action, however, someone made a closer study of Anvil Rock's five-year record. Clear days were few; the scene normally witnessed was either a snowstorm, enveloping clouds, or a vast, sunny, but impenetrable sea of clouds blanketing what lay below. The location actually was of little value in spotting fires.

However, the daily weather reports the station provided were so helpful to mountain climbers that the Park Service took over Anvil Rock long after the Forest Service had given up on its other high stations at Adams and St. Helens.

The agencies changed but the human lookout didn't. From 1923 through 1938, when

he was 66, Wallace Meade was on duty each summer. His presence was important to the site, apparently, because after he had gone, the building was abandoned and stood empty for a number of years.

Finally, about 1950, orders came from Washington, D.C., to remove the structure board by board and dispose of it outside the Park. Evidently the head office did not understand the scope of such a chore, and no money was provided for a work crew. One clear night when a thick layer of clouds covered the low land country, "lightning"—or some such fortuitous disaster—struck the building. It caught fire and burned to the ground. Park rangers were able to find only a few charred boards, which they dutifully put in sacks, carried down the mountain, and, as ordered, disposed of outside the Park. All that remains at Anvil Rock today is a level spot and a stone outhouse, which has a tremendous view—down through two holes—of the Cowlitz Glacier several hundred feet below.

A Mt. Rainier Railroad

by Van Perdue

This Spring, the City of Tacoma is expecting to hear from a consultant who is studying the feasibility of operating a city-owned train along 58 miles of track running from near Graham to Morton, a route that would take it through Elbe.

At press time, the consultant had estimated the cost for rehabilitating the tracks at \$5 million. He is currently evaluating marketability for tourism, freight, and (with an eye to the future) commuters.

If the project goes through, it could mean the partial realization of a dream to limit vehicular traffic inside Mount Rainier National Park. The downside is that a rail line could also encourage further development near the Park boundaries. The Tacoma City Manager's Office spokesman appeared to welcome the interest of MRNPA in the project, but would not predict what the final consultant's report would reveal or whether the project would pass the City Council, even if the report shows favorable economic possibilities.

The track, which extends 58 miles from near Tacoma to Morton, passes through Elbe. It was donated to the city by Weyerhaeuser and was formerly known as the Chehalis & Western.

Board of Trustees Meeting November 12, 1991

Present: Pat Smith, Bob Aegerter, Roger Garrett, John Titland, Van Perdue, John Thompson, Polly Dyer, Vim Wright, Joan Burton, Jeannette Franks, Sally Soest, Yolanda Thompson.

Discussion: Pat Smith, Polly Dyer, and Dale Crane met with Regional NPS staff on October 31. NPS may need our support to fight Dept. of Transportation proposals on Highway 410. There will be no EIS before spring. The Deadwood Creek Bridge proposal will be submitted as an Environmental Assessment, and NPS staff is looking at design proposals now. Kautz Creek and Chenuis Creek will require new rip-rap, but repairs to the Westside Road are presently not planned.

Pat Smith is attempting to set up a meeting with the new Superintendent, Bill Bringle ... The Pan Point vegetation project is now 92% complete... Self-registration for wilderness travel has been discontinued, and must now be done through NPS staff...

NPS is looking at human impacts on Pyramid Peak and Camp Hazard. Human waste management is the problem... An ozone monitoring project at Carbon River is in effect, as well as an aquatic inventory at Mowich Lake... Nisqually Glacier monitoring has been reinstated at NPS, with no reported debris flows this year... The Sunrise Project is still under review...

Discussion of Wilderness Act Directives and hearings on the bill. Olympic, North Cascades, and Mt. Rainier National Parks need to be included in these hearings for possible boundary expansions. Sally Soest moved that a letter be drafted on this issue and be sent to Ridenour. John Titland volunteered to draft correspondence on this issue.

Roger Garrett briefed Board on proposed membership survey, with Sally Soest and Van Perdue promising to continue work with Roger on this project.

Vim Wright commented that the SW Region Director of NPS had asked to do a survey of the effects of Park boundaries based on science. vice-president Quayle killed this request and the Regional NPS Director has been reassigned. Sally Soest asked how we could inform the public about these issues. Vim Wright suggested

drafting a letter voicing our disgust, and that we should also work on this issue as a re-election issue. Sally suggested we formalize MRNPA's opposition to politicizing NPS.

