



MRNPA NEWS

A quarterly publication of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates

Summer 1993
Volume 7 Number 3

From the Summit

*You know the old pump's
rusty
But it works fine, primed with
Water from another time.
It don't take much
But you gotta have some.
The old ways help.
The new ways come.
Just leave a little extra
For the next in line.
They're gonna need a little
Water from another time.*

*(lyrics to a song
by John McCutcheon)*

Hello! My name is John Titland. I will be writing this column for a while, as I am the new President of MRNPA. Having just been elected, but not yet been required to do anything, I've spent some time thinking about our organization and the directions I think we should be moving. That's why the lyrics to John McCutcheon's song "Water for Another Time" seem so appropriate to me. We need water from another time, and we should leave some for the next in line.

I need to start by thanking Jon Soest, our immediate past president for the fine job he has done. Jon has left behind more than water to prime the pump. He has left the pump water flowing. Jon has organized and will remain the chair of a Wilderness Management Committee working to understand and evaluate Park policies on wilderness, particularly motorized devices in the wilderness. He has also initiated a Park Expansion Committee. Jon has been and will continue to be an active and eloquent spokesman for MRNPA and the Park. Thanks Jon!

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A Passing View of the Summit

by Jon Soest

One year ago, I took office and expressed hope that we could encourage our members to become more involved in MRNPA activities, and that we could cooperate more with other citizen groups with common interests. We have made some progress in these areas, but we need to keep working on them.

What has been accomplished in the past year? MRNPA members have monitored and commented on Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments, in particular for the West Side Road closing, Highway 410 proposals, and changes in the structures at Sunrise. We communicated with NPS officials and staff members of national conservation organizations in regard to development and implementation of Park Service policies. Many members participated in our trail and re-vegetation parties. Internally, we have started work on two important issues, Publications and Wilderness Management Policy.

Fortunately, it has been a year without crisis, so there hasn't been a lot of notoriety or even publicity about our efforts. Nevertheless, we have kept the torch burning.

I now pass that torch on to a new president, with some cheap advice about issues to consider in the coming year (in addition to those already in progress). We need to schedule regular meetings with other citizen groups like Olympic Park Associates and North Cascades Conservation Council, with

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From the Summit cont'd...

In addition to the work of the two committees, an issue we will be working this coming year is "SR 410 revisited". Sometime in the July to September period, a revised Environmental Assessment will be issued for the Highway 410 reconstruction project inside the boundaries of the Park. As you may recall, the original project proposal included extensive tree cutting and road widening, which MRNPA opposed.

As a result of the public comment and general opposition to the original proposal, a revised proposal and revised EA will be released for public comment. The MRNPA Board may need to again call on all MRNPA members to write letters concerning the SR 410 project. Our efforts were effective in forcing changes to the previous proposal. We may need to do it again.

Another area where MRNPA will be devoting effort this year is participation on a committee organized to make recommendations for the Sunrise Lodge redevelopment. This may prove to be a very tricky problem because some of the buildings at Sunrise have been given historic status. Balancing the need for historic preservation, the NPS's need for adequate facilities to serve Park visitors, and the NPS's and MRNPA's possibly different concerns about preservation of the Park's environment may prove to be a daunting task.

But where is all this taking us? "The old ways help. The new ways come." I am concerned that MRNPA not become trapped into only responding to someone else's initiatives. If MRNPA is to be effective in determining which old ways help and which new ways come, we must formulate our own vision of the future of Mt. Rainier National Park and be prepared to propose initiatives that support our vision.

We, as users of the Park, have a different perspective from those whose job it is to manage the Park, or those who see the Park as a resource to be exploited, or those with a variety of other views, both positive and negative. People with other perspectives feel no shyness about proposing new ways. Neither should we. This is why I am very supportive of the two committees that Jon Soest organized.

I hope to find some interest among the MRNPA Board members to form committees to study other issues. Committees seem to me a way to establish some sort of MRNPA position without asking for mas-

sive amounts of efforts by any single individual. If you have an interest in participating on a committee, give either Jon or me a call and we will get you involved.

I am somewhat realistic about the results we can expect, however. I don't think we can change the world overnight. My hope is that we can "just leave a little extra for the next in line. They're gonna need a little water from another time."

John Titland

A Passing View cont'd...

whom we have so much in common. Our newsletter editor, Joan Burton, has suggested that we should consider sharing articles among our three newsletters. Meetings with Park personnel should be more regular, and much more frequent. We need to begin looking at the Park from an ecosystem perspective, and working toward expanded boundaries where appropriate. And most of all, we must let our members know that there are jobs to be done and that we need all the help we can get. A modest amount of effort can be so rewarding!

Good luck to the new board and the new officers.

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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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New Committees to Lead Study on Park Boundary Changes

by Jon Soest

The original boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park were drawn over 90 years ago, at a time when "ecosystem" was not even a word. We now find this concept to be a very powerful and useful approach to public land management—though sometimes very political. Recent work at Yellowstone National Park has led to the realization that the health of that Park and its wildlife is dependent on a much wider area than that enclosed by its boundaries.

Mount Rainier National Park, with its much smaller area and fragile alpine environment, is at least as dependent on surrounding lands as Yellowstone. Wildlife migrates in and out of the Park regularly, often using the ring of Wilderness Areas in the neighboring National Forests as corridors. Logging practices on adjacent lands have severely impacted the visual appearance of the forest on the boundary—and also the habitat, bringing a different set of "neighbors" (for example, cowbirds) to the wildlife living in the old growth environment of the Park.

Would extended boundaries for MRNPA help to free the ecosystem from negative impacts caused by human activities? Could more low-lying forest land provide dispersed recreation for the visitors, providing relief for the overcrowded alpine visitor centers? Are heavily logged public lands suitable for inclusion inside the Park, if we train an eye toward the long term? One example of such lands is Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, which was thoroughly logged and grazed before the Park was formed over 50 years ago. Yet today the signs of this prior use are difficult for the casual visitor to detect.

In early May, a new committee was formed to lead MRNPA considerations of the greater Park ecosystem,

with the ultimate goal of working to modify the Park boundaries in order to protect that ecosystem better. The committee is being organized by John Thompson, Roger Garrett, and Paul Heilman.

