

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

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FROM THE SUMMIT...

Wilderness legislation has been introduced in Congress for the three National Parks in Washington State: Mt. Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades.

The backcountry at Mount Rainier has been administered as Wilderness from before the completion of the study of wilderness in 1972. Passage of the Bill will therefore have long range, rather than immediate impact on park management. By establishing wilderness designation by Congress now, future Department of Interior Administrators will not be able to adjust policy or boundaries to permit development to encroach further into the wild areas of the park.

This Bill will designate more than 216,855 acres of Mount Rainier National Park as Wilderness. Senator Dan Evans (for himself and Senator Brock Adams) introduced the Washington Park Wilderness Bill as Senate Bill 2165 on March 15, 1988.

Congressman Rod Chandler (for himself and Congressman Al Swift and John Miller) introduced an identical companion Bill, HR 4146, in the House.

Please write your Senator and Congressman supporting MRNPA's position on the Bill. We believe that the wild lands within Mount Rainier National Park vitally need full legal protection as wilderness.

The Bill also includes a land exchange: a parcel used by Crystal Mountain Ski Area on the east for two parcels occupied by existing roads on the west side and in Stevens Canyon.

In his remarks on the Senate floor, Senator Evans supported boundaries that follow hydrologic lines and have been subject to public review. This land exchange proposal does not meet that test.

MRNPA recommends that Section 302 dealing with this land trade be deleted from the Bill

Congressman Mike Lowry, at the request of the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, has proposed a comprehensive ecological study of the three Parks and their environs. We wholeheartedly support this concept. William Penn Mott, Director of the Park Service, has called for this style of joint Forest Service-Park Service planning. Congressman Bruce Vento (D-Minnesota), Chair of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, has supported this type of joint planning.

(See "Summit", p.2)

What Can You Do?

Write a letter immediately or send an "opiniongram" via Western Union (\$7.95 first 20 words, \$2.00 each additional 20 words):

- A. Support wilderness in all 3 parks.
- B. Request deletion of Section 302, land exchange.
- C. Support an ecological study of the Parks and environs.

Write or phone:

Senator Dan Evans
364 Hart Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3441

Senator Brock Adams
Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressmen:

Don Bonker
Rod Chandler
Norm Dicks
Tom Foley
Mike Lowry
John Miller
Sid Morrison
Al Swift

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Please write or phone today.

Bob Aegerter
President, MRNPA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE;

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

"Forest Rangers have had to become cops," stated Russ Dickinson in a provocative speech at MRNPA's annual banquet in May. Russ has a forty-year career with the National Park Service, and progressed from a ranger at Grand Canyon National Park, to Northwest Regional Director, to Director of the National Park Service under the Carter and Reagan Administrations.

Russ feels that our National Park Service, with 349 units, is an idea which has been emulated around the

world. Over 120 nations now have national parks -- but none better than ours. Our parks attract the equivalent of the U.S. population to them annually.

Russ stated that a major change in the way national parks are administered occurred in 1970 at Stoneman Meadows in Yosemite National Park. Then, a group of young people -- hippies and social misfits -- were seeking a "happening" at Stoneman. The Park Service attempted to intervene, and confronted the group. However, the Service was forced to back down and reorganize. What resulted is now called a "ranger riot". This was the beginning, and several years later "Resurrection City" in Washington, D.C., again produced civil unrest with riots, demonstrations, and protests. The "right of free expression" was tested on public lands which caused crisis on many fronts. Vietnam and civic rights demonstrations helped to fuel the fire.

Since those days, law enforcement training and national park operations have changed dramatically. The emphasis is now on law enforcement. Because of this, the "type" of ranger has changed as well. Dickenson remarked that he deplores the current emphasis on law enforcement. Rangers should be rangers -- not cops. The public wants that also. Yet the Park Service is trapped by its own regulations.

Dickenson commented that while acting as Director of the National Park Service he received criticism for not adding new areas to the system. He defended this saying that the NPS had doubled during the last 20 years of expansion, which was causing severe budgetary restraints. New areas were not receiving adequate funds, and the quality, services, and standards were declining. Therefore, consolidation was necessary. The next Director, Cecil Andrus, agreed with this philosophy, and so did Congress. We are now seeing a breakthrough in adding new units to the NPS. It is possible to add to the system without penalizing the older units. Russ complimented National Parks and Conservation Association's plans for adding 86 new areas to the system, although he felt

(See "NPS", p.3)

some would not be added. However, they are all worth fighting for. William Penn Mott has constantly petitioned for new areas with little success.