Pat Smith reminded members to start thinking about nominees to the next Board of Trustees.

Roger Garrett, Secretary

Letters from Members...

"IN MY OPINION, PARK POLITICS PREVAIL..."

from Roger Garrett

"Nowhere in federal government do partisan politics show their ugly head more clearly than in the National Park Service. For more than 30 years I have witnessed the evolution of an organization with consummate pride dissolve into a mindless workforce, fearful for their jobs, concerned about the next constraints that their superiors may dictate. When I was a kid, a long time ago, I worked for MRNP as a seasonal hire. Now it is easy to look back at the 'good old days' and decry progress and change. But what has happened to the Park Service in the ensuing years has been a travesty, as much for the resource as for the public whose enjoyment of these wonderful treasures is diminished.

Years ago the Park Service had over a hundred applicants for every seasonal park position. That figure is closer to twenty to one now. The pay for these personnel is not much better than it was thirty years ago. It is extremely evident that the school teachers and other professionals who once comprised the majority of seasonal employees are just not there any longer, replaced by law enforcement majors or others hungry for employment of any kind. Those individuals dedicated to the Park Service as seasonals, who returned year after year, some hoping for eventual appointments to the Park Service, had their dreams dashed.

Even more ominous, the cadres of full-time Park Service professionals were gradually rifted out or transferred by their bosses in Washington, D.C., and replaced by 'conflict mediators' who were politically correct in their views of the Na-

Continued on next page

In My Opinion continued ...

tional Park Service. There has always been tension between those who view 'preservation of the resource' and those who view 'providing for the enjoyment of the public,' as the predominant mandate of the Park Service. In the past 20 years, the latter philosophy has dominated Park politics.

Most of the funding for national parks has been spent on fixed improvements, rather than resource protection. Park interpreters, ecologists, botanists and other resource managers have taken a back seat to funding for law enforcement personnel, improvements for roads, sewer systems and lodges. This isn't to say that improvements may not be needed, nor that crime has not increased in our parks. What has been totally lost is balance between competing needs. Never has there been a more crying need for resource protection in our parks than now. Visitation has grown tremendously in the past few years, and impacts on the natural landscape have grown proportionately. More rangers and seasonal staff are desperately needed to deal with these problems, but none are forthcoming.

During the past one hundred years, over a hundred species of animals have disappeared from Mt. Rainier National Park. Exactly why is conjecture, but it is probably due to a combination of loss of habitat corridors and human disturbance. During winter months, wildlife needs safe corridors to travel to lowland areas where they overwinter. This is especially true with the larger mammals. In the past thirty years we have extensively logged three sides of Mt. Rainier National Park, effectively creating an island, and cutting off corridors for migration. The Park Service, in my opinion, has been negligent in not making strong statements about the logging outside its boundaries. The unwritten code that federal agencies won't tread on each other has prevailed.

Rangers who acknowledge that serious problems need resolution have been dispatched through transfer or demotion. The morale among permanent staff in our parks is at an all-time low. Many of the old-guard rangers, who desperately cared about the national parks, had to make terrible choices, and most have left the Park Service, replaced by "politically correct" rangers.

To demonstrate just how bad things are for permanent rangers, a group of them

from Yosemite National Park sued the Interior Department over a dispute with James Watt, who had ordered that they pay market rates for their housing. They lost their suit, however, and now owe anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,200, and have 30 days to pay the government. It must be remembered that these are rangers, some of who qualify for welfare because of low pay, and who thought they were getting their housing as a benefit of their jobs. 300 rangers were affected by the ruling.

Several of the rangers I have had contact with recently in the parks have been just plain nasty. Or unfriendly, or both! Many have little or no knowledge of the resources. Some are aloof from the public, but beyond that a visitor is lucky just to see a ranger during his visit to a park—any kind of ranger. One is more apt to see a maintenance or equipment operator, and these personnel are absolutely the worst to have contact with. Most have been around for years, and treat the parks as their own private turf. The visitor is treated with disdain; they seem to just want visitors to go away.