All three of the organizers have ecosystem "credentials". John is a neighbor of the Park. Living close by the Carbon River entrance, he keeps a close eye on the activities of the Park staff and the employees of private land owners (like Plum Creek) nearby. Roger was the Southwest Washington representative of the Washington Environmental Council to the TFW (Timber/Fish/Wildlife) agreement. He worked with representatives of Indian tribes, government organizations, and private landowners to try to guarantee proper management of forest lands through Forest Practice Permits. Paul is a forest scientist with the WSU Research Station in Puyallup, with a worldwide reputation in his field.

If you would like to help with this effort, please contact one of the leaders. We certainly don't know all of the an-

swers, and a large part of the committee's effort will be devoted to gathering information. This will probably include field trips to boundary areas. Right now, your interest and commitment are far more important than detailed knowledge.

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Mount Rainier National Park: Created Too Small, Shrinking Through the Years, Needing Now to Grow!

by Harvey Manning

When I was a little kid, car-camping with my fisher folk parents, we entered Mount Rainier National Park not far beyond the city limits of Enumclaw. What seemed to be the Park, that is. The White River valley certainly had the forests for it. From our favorite campsite Dad and the uncles would ford the White River to fish Huckleberry Creek, which was virtually bankful with trout—wild trout, not hatchery dumpings; few fisher folk were up to wading the rock-milky torrents from the Emmons and Winthrop Glaciers. The forest and the river were, for us, the Park.

But one day in the early 1930s we drove the narrow dirt road to where it ascended the valley wall. We quit where boulders blocked the roadway, which was said to be headed for Naches Pass because everybody supposed the old pioneer road would be the cross-mountain route. I suppose we turned back some miles short of what we later came to know as Cayuse Pass. I recall looking to the other side of the valley and far up the ridge in the meadows, seeing another road under construction.

Some years later we drove to Cayuse and Chinook Passes, and to Sunrise. By then our old family camp spot had become The Dalles Forest Camp. Also by then, the Park boundaries had retreated and we drove along the White River in a dun dreariness of stumps.

We were stunned, shocked, horrified that the Park would allow logging. What should have been Park, that is. In years to come I passed through two further stages of education. In the first I marveled that there could have been, so long ago, so strong a preservationist movement in the State of Washington. In the second I learned there was no preservationist movement in the state then. America was "given" the Park by the Northern Pacific Railway, its timber-beast cronies, and the chambers of commerce.

The railroad grant lands that grew nothing more salable than lava and glaciers were exchanged for lands else-

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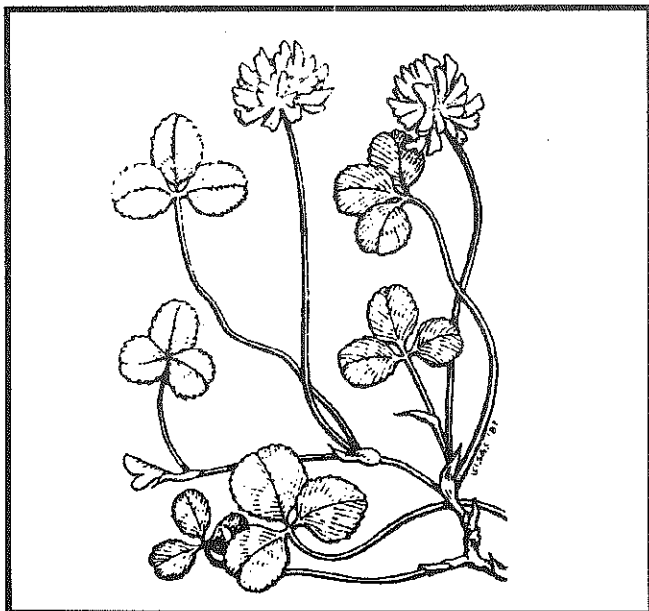
Mt Rainier, Needing to Grow! continued ...

where which groaned under a crop of ancient forests. It's rather surprising any forests at all were preserved in the for-a-fact Park. As the boundaries shrank in the 1950s and 1960s we saw what a confidence game had been played on America. In the 1970s and 1980s we were appalled that the game was still going on. We asked of the timber beasts, "Have you no shame?"

It is to laugh.

During my tours for Footsore 4 I saw how little shame the industry has. Clear cutting from the White River to within a rifle shot of the meadows of Grand Park—quickly exploited by the animal-eaters of Enumclaw for sneaking the short way through the woods of the Park to bag their elk within carrying distance of the pickup. (At the very least, cannot the logging road be closed off to the public at a distance too far for hauling dead meat?) I drove the Weyerhaeuser logging roads that took over the old lokie grades, up into the horizon-to-horizon clearcut being completed in the 1980s, walked cat tracks up through stumps to the summit of Sisters 1 — and to my amazement looked down to Weyco's Last Picture Show — a crew mowing down a little grove of subalpine trees on the shore of a meadow-marsh pond. "Shame" is not in the company vocabulary.

Among my most startling discoveries was in the area where the highly inadequate Clearwater Wildemess was dedicated, over the objections of former Congressman Rod ("Smiley") Chandler. On the slopes of Carbon Ridge, the foreground for Rainier as seen from Seattle, I came upon a stretch of long-abandoned ridge-top trail, an evident route from Wilkeson, now destroyed except at this altitude. In the naked stump land below the ridge crest I was startled to find a scattering of relict Douglas fir. Monster old stumps, one to every few acres, amid the stumps of the silver fir and mountain hemlock adapted to that elevation in the current swing of the climate. A thousand



Trifolium repens - (white clover), a European import...

years ago, before the onset of the Little Ice Age, this was Douglas fir country. Not anymore. The relicts have been shipped overseas.

The stumps ought to be given plaques. This tree was a seedling in the time of Charlemagne. In the age of Weyerhaeuser it was hauled away to provide a total one-and-a-half day's work for several loggers and mill workers and to provide dividends to fat cats who got fat on the Northern Pacific Land Theft.