Dickinson sees tremendous changes occurring in society due to the older industries phasing out, and travel and tourism increasing. What is really needed are different standards for measuring the merit of new parks, not basing merit purely on economic factors.

Roger C. Garrett
Secretary, MRNPA

ANIMAL TRACKS

The MOUNTAIN GOAT is a stocky, heavily muscled animal with a white fur coat and short black horns.

ORDER: Artiodactyla (even-toed hoofed animals)
FAMILY: Bovidae (cattle, sheep, and goats)
RANGE: coastal southeastern Alaska and British Columbia through the Cascades of central Washington; also introduced into the Olympics
HABITAT: mountainous regions, steep, high pastures, and rocky areas, usually just below snowline; often descend to sea level in winter
SIZE: five feet
WEIGHT: 250 pounds
DIET: strictly vegetarian, including grass, leaves, sedges, and lichen
SOUNDS: generally silent

The goats' hooves are superbly adapted for the mountainous terrain in which they live. A combination of hard outer edge and soft inner part affords them the animal-equivalent of rock-climbing shoes, and the only thing that can catch a healthy mountain goat in rock areas is another goat. But even mountain goats hit loose holds now and then, and the resulting falls are often fatal. Consequently, these animals prefer to spend their time grazing

high alpine pastures with a sentry or two posted, the herd returning to the rocks to escape wolves, biting flies, or wildlife photographers, none of which really bother them to any great extent.

Mountain goat tracks are fairly common near high alpine ponds and patches of dirt around the rocky areas they inhabit. Winter snows often force them down into deer country, but their tracks are always easy to identify because of the splayed hooves, lack of dewclaw imprints, and mode of running.

Taken from Animal Tracks of the Pacific Northwest, by Karen Pandell and Chris Stall.

MRNPA TRAIL WORK PARTY

Save the last weekend in July for our annual fun and work party at Mt. 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.

CIRCLE THE DATES:

July 29 (Friday night)

July 30 (Saturday - WORK)

July 31 (Sunday - hike & play)

If interested, please call:

Pat Smith, (206)241-5704, or
Larry Carreau, (206)845-2364.

MORE ON FOREST FLOWERS

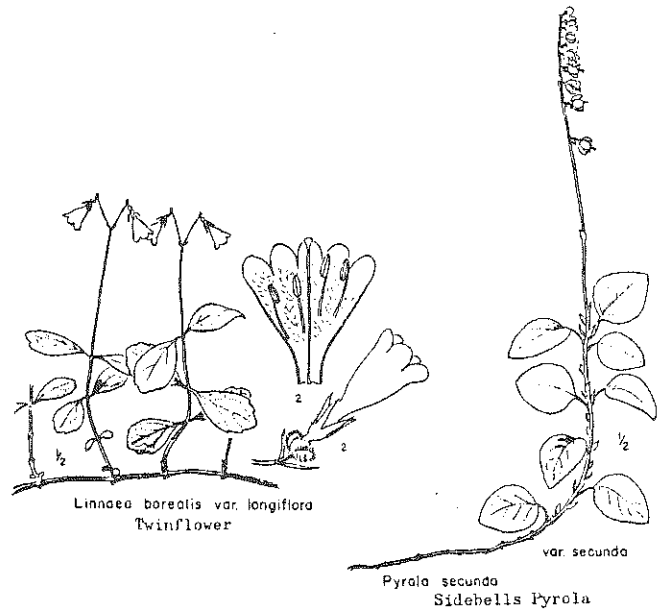
The Wonderland Trail climbs over ridges and dips down into valley forests. Other park trails originate in the forest and climb upward to parklands.

Many forest flowers are familiar. Some have bloomed several months earlier in forests near sea level: trilliums, yellow violets, an occasional calypso orchid. Others, such as bunchberry dogwood, may be old friends to those who have walked in forests in northeastern United States or eastern Canada. Because, in general, the northeastern biota stops at grasslands or the northern Rockies, the latter observation is curious.

A little background on northwest forests helps explain why some plants grow both in the east and in the west. Ecologist Rex Daubenmire explains our coniferous forests as a result of a cool coastal climate not warm enough in summer for most deciduous trees. Although the dryness of the summer is a problem for both types, conifers compensate by photosynthesizing on many frostfree days in spring and autumn when deciduous trees do not have leaves. Other coniferous forests are found northward where climates are colder and less favorable for growth. On the Pacific Coast we have (had) a unique forest, the most dense and luxuriant coniferous forest found anywhere. The understory includes many kinds of mosses, ferns and shrubs, the latter more prominent in younger or thinner stands.