How does one turn around a situation that has deteriorated so badly? Politics made the parks what they are today, and hopefully that is what will turn them around again. Until there is change, it is incumbent on watchdog groups like MRNPA to keep the public informed about the issues, and carry a big stick. That's the least we can do for a park we all love."

"To MRNPA — A Green Paper - part 2"

by John Thompson

A new industry on the Park boundary may soon begin. The Glacier Water Company has applied for permits to extract water from the Carbon River for a bottled drinking water enterprise. Apparently the entrepreneur from Fall City has properly followed the permitting process — even the required publication of the plan in a county newspaper — in Gig Harbor.

It seems that the company wants to use tanker trucks and pumps to extract water from or near the Coplay bridge, take it to some Seattle/Tacoma site and bottle it for distribution and sale as pure glacier water. That it isn't pure and isn't just glacier water, sort of begs the question.

Continued on next page

A Green Paper continued ...

Should a fifty year permit for such a business be issued? I don't think so, but western water law is about like the old mining laws; it is public water and anyone can use it to make a profit if he has the will and a way, and if he fills in the application properly. What should or could MRNPA do?

Register your concerns, worries and wants with all agencies concerned:

1. Pierce County Executive
2. National Park Service
3. Dept of Wildlife
4. Dept of Highways
5. Dept. of Fisheries
6. Native American Tribes
7. Dept. of Ecology
8. Wash. Environmental Council
9. Legislators and Congress.
10. U.N. OAS
11. U.S. Forest Service
12. Anybody that will listen ...

I think it is about time the public exerted its right to preserve in opposition to the rights of individuals (or corporations) to exploit resources. And, of course, I believe in mother-hood and apple pie."

A Changing 'View'...

submitted by a MRNPA member

"Entering Mt. Rainier NP at the Carbon River Entrance has always 'offered' changing vistas. In the past few years, the clear-cuts along the road have 'opened' up views of the mountain and

river that were, heretofore, hidden from the road. However pleasant these views may seem to the casual visitor, they may well be a foreboding of a more desolate future for the Park boundaries.

In the past months, logging roads are appearing more frequently on the North side of the Carbon. Across from the Falls Creek picnic area, is another new access. Are the owners of these wedges of privately owned timber that border on the Park planning on another harvest? Simple thinking?

The slope is very steep, soil soft and loose. Cayada Creek would again be impacted by excess run-off as would the Carbon River. The timber quality of these two sections was never sufficient to interest the Forest Service when it was gung-ho about land swaps, road building and high yield harvests.

From the Park's point of view, literally, logging makes a mess of the landscape. If the sections are logged, The Carbon River on the Park border will be clear-cut on the North side, not a scenic sight. Worse, the other serious problems will increase for the Park - water denigration, wildlife habitat damage, uninvited access (trappers-hunters), edge-effect, etc.

What should MRNPA do? Well for a motivational jump start, include a new concept in your thinking, "cropping public value¹." In the above case, part of public value would be stripped away from the landscape and converted to private gain."

1992 Trail Parties

Tentative Schedule:

Saturday, May 16 — Maintenance in the Carbon River area

Saturday, August 15 — Paradise Fourth Crossing Trail construction

Saturday, September 12 — Paradise Fourth Crossing Trail construction and Paradise re-vegetation.

**Contact Bob Aegetter at
(206) 527-4492 (residence)
(206) 454-9703 (work)**

1 Hiss, Tony. The Experience of Place, Random House, New York, 1991 pp 119

Mount Rainier National Park Associates Membership Form

Date _____

Name _____

Membership & Newsletter \$10.00

☐

Address _____

Check here if renewal

☐

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check here if address change

☐

Home Phone () _____

In addition to my dues, I would like to make

Work Phone () _____

a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 \$ _____

I am interested in helping
in the following area(s):

☐ Trail Parties

☐ Adjacent Lands & Boundaries

☐ Newsletter

☐ Wilderness & Backcountry

Management

☐ Hikes

☐ Visitor Impacts

☐ Wildlife

☐ Water

I am interested in attending a board meeting ☐

*Please return this form with check
or money order payable to:*

MRNPA

Mail to:

*John Titland, treasurer
MRNPA
15242 SE 48th Drive
Bellevue, WA 98006*

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Sumner, WA 98390

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