When the felony is punished by "reinvesting" the booty, we can then begin pushing the proper boundaries of the Park out to where they should be. The footings of Rainier reach to the city limits of Buckley, Enumclaw. In my Footsore surveys I walked most of the way from Buckley to Carbon Ridge. The ridges have been skinned, but green, dank, shadowed wildness has survived in dramatic gorges. Packworthy. A sublime trail even now.

Enough. I'm making my heart bleed, remembering those days tramping up and down the ruins. We can build upon those ruins. That is, Nature can. All around the Park allowed to America by the ruthless Scrooges of the last century, on all the ridges and valleys gang-banged by their heirs, there are ridges and rivers of Mount Rainier which belong in the Ultimate Park. They ought now to be returned to the public domain. Let's be fair and pay Weyerhaeuser what Frederick did Jim Hill—\$6 an acre. Pretty steep, actually lacking the ancient forests.

In my travels it was the west side I found especially beautiful, in a perverse way, like a trip to Mars. From Eatonville through the Mashel country to the Park, if any tree big enough for an ax to get a square whack survived, I didn't see it. The Park boundary ought to be immediately pushed out to the second or third ridge west.

I believe I witnessed the last years of the Rape of the West. The logging roads of the Puyallup then were closed to public vehicles, but not walkers; by hoofing 25 miles a day I could cover a lot of territory. A day in late fall I was walking the Main Road back to Camp 2, where my car was parked outside the gate. A succession of super trucks roared by in the twilight at 50 mph. Their loads were relict Douglas firs, huge old ancients. They were white. Snow filled the interstices of the bark. These were trees which were cut from the meadow's edge, the noise of chain saws and trucks loud in Sunset Park on the Wonderland Trail.

I've been up there since Champion bought out the old thieves and opened the country to the public—for a fee. Do not wax too enthusiastic about the Champion Experiment. The old thieves were content to steal trees. Champion is selling meat.

The boundaries of the Ultimate Park must extend west at least to the confluence of the Mowich and Puyallup Rivers, at least to The Divide, an eminence which has (of course) been scalped, yet is a vantage point for roadside gawking equal to Chinook Pass and Yakima Park. The west side of Rainier is seen in a broad context, a context which includes an estimated five billion stumps of ancient trees. The nation ought to see them.

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Mt Rainier, Needing to Grow! continued ...

Just about everything bad that can be done to Rainier has been done. The repair must be done, but we have to go back to Ground Zero, as if the glaciers had just gone away. Let's begin with a preliminary master plan for the Ultimate Rainier Park, the one that encompasses the Whole Mountain.

Board Members Meet With Park Officials

by Jon Soest

On May 11, MRNPA Board members Bob Aegerter, John Thompson, and Jon Soest met with Superintendent William Briggie and three members of his staff from Mount Rainier National Park. The staff members were John Wilcox, Ranger of the Muir District (Backcountry), John Jensen, Chief Ranger, and Erik Walkinshaw, Chief of Planning. This meeting was part of our effort to keep in touch with the Park management on issues that interest our members.

Mr. Briggie discussed a major reorganization of the rangers. The Park has been divided into two districts: Backcountry, or Muir District, and Frontcountry, or Mather District. Wilcox, the Muir ranger, will have Resource Management and Trails under his control. The Mather District ranger is Randy Brook.

The Wilderness Management Plan, which MRNPA has been studying this year (see articles in previous two newsletters) is now under review. Internal comments are due by May 21. The review is being conducted by Pam Griffin, Wilderness Management Specialist.

A special group has been formed to review any project that has environmental impact. This group, nicknamed the "Nod Squad", will have to approve any project before it proceeds. This appears to be a good approach to ensuring that all projects fit into the "big picture" of the Park and its ecosystem—before action is taken that negatively affects other parts of the Park or its surroundings.

The Carbon River entrance station is upgrading some facilities, in order to lower environmental impact in its flood plain location. Waste water will be stored and pumped out as needed. Currently the waste is processed through a typical septic tank and drain field system, which is inadequate and not a good idea in this moist soil area. Recycling options were considered to be too expensive. Some additional quarters are being added, in particular another trailer. Fuel will no longer be stored at the station—again, such storage is not wise given the soil and flooding conditions at this location.

Mr. Briggie talked about the Tacoma project. This is an informational project near Union Station on the waterfront in Tacoma. The Tacoma News Tribune carried an article about it on Sunday, May 16. Mr. Briggie requested support for the project, including letters to Congressman Dicks. The MRNPA Board has not taken an official position on this effort yet, since we have not given our membership any information or asked for your reactions. Members are of course encouraged to express their opinions to their congressmen, particularly if they live in Congressman Dicks' district.

Mending the Meadow

By Regina Rochefort and Stephen Gibbons

from *Restoration and Management Notes*, Winter 1992
Published for the University of Wisconsin Arboretum

Paradise—the name seems appropriate to the beautiful subalpine meadow in Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Nestled between the 4,393 m. peak of Mount Rainier and the jagged peaks of the Tatoosh Range, the meadow is a myriad of colors in early August. Magenta paintbrush, blue lupines, purple meadow aster, and yellow heather are interspersed among lush green sedges and dark green huckleberries. At first glance, the network of asphalt trails seems inappropriate in this "pristine" area. A more detailed inspection of the meadow provides a hint as to the need for asphalt trails—numerous "social" or volunteer trails and bare ground rest areas created by visitors eager to explore areas not accessible by maintained trails.

To deal with this growing problem, in 1986, Mount Rainier National Park initiated a large-scale restoration program to document and repair areas in the Paradise meadows damaged by visitors. Efforts so far have led to the documentation of all human impacts in the Paradise area, the development of a rating system to classify affected areas and to prioritize them for restoration, improved techniques for stabilizing and revegetating severely eroded sites, and the development of a comprehensive restoration plan for the Paradise meadows.

The restoration plan addresses not only revegetation methods and priorities, but protection of restored sites and prevention of new damage to plant communities. Development of protection and prevention methods included a sociological study designed to provide a profile of "non-compliers" (off-trail hikers) and an assessment of the effectiveness of signs and barriers currently in use in the Paradise area. The results of the sociological study provided a basis for improvements in our signs, barriers, and other means for reducing damage by visitors.