Newcomers to the area sometimes wonder why we do not have more wildflowers, but likely it is impossible to have both a luxuriant evergreen forest and a luxuriant flower garden. Conifers cast shade all year long, they take enormous amounts of water and nutrients from the soil, and their litter is both less in quantity and less enriching than that of deciduous trees. Their needles are resinous, slow to decay and often form a surface difficult for seedlings to penetrate.

Flowers which are present have interesting associations. Before the Cascades and Rockies were formed, a



more continental influence on the climate here allowed deciduous forest to grow perhaps all across North America. This must have included some of the plants which still grow on both sides of the continent, as well as some pairs which appear very closely related. Among these are maidenhair fern, red elderberry, false Solomon's seal, and similar varieties of foamflower and rosy twisted stalk. Wildflowers found in the coniferous forest which bordered the northern edge, also could have reached the coastal area.

Flowers of the northern coniferous forest are more likely to be present in mountain forests now. Sometimes their distribution is circumboreal. We have twin flower *Linnaea*, a favorite flower in botanist Linnaeus' Swedish woods. Among others, northwestern pyrolas, we have a white one, called wood nymph, which also grows in Norway. The green-flowered sidebells pyrola grows in Siberia as well. Pipsissewa is an American plant with a pleasant-sounding Algonquian name. Waxy pink petals might suggest a princess, but the alternate name is usually spelled prince's pine; the plant is a small evergreen shrub, but in no way a pine. Bunchberry dogwood, also in this group, is one which recent detailed studies have shown to have subtle and microscopic differences from the plants growing east of the

(See "Flowers", p.5)

Rockies. Slight adaptations may be found eventually in all of this group.

Foresters currently are studying plants in the understory of Northwest forests for what these plants can tell them about a particular site. One of the earlier correlations was that numerous sword ferns indicate optimum growth conditions for douglas fir. An opposite finding, listed recently by Robin Leshner and Jan Henderson, was that big huckleberry (the kind with the large, luscious black berries) often grows on southern exposures with moderate snowpack, often dry by late season, and it indicates low forest productivity (hurray!). Another in their list of 45-50 plants, is the queencup, a white-flowered member of the lily family with two or three large basal leaves. It indicates a cool moist site with some winter snowpack, and moderate productivity.

By Mary Fries

(Illustrations from Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington Press, c1955-1969, used by permission.)

MRNPA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Light blue T-shirts with MRNPA logo will be available for purchase at the Trail Workparty (July 30th).

Or...fill out the order form below and mail to:

Margie Goulden
4710 129th Ave. E.
Sumner, WA 98390

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Please mark the number of shirts desired beside each size.

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Enclose \$8.00 for each shirt ordered.
Make checks payable to: MRNPA

MOUNT RAINIER NEWS BRIEFS

from the National Park Service

Travel for May	May '88	May '87
Visitors	101,952	156,612
Hotel Guests	1,395	1,405
Auto Campers	1,403	3,690
Bckcntry Campers	967	1,476

	1988 to Date	1987 to Date	Percent
Vis.	257,664	314,942	-18%
H.G.	2,719	2,984	- 9%
A.C.	3,196	5,234	-39%
B.C.	2,320	2,561	- 9%

PARK INFORMATION

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

BRIDGE PROBLEM TEMPORARILY CLOSES VAN TRUMP PARK TRAIL

Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Neal G. Guse has announced that due to the destruction of a lower bridge crossing by winter snowloads along the trail to Van Trump Park, the public could find access restricted to the popular high country area for part or all of the summer season. However, Guse did state that alternatives are being looked at that might provide a temporary solution to the access problem. He also noted that there is other trail access to Van Trump Park.

Source: National Park Service news release, 6/8/88.

HAZARDS CLOSE ACCESS TO TAHOMA CREEK TRAIL

Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Neal G. Guse has announced that due to the potential of glacial outburst floods creating high hazards to the park visitor in the vicinity of the Tahoma Creek Trailhead and associated parking areas, a decision has been made to close the lower portion of the trail to public use immediately. Guse stated, however, that plans are underway to survey and construct a

(See "News", p.6)

new spur route off the Westside Road at Tahoma Vista. The new access will be available for visitor use as soon as funding can be secured, but probably not for the next year or two.

Since late June, 1987, and the end of October of the same year, four outbursts of water from the South Tahoma glacier have triggered mudflows that resulted in the destruction of a picnic and parking area as well as a portion of the lower section of the Tahoma Creek Trailhead. In addition, emergency steps taken by the park prevented approximately fifteen hundred feet of the Westside Road from also being washed away....