Mending The Meadow continued ...

Vegetation and History

The Paradise meadows encompass approximately 389 hectares (960 acres) and extend from 1,646 to 2,256 m (5,400' to 7,400') in elevation. Most of the meadow is within the subalpine parkland zone, although a small portion is above treeline and is dominated by alpine vegetation. The subalpine parkland is an ecozone that extends from the closed-canopy tree clumps interspersed with herbaceous meadows. Tree clumps are composed of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*).

The herbaceous vegetation includes five broad community types, as described by Henderson (1974): Heath-shrub, wet sedge, low herbaceous, lush herbaceous, and dry grass. Heath-shrub communities are dominated by eraceous species such as heathers and huckleberries (*Cassiope mertensiana*, *Phylodoce empetrifomis*, *P. glanduliflora*, *Vaccinium delicosum*). Wet sedge communities occur in depressions or along creeks, and are dominated by black-topped sedge (*Carex nigrecans*), showy sedge (*C. spectabilis*), and alpine aster (*Aster alpigenus*). The low herbaceous communities are slightly drier than the wet sedge communities, and are dominated by anemone (*Anemone occidentalis*), alpine aster, and paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.). Both the lush herbaceous and dry grass communities have slightly taller vegetation than the wet sedge or low herbaceous vegetation types (over 20 cm tall). The lush herbaceous community is characterized by lupine (*Lupinus latifolius*), false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), and Sitka valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*). Dry grass communities are found on very dry sites and are dominated by green fescue (*Festuca viridula*) and lupine. Vegetation is fairly continuous in the lower portion of the meadow, but above about 1,890 m (6,200'), the herbaceous vegetation becomes discontinuous and is interspersed with patches of rocks, bare soil or gravel.

The area is easily accessible by the main Park road and is a popular destination for dayhikers and alpine climbers. Approximately 1.08 million visitors go to Paradise each year (Salvi and Johnson, 1985). The area has been heavily used since the early 1900's, and much of the damage evident in the meadows today is the result of activities that are no longer permitted. This includes degradation



Heather, a dominant native specie.

caused by a tent camp (1890-1930s), a horse concession (1908-1965), a golf course (1931), and a ski concession (1934-1975).

Damage caused by horses has proved especially severe and long-lasting. Some riding trails are still 2-4 m wide and up to 0.6 m deep nearly 30 years after the concession closed. Native vegetation has reclaimed the roads leading into the old tent camp, but the roads are still below grade and easily visible. Several old road-beds and rope-tow-sites are marked by swaths of lupines, which produce a brilliant display of purple flowers each year in late July. Some of these sites appear to have been deliberately revegetated sometime in the last 30-40 years, but Park records concerning past revegetation efforts are incomplete and provide few specific details of methods or materials. Although these areas are covered with native plant communities, we would prefer that the outline of square tent sites and linear roadbeds were not visible.

Historic records do indicate that restoration in the Paradise area actually began more than a half-century ago in conjunction with construction of the Stevens Canyon road in 1937. At that time, Civilian Conservation Corps workers planted vegetation salvaged from a future roadbed in

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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, Jennifer Dunn, etc.)
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Your U. S. Senator
(Patty Murray, etc.)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Mending The Meadow continued ...

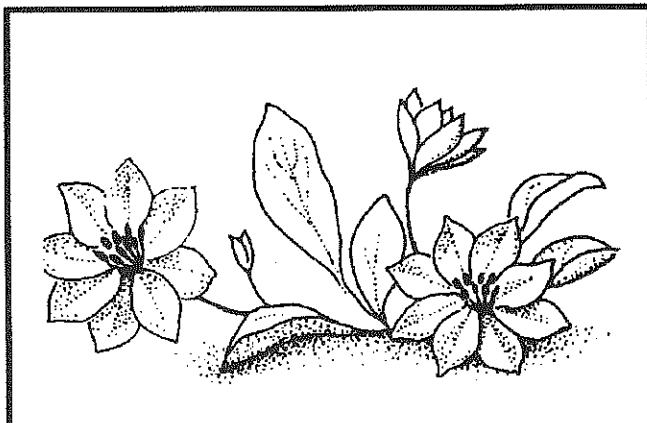
the denuded area surrounding a parking lot. Today this area still has many bare ground areas, but for the most part it is covered with native shrubs. In the late 1950s, Park officials decided that the best option for protecting the area was to asphalt the most severely eroded trails, which were located in the lower portion of the meadows. Today the meadows support a maintained trail system that includes 16 trails with a total length of 21.7 km. Trails in the lower meadows still have asphalt surfaces, but additional trails in the higher elevation areas have been covered with a gravel tread and delineated with large rocks.

Although Park policy is to discourage off-trail hiking due to the fragility of the subalpine vegetation, off-trail travel still occurs, creating new bare ground sites and perpetuating existing bare ground "social" trails and rest areas. In 1986, Superintendent Neal G. Guse (currently Cooperative Park Studies Unit Leader at Clemson University) initiated a large-scale program to repair human-caused damage in the meadow.

The first objective of the program was to form an interdivisional Park committee to write a plan for protecting and restoring the meadow. The Paradise Meadow Plan Committee included two Visitor Protection Rangers (Rick Kirschner and Garry Olson), an Interpretive Ranger (Doug Buehler), the Landscape Architect (Bob Elmore), the Trail Crew Foreman (Mike Carney), a Natural Resource Specialist (Steve Gibbons) and the Botanist (Regina Rochefort). Steps in the plan's development included field surveys of human impacts, sociological surveys regarding noncompliance and optimal control methods, and development of a method to rate and rank impacted sites for restoration. Human impacts included bare ground social trails, social trails where some trampled vegetation persisted, and large bare ground sites used as rest areas, picnic sites, campsites, or scenic vistas.

Description of Human Impacts

Mount Rainier National Park botanists Regina Rochefort, Mignonne Bivin, Lisa Pakula, Sue Fritzke, and Alan Ragins systematically surveyed the meadow for human impacts during the summers of 1986 and 1987. They mapped each damaged area on an aerial photograph



Lewisia tweedyi - a rare specie in the Cascades.

(1:5,000 scale) and topographic map, measured the site, and then photographed it for future comparisons using 35 mm color print film. Measurements recorded for each damaged site included: volume of soil lost by erosion (calculated as the product of length, width, and depth of the eroded area); surface area of the site; percent of the area denuded of vegetation; and general site characteristics including slope, aspect, and dominant vegetation type.

Anne Braaten, currently the Geographic Information Specialist at North Cascades National Park, digitized maps of all damaged areas and entered them into Mount Rainier's computerized geographic information system. We later used this information to develop restoration goals for the meadows, determine locations for new rest areas, and develop annual restoration plans.

The team also recorded qualitative information regarding the origins of social trails or rest areas and evidence of current use. We later used this information to determine whether the area could be successfully restored or whether it should be formally designated as a rest area or maintained trail.

During the two years of field surveys, we documented 913 significantly degraded areas in the Paradise meadows. Most of these (89%) were what we call "social trails", linear bare ground scars resulting from shortcuts between designated trails or between designated trails and points of interest. The remaining disturbed areas are large bare ground or severely trampled areas previously used as rest areas and/or view points. Dimensions of bare ground sites are quite varied; lengths range from 0.5 to 1,740m, widths ranged from 0.1 to 25.6m, and soil subsidence due to compaction and erosion ranged from 0.01 to 1.0m.

We found that the most deeply eroded scars were trails through heath-shrub communities on steep slopes in the upper elevation portion of the meadows. Social trails in the lower meadows and large rest areas were generally on flat sites, and were characterized by bare, compacted surfaces.

(To Be Continued in the Next MRNPA NEWS)

Summer Trail Work Parties

by Bob Aegerter, Lynn Heckman
and John Titland

Once again friends of Mount Rainier are volunteering for weekends of constructive effort on Mount Rainier National Park's trail system. We will be there again this summer for enjoyable weekends of service to the Park.

Our major project will be in the Paradise area on the south side of the Park. In August, we have reserved campsites at Cougar Rock and will have a potluck supper after the work party.

You will have two opportunities to participate in this effort:

continued on next page

Summer 93 Trail Parties continued ...

- Saturday, August 14th at Paradise to work on construction of trails.
- Saturday, September 11th again at Paradise.

1st 1993 Trails Party

On Saturday June 5th, National Trails Day, 14 people worked on the Carbon River trail, one of the most-used trails in the Park. Trail Crew Ranger Carl Fabiani supervised and directed the work.

The crew widened portions of trail that had eroded into the river by cutting into the hillside slope above the trail, creating new flat surfaces with shovels, crowbars, and pulaskis. Roots, rocks, salmon berries, and vine maples were cut back to widen the path. A troop of Boy Scouts and another troop of Girl Scouts tramped past the crew and appreciated its efforts. Despite a spitting morning rain when the work began at 8:00, the afternoon sun shone. A post-trail crew party was held at John and Yolanda Thompson's Carbon River Ranch.

Please contact the new trail committee chair, Dick Baker, 2115 11th Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119, (206) 282-1064 if you would like to participate.

The Lake Tipsoo Project

Last fall MRNPA members and friends assisted Park volunteer Peggy Enderlein with a re vegetation project at Lake Tipsoo. We spent the entire day reclaiming social trails with native wild flowers, grasses, and shrubs. We will have the same opportunity this year in late September or early October. If you're interested in spending one of your fall weekend days at Lake Tipsoo transplanting seedlings that are native to the area, give Jane Titland a call at 747-1698. The exact dates for transplanting depend on the fall weather. Those who express an interest in this project will be contacted when the dates have been finalized.

Summer Bridge Construction: Two Routes Affected in The Park

News Release from WSDOT & NPS

Motorists traveling through Mount Rainier National Park this summer will experience short delays due to the replacement of two bridges on State Routes 410 and 123, according to Park Superintendent William J. Briggie and Washington Dept. of Transportation representatives. In addition, the construction projects will require both routes, which serve the east portion of the Park to remain closed until May 28.

The two bridges are the Deadwood Creek Bridge, located approximately 5 miles south of the Park's northeast boundary on State Route 410, and the Laughingwater

Creek Bridge, approximately 2 miles north of the Park's southeast boundary on State Route 123. Both bridges are over 50 years old.

Traffic revisions will be necessary at both sites throughout the duration of the projects. A single-lane temporary bridge is being built to bypass the Deadwood Creek Bridge, and is expected to be in place for up to two years. Advance warning and control signals will alert motorists to the traffic revision. A portion of the existing Laughingwater Creek Bridge will be retained as a temporary span while its replacement is being built nearby. A flagging operation and warning signs will control traffic.

During preparation of the temporary by-pass bridges, State Route 410 will be closed at the Park's northeast entrance gate, and at Morse Creek, approximately 4 miles outside the Park's east boundary within the Wenatchee National Forest. State Route 123 will be closed at the Ohanepecosh Area, about 1 mile inside the Park's southeast entrance.

The Ohanepecosh Visitor Center is scheduled to open weekends, beginning May 15 and will provide further information regarding the road closures and available services. All other facilities in the Park's east side will remain inaccessible by road until noon on May 28.

These projects require close coordination between the National Park Service, Washington Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration. All three agencies participated in the review of the bridge designs. WSDOT design engineers approved the construction drawings. FHWA project engineers and inspectors will supervise construction at both sites, with general oversight by the National Park Service.

Planning & Development

summarized by Bob Aegerter

Mount Rainier Superintendent William Briggie and three key Park administrators recently met with Jon Soest, John Thompson, and Bob Aegerter of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates to discuss planning and development.

General Management Plan

MRNPA has discussed an outline for a General Management Plan with Park administrators in the past. Focused activity on the study will begin in August of this year. Park officials estimate it will take three years to complete, including an Environmental Impact Statement. GMP's outline in broad terms will lay out in broad terms what can and cannot be done in the Park over the next decade. Potential for Park expansion can be a significant issue. Citizen participation can make the plan more specific and realistic. Contact a member of the MRNPA Board if you would like to be involved in the process.