There are three other trails leading to the (Indian Henry's Hunting Ground) area from other trailheads

Source: National Park Service news release, 5/24/88.

BOOK REVIEW

Reforming the Forest Service

by Randal O'Toole
Island Press, 1988

Randal O'Toole runs the Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants in Eugene, Oregon, and as a forest economist has become the hired gun of choice for conservation groups doing battle with the United States Forest Service. He has reviewed over forty different national forest plans and thousands of timber sales, and has noticed a disturbing pattern of uneconomic Forest Service logging plans and unhappy local citizens. This book is O'Toole's alternative, and at the least it is going to frame the debate over future forest policy decisions, and at best it will provide the blueprint for the most sweeping changes in the Forest Service since it was founded early this century.

First that word battle. Why are private citizens all over America fighting with part of their own

government? For the simple reason that the Forest Service looks and acts like a demented, marauding bureaucracy, repeatedly doing things that make neither economic nor environmental sense. Most typically this involves selling timber and grazing rights at a loss to loggers and cattlemen, all the while building more and more new roads for them into the forests. Since these actions tend to be irrevocable, at least in terms of human life and memory, the result is a never-ending series of Save the This! and Save the That! last stands by conservationists.

O'Toole's insight is to see this flurry of excitement as a symptom, and to search for and find a deeper cause. This has to do with how the Forest Service gets and increases its budget, and the key sword is incentives. Yes, says O'Toole, the Forest Service "bears an uncanny resemblance" to the Soviet economic system: production quotas are set at the top, without regard to market prices or consumer demand, and allocated to the different forests, where the local managers are given incentives (increase of their budgets) to meet those quotas. This is because a chunk of the money derived from timber sales stays at the local forest level. With recreational activities, the structure is just the reverse and almost none of the revenues stay at the local level, so there is no incentive to develop more recreational facilities, even though the demand for them is great. The Forest Service's top-heavy Washington, D.C., bureaucracy is also responding to an incentive resulting from the structure of how the money does (or doesn't) flow -- money is appropriated by Congress and the first order of business for any bureaucracy is devising rationales to increase its share. Economic and environmental rationality have little to do with it.

* Forest Service official told me one day that he had seventeen people working on his staff. "I sat down once and figured out

(See "Reforming", p.7)

that, if I had to, I could get along with only nine," he revealed. "Eight of them are just pushing paper around

"But," he went on, "I realized that a government employee who has a staff of only nine doesn't get paid as much as one who has a staff of seventeen. So I decided not to do anything about it."

* Eighty years of bureaucratic inertia render the Forest Service incapable of making the changes needed to correct the environmental and economic problems of the national forests. Reform must come from outside the agency, and it must dramatically change the institutions and bureaucracy under which the national forests are managed.

If, as this book suggests, the Forest Service is motivated primarily by its budget, then reforms must be aimed directly at the budget. New incentives can be created to encourage recreation where recreation is most valuable and to encourage efficient timber management on the most productive timberlands by making the agency's budget sensitive to the demand for these resources.

This analysis provides a neat sidestep to all the us/them polarizations. The Forest Service is not composed of evil men and women, says O'Toole, simply bureaucrats behaving rationally. The secret to change lies in changing the incentives, and for O'Toole the operative word here is **marketization**.

At its briefest, marketization has four parts. First, "Fund all activities out of net user fees." This is the for-profit system as opposed to subsidies from Congress. If pay-checks depend on turning a net profit, below-cost timber and grazing sales will quickly end. Second, "Reduce appropriations to zero." Cutting off the Congressional dole also eliminates the need for most of the Forest Service's Washington, D.C., staff, saving a big chunk of change. Third, "Charge fair market value for all resources." This includes recreation. Mr. and Ms.

Camper-Hunter-Boater-Birdwatcher will pay to use the forests, but they will have more and better facilities, and more places to use both now and in the future because uneconomical forest logging and grazing have been eliminated from vast areas where they now occur. Fourth, "Decentralize the National Forest System." The Federal government maintains ownership but each national forest is chartered as an independent, publicly owned organization, and each forest supervisor is like a CEO, responsible to a Board of Directors.

And for those few things that a market system won't fix (e.g. what is the market value of endangered species?) O'Toole advocates keeping the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Will these sweeping changes work? Will they do a better job of allocating resources, satisfying competing users and conserving the resource than the present system? Will we be given a chance to find out?

Reviewed by Richard Nilsen.
Excerpted from The Whole Earth Review.