Highway 410, Mather Memorial Highway

The EA for the portion of the highway north of Mount Rainier was open for public comment during May 1993. A

continued on next page

Planning and Development continued ...

revised EA on a revised preferred alternative for the portion within the Park is tentatively scheduled for public review from August 19, 1993 to September 31, 1993.

Staff Reorganization

Mt. Rainier staff has been reorganized into two groups: The Muir, which manages the wilderness areas sometimes called "backcountry", and the Mather, which manages the "frontcountry", the areas you can reach by car. The reorganization goes beyond the interpretive and ranger staffs. The trail maintenance crews, for example, work for John Wilcox of the Muir unit. Randy Brooks leads the Mather unit. The reorganization is offered as experimental and could be changed. We will keep you informed.

Sunrise Lodge Redevelopment

Mount Rainier National Park Administration is working with the State Historic Preservation Officer to form a "pro bono publico" committee of five members to review and make recommendations regarding the preferred alternative represented in the Sunrise EA. MRNPA will have a member on this committee.

Paradise "Ski Dorm" Redevelopment

Three alternatives for the replacement of the Paradise Ski Dorm have been identified and will be reviewed in an EA during the winter of '93-94. The preferred alternative shifts the long axis of the building from north-south to east-west to avoid extensive exposure to the prevailing winter storms and the snow drifting that results.

White River Housing/Support Facility Relocation

A Task Group consisting of representatives from Mount Rainier National Park, Washington State Department of Transportation and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has been formed to study the moving of WSDOT's maintenance facility at Crystal Creek in the Park and the Park's White River staff housing and maintenance facility to a new joint site on Highway 410 north of the Park entrance. The State Patrol and others may have an interest in participating. There is no environmentally acceptable site within the Park for these activities.

Tacoma Creek Trail Suspension Bridge

The second year of construction for the replacement bridge will continue this summer. The existing bridge will remain in place until the new bridge is usable.

Climbing Concession

Superintendent Briggles has appointed a committee to review the potential for a second climbing guide concession in the Park. Smaller guide organizations have objected to the exclusive rights of Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. Others have expressed concern that small guide concessions would not be able to maintain a safe level of back-up guide for rescue work. Charging for the cost of rescue of lost or stranded climbers and hikers by the Park Service is being studied. Grand Teton, Yosemite and Denali (Mt. McKinley) may have the significant input to the final decision. Opponents express concern that the extensive volunteer rescue and communications organi-

zations that presently exist would lose their vitality. Climbers would probably buy insurance against the charges. A user fee, including the rental of an emergency radio might be less costly, avoiding the high overhead costs of private insurance companies. Denali had a number of tragic situations during the past climbing season that stretched the Park staff beyond reason.

Wilderness Management Planning in the National Parks

by Sally Soest

On April 17, the Olympic Park Associates' board held an all-day meeting with ONP Superintendent Maureen Finnerly and members of her staff, for a comprehensive update on ONP issues. Polly Dyer, Randy Payne, and I (as newsletter editor) were among those present. One of the major topics was the Wilderness Management Plan (WMP). ONP is struggling with many of the same management issues as MRNPA is. The similarities and differences between the two Parks' Wilderness Management Plans is interesting.

Mt. Rainier's Wilderness Management Plan grew quickly from the earlier backcountry management plan, and was adopted only about one year after the MT Rainier Wilderness was designated (1988).

In contrast, ONP has been working on their WMP for years—ever since the passage of the Washington Wilderness Act. Funds ran out, and the planning process fell into a hiatus, during which ONP relied on management guidance from their backcountry management plan, with appropriate modifications. Finally work resumed on the WMP, and they hope to have it ready for public review by summer '93.

ONP's Natural Resources Manager, Ruth Scott, has been working on the WMP for all these years, and is by now something of a national authority on wilderness management. Their planning process is extremely complete and elegant.

Ruth was quick to point what we have recently learned: that, although the Forest Service has specific regulations regarding wilderness management, the National Park Service guidelines for implementing the Wilderness Act are poor, prescribing no planning process or system of implementation; so wilderness management planning has to be done on a park-by-park basis.

Ruth has used a planning process developed by Forest Service researchers, and improved upon it. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process was first used in the '70s and was used as the basis for MRNP's WMP. However, because LAC was developed by researchers, it has some impracticalities. Ruth feels that it fails to adequately allow for such practicalities as the Environmental Assessment process, with which ultimately any WMP must comply. Consequently, Ruth has built into the ONP planning

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Wilderness Management continued ...

process several pre-LAC steps having to do with goal-setting, determining how the EA will be developed, and setting up means of coordinating with other agencies and public groups.

ONP then followed the LAC process, which we have also seen evidence of in MRNP: identification of zones within the Park and classes of conditions which are desired with each zone; choosing indicators for each zone and setting up monitoring systems; ultimately deciding standards and guidelines for activities within each zone, and proposing how each zone will be used. Basically, this amounts to overlaying the wilderness map on the zone map.

ONP has reached this point. By next summer they expect to present various zones-and-uses alternatives to the public for comment.

Ruth Scott sees the implementation of the WMP as an annual monitor-and-review process, in which a mechanism for yearly reassessment, involving public input, is built into the WMP, resulting in an annual State-of-the-Wilderness report.

Other Specific Wilderness Issues in Both ONP and MRNPA

Use of native materials for bridges. ONP and Olympic Park Associates are struggling with these problems as we are. All are opposed to continued use of downed trees for log bridge stringers. ONP has a policy that all bridge materials over a certain size must be reviewed by Park managers; the decision to use large trees cannot be made by trail crews. Several members expressed the philosophy that, given that any bridge is a non-wilderness intrusion, and given that the use of local trees is offensive, the best alternative is metal stringers, which at least will last a long time before they have to be replaced. The Forest Service is researching new designs that may be less offensive to the wilderness visitor.

Helicopters. ONP requires the Superintendent's approval for their use, and specifies no-fly dates (June 1-Labor Day). At the end of each year they re-evaluate all helicopter use, scrutinizing the uses carefully. This is similar to the MRNP procedures, although it is not clear that the two parks use similar criteria for approval of helicopter use.

Aircraft Overflight. NPS is doing an overflight study, which should be completed within about a year. ONP is one of the study sites. The study will look at effects, noise levels, etc. ONP backcountry rangers monitor and record aircraft overflights.

Minimum Trail. According to the Assistant Superintendent, this is always a trade-off between financial and natural resources. Six-foot lengths of bridge materials, and even outhouses can be packed in by horse and mule, without resorting to helicopters, for example.

Transportation Study

by John Titland

At the MRNPA annual meeting in May Mt. Rainier National Park Superintendent Briggie presented a list of current and coming projects at the MRNP. One of those projects will be a Transportation Study and Plan. Superintendent Briggie indicated that this plan might ultimately include features such as public transportation from points of origin outside the Park and/or a system of shuttle buses on the Westside Road.

Transportation planning is not a simple subject. I would be interested to know if any MRNPA members with knowledge or expertise in transportation related subjects would be interested in assisting the Board in any future efforts to understand and evaluate transportation plans for Mount Rainier National Park. If you have such knowledge or expertise and are interested in helping, please call John Titland at 747-1968.

Carbon Corner Concerns

by John Thompson

Carl Fabiani, head of the trail crew on the Ipsut-Mowich Lake trails, reports that budget constraints have downsized his crew to himself and two other persons, and increased their area of trail maintenance to include the White River area. This means that about all they can expect to do this year is to keep the trails open. At this time the Glacier Trail, Green Lake Trail, and Paul Peak Trail to the Mowich River Valley are open and clear of snow. The snow level in this area is about 4500 feet. The Chenuis Trail is scheduled for repair later in the summer.

Some repairs have been made on the ranger cabin at Ipsut, and an additional mobile home is being set up in the entrance service area. At this point a ranger has just been hired for the area.

There has been an administrative re-alignment throughout the Park. Essentially it seems to be a two-division affair; i.e. front country rangers dealing primarily with the public, and back country rangers dealing with the Park and its maintenance. Thus, in this area, Ed Wilson, formerly manager of Ipsut, Carbon, White River District has been reassigned under the new management plan to responsibility as North Side Front Country Ranger, and Steve Klump is now the Back Country Ranger of the North Side. The new system seems to insure better coverage of backcountry trails and is generally better at maximizing staff.

The road from the Carbon River entrance to Ipsut campground is very rough this spring. The potholes are big enough to break an axle, but the road grader will be brought in to smooth them out when the road has dried out a little. Take care. The pot holes are dangerous!

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Carbon Concerns continued ...

Cayada Creek Drainage Management Survey Throughout last fall and winter a group of Forest Service people and a couple of 'civilians' were busily planning to "rehabilitate" and protect an area of Forest Service land adjacent to the northwest corner of the Park. This area is in the "surround", and acts as a "buffer" to the Park. It should be of concern to anyone with an interest in protecting and preserving the Park.

For those not familiar with the Cayada/Summit area, a description would include a comparison to the Mowich & Eunice area, five miles to the south. Though terrain, altitude, and accessibility are similar, an important difference exists in that much Forest Service and Plum Creek logging has been done in the drainage and around Coplay, Surprise and East Lakes. Luckily, Summit Lake was included in the Clearwater Wilderness before logging got to it. Still much beauty remains in the drainage and it may be enhanced with the conscientious restorative mitigation efforts being planned.

Of the five alternatives considered, number three seemed most desirable. It follows:

Most Developed Recreation Area: Provides the most recreation opportunities for the highest number of users and restores and protects the area's natural resources. The more developed environment may change the type of experience available and the type of visitor.

Area Access: Improve road surface conditions on FS 7810 and provide regular maintenance for passenger vehicle use. Close FS 7810 at the first switchback past the FS 7820 junction and construct a Summit Lake trailhead and parking area. Reconstruct the closed road section into trail. Maintain FS 7820 past Coplay Lake and FS 7820/310 to the present end at the East Lake outlet.

Summit Lake: Heavy use around the lakeshore and lake basin has resulted in webs of social trails throughout the meadows. Vegetation loss and damage to live trees is common at overnight camping spots. Visitor use along the lakeshore has damaged vegetation. Forest Plan standards for capacity, campsite vegetative loss, tree damage, number of campsites, maximum encounters, and average number of parties have been exceeded in the last two years. Current management strategies include unregulated day use, no campfires allowed within 1/4 mile of the lake, overnight camping allowed, and wilderness guard patrol 3-5 days per week during the summer.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE ROADS AND TRAILS ON THE MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST?

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ON HOW THE FOREST SERVICE CAN EFFECTIVELY INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN PLANNING FOR THE USE OF ROADS AND TRAILS ON THE FOREST?

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR IDEAS ABOUT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FOREST MANAGERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC?

Meeting dates, times, and locations:

- Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 P.M. Mt. Vernon High School
- Saturday, June 12, 9:00 AM Everett North Middle School
- Monday, June 14, 7:00 P.M. Newport High School
- Saturday, June 19, 9:30 AM Federal Way Library

John Thompsons' comment:

The above plan implementation won't happen overnight or precisely as outlined. But this is rather a remarkable document. All at once the Forest Service, is, in essence, planning to make a park! In the White River Ranger District of the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, the Coplay/Cayada area is the only lake with vehicle access. Clearly the public use will grow. Hopefully there will be strong support for this effort, financially and attitudinally, by the government and public.

Book Reviews

by Bob Aegerter

Bill Dietrich, whose book on the Northwest forest situation, The Final Forest. The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest, is one of the fairest and most readable discussions of the old growth forest controversy, was allowed to travel around the world at the expense of The Seattle Times for having received the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for his excellent reporting on the Valdez oil spill in Alaska. Of course, he sent back reports which were published in The Seattle Times in 1990. From Japan, he noted that countries with 120 million people live in an area smaller than California. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, about 14 percent of the land is set aside as parks, while the United States has only 7.4 percent in parks and wilderness.

More surprising was his report on the impact of U.W. wood prices on the Japanese timber industry. Although Japan has only about 220,000 acres of "virgin" forest comparable to U.S. old growth, they do have a viable forest industry, strengthened by CCC style tree planting under U.S. occupied forces following World War II. Bill Dietrich reported that "since 1965 Japan's production of domestic wood has fallen from about 60 million cubic meters to 35 million, while its imports have climbed from 75 million to 100 million." "The United States supplies more of Japan's wood than any other country, and most of the raw logs come from Washington State."

While the clearcutting of private and public forest continues up to the border of Mount Rainier National Park, concern about the impact of ozone air pollution on Douglas fir and ponderosa pine increases. Ozone is a part of the photo-chemical smog problem. Pollutants generated in urban areas, principally from private transportation, are carried by the prevailing air currents into the mountains and chemically altered by exposure to sunlight. Thus some

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Book Reviews continued ...

contaminants may not show up until many miles from the source.

In 1990, times were good and Boeing voluntarily agreed to reduce volatile organic emissions at all of its facilities as an offset or mitigation effort in exchange for a permit to build a new paint hangar at North Boeing Field in Seattle. Kirk Thompson of Boeing said, "This is good news for the region." When the aerospace business turned sour, his boss recently threatened not to assemble future generation commercial airplanes in Puget Sound because of excessive environmental regulation. I have had my personal share of inexperienced environmental regulators waffling and procrastinating because the regulations were poorly written and they lacked the expertise to make a defensible decision. A part of a minimum impact system has to be efficiency in development. But what I heard Boeing representatives saying was that if you don't lower the standards, we'll take the jobs and go somewhere else. In good times, it would not sound like a bad idea. Who needs more congestion? But if times are not going to be so good...

Alan Theim Durning has written "How Much Is Enough? The Consumer Society and the Future of the Earth", which raise basic questions about the wisdom of continuing to consume, having fully met our material needs. Alan is the son of Jean and Marvin Durning of Seattle. Jean has been Northwest representative of The Wilderness Society and a major force in the Washington State National Parks Wilderness Bill which designated Mt. Rainier backcountry as wilderness. Marvin is an environmental attorney. During his unsuccessful bid for Washington State Attorney General in 1968, he was the first to propose protection for the Columbia River Gorge. Alan Durning is a senior researcher with the Worldwatch Institute.

The book raises basic issues about our lifestyle and its impact on the environment. Can we continue to live the American dream and expect that there will be resources and natural systems left for the grandchildren? He makes an especially strong hit at consumerism and advertising.

In any discussion of environmental ethics, the issue of the birth rate or the population explosion comes up as the real culprit. In the cover article of the February, 1993 Atlantic, Charles C. Mann reviews the myth and reality of population growth in "How Many is Too Many?" The news is better than the figures usually quoted in the newspapers. Short term, birth rates are down world wide. The total fertility rate was projected to fall by 15 percent from 1965-1970 to 1980-85. In fact, it has decreased by 30 percent. But even so 1.9 billion more people have arrived on the planet since the late 1960's. His concern is that civil strife will undo political stability long before the population grows to the levels of starvation or environmental stress. If we wish to bring down the population growth rate of the emerging nations, we need to assist them in developing sustainable economies that provide reliable incomes sufficient for retirement and adequate medical care. Children are the only form of social insurance in some societies, and if infant mortality is high, you need many. If we would be willing to forgo a portion of our

wealth to assist their economies, we would gain international stability and lower risk of environmental damage. But the first reaction to talk of future scarcities is just the opposite. "I've got mine and I'm going to hold onto it." Like so many unreviewed assumptions, the first reaction may not be the right one.

C. Owen Paepke has just written The Evolution of Progress: The End of Economic Growth and the Beginning of Human Transformation. In it he reviews the limits to economic and job growth imposed by the environment and economic structure. Will this book be looked back upon as a harbinger of the new awareness or only a misdirected rambling of an eco-cassandra? History will have the final word. Societies do become great when they recognize their visionary prophets and absorb the wisdom.

Under the headline Sexism and the Single Planet the February 22, 1993 issue of "Fortune" reports, "The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) departing from its traditional preoccupation with nuclear war, is now spearheading a campaign to alert the world to a different kind of holocaust: human's destruction of their life support system. Last week, it issued a "Warning to Humanity," signed by 1,500 scientists from around the world, saying that "human beings and the natural world are on a collision course."

Characterizing the "warning" as the kick-off to a sustained campaign, the scientists explained that the plea consists of five basic goals: a curb on environmentally damaging activities such as fossil fuel use, more efficient use of natural resources, stabilization of population growth, reduction of poverty, and equality between the sexes.

MRNPA Board of Trustees Meeting

A Board of Trustees meeting convened at Andy's Tukwila Station Restaurant on March 18, 1993. Present were Jon Soest, John Titland, Bob Aegerter, Roger Garrett, Polly Dyer, Pat Smith, John Thompson, Jeannette Franks, Joan Burton, and Paul Joslin. Also present: Sally Soest, Jim Braden, Mary Jo Aegerter, Yolanda Thompson, and Dick Baker.

The minutes of January 21, 1993, were approved as corrected. President Jon Soest opened the meeting by discussing the merit of changing the requirement of having two signatures on MRNPA checks, to one signature only. Present two-signature requirement is cumbersome. Change was approved.

DISCUSSION: Bob Aegerter discussed the probability of telling MRNPA officials of our intent to participate in three trail parties in 1993—two in the Paradise area, and another as yet unknown location. Bob said the 4th Crossing area was pretty well finished. John Thompson suggested that since the Carbon Road will be open, we should consider the Ipsut Falls trail. Bob asked if anyone was inter-

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March 93 Board Meeting continued ...

ested in taking over the chair for work parties at the Park. No response.

Sally Soest commented on Annual Meeting plans. The Burke Museum had been suggested. May 20th is the target date.

Paul Joslin volunteered to assist the Speaker Committee. Paul mentioned the concept of the "super ecosystem" approach, and the current concern with the extensive fragmentation of connecting wildlife corridors. He suggested linking Mt. Rainier National Park to the total ecosystem as an issue.

Executive officers and Board of Trustees nominations were discussed. Pat Smith said that nine Board members are up for nomination, and six others continue as members. How many openings will be created, if any? Dick Baker and Randy