ONP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

by Tim McNulty
Vice Pres., Olympic Park Associates

On July 23rd, the National Park Service will host Olympic National Park's 50th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony at the Visitors Center in Port Angeles, Washington. Festivities will begin at 11:00 A.M., followed by a salmon barbecue and music in the afternoon. The park will also be sponsoring a photo competition open to amateur photographers in western Washington.

We all have good reason to join in the celebration of Olympic National Park's first 50 years. Looking back, there is much to celebrate. But history tells us that we also need to look to the future. It will take continued and dedicated vigilance on the part of all who love the Olympics, to see that Olympic

(See "ONP", p.8)

National Park -- and the wonderfully complete wilderness system of which it is a part -- survive the next half-century. And the centuries that follow.

...A bill has been introduced in Congress that would place 97% of the park's wildlands into the National Wilderness System. If passed and signed into law, it would fulfill the intent of Congress a half-century ago.

For further information (about the anniversary celebration) call the park at (206) 452-4501.

Excerpted from Outdoors West.

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POETRY CORNER

FIELD NOTES:

To a Northern Spotted Owl
by Tim McNulty

A light wind sways the close-spaced
trees
where you sleep on a limb
in a dense stand of second growth.
You wake as we approach and turn
sleepily
to watch us--a biologist, a forester,
handful of reporters and
conservationists--
as if you're accustomed to crowds.

We are nothing vaguely edible,
certainly,
and no apparent threat, so you ruff
once
and settle back unconcerned,
as we snap photos and take notes.
Flecked, cinnamon-brown feathers and
wings,
dark, deep set eyes and pale hooked
beak.
A small, inconspicuous creature
with exclusive taste in habitat, cast
suddenly
into the flash and glare of an
environmental war.

Twelve million acres of old growth
forest were
wiped out in the northwest in little
more
than a century.
Now, in the last days of the old
trees,
the Forest Service is selling off
what's left
at 40,000 acres a year. There may be
no more than four to six thousand of
your kind
left in existence.

I try to hold these grim abstractions
in mind
as I and the others watch you.
For you, this means a tougher pull:
longer flights to find your prey of
flying squirrels
and red tree voles, a lower nesting
success,
and what young that do survive unable
to disperse into new territory.

The Forest Service gives you "a low
likelihood
of continued existence." The state
biologist
who has tracked you for three years
tells us
your prospects for nesting,
in this marginal habitat, are slim.
And yet
in the papers, on the hearing room
floors,
it is you who are "costing us jobs,"
for you "whole communities will be
shut down."

A twisted sense of "economic
dependence"
is trotted out as though it were
biological law
rather than corporate expedience,
or bottom-line greed.

But here, in this late-winter
morning,
you've turned on your limb
to have a beter look at us--
representatives of the world at
large. You
are the emissary for the entire
old growth community, silent and
unwitting
spokesman for a world threatened with
nothingness.

When you go, you take with you
a complex ecosystem evolved over
millions
of years, a world still unknown to
us,
but linked to our future as soundly
as this forest is linked to yours.

We share too much, as we share a last
moment together, quietly, in the
close-spaced trees.
You drop back into an innocent sleep,
and we turn and follow, not quite as
innocent,
out to the gravel haul-road that
brought us here.

From Outdoors West.

Ascents of Being
by Larry Carreau

Their elevated existence...
Three decades from my birth-
To be intently inspired by the spires
of the earth.

Precious pyramids of passion-
Washed clean by the rain.
Solitary bodies of brilliance stand
clear from the plain.

Their fatal attraction- adding fuel
to my fire.
An insatiable spirit- I climb higher
and higher.

St. Helens, Mt. Baker, Mt. Adams, and
Rainier...
Their glistening glaciers gring up
the seeds of my fear.

My planet comes into focus-
From my precipitous perch.
The forest my playground!
The mountain my church@!!!

Mother Mountain
by Larry Carreau

Maintaining sight of jagged horizons-
Celestial light illuminates her face.
Her substance surpasses her environs.
Her image impregnates my inner-space.

Snowblind spectacle? Her eyes close
As my boots bounce upon her steep
glacier.
Tall timber grows at the end of her
toes-
Bringing life to the canvas of
nature.

The Evanescent Emissary
Rides Again
by Larry Carreau

Lapping up the miles
With a blur of vibrant color.
Out-maneuvering their rivals --
While the pollen flies asunder.

Metabolism is burning
Amidst a hum of flames.
Young Honeysuckle is yearning --
As the temptress entertains.

How far have you traveled
Within your miniature frame?
Taut tendrils of time unraveled --
Beneath the blossoms of the rain.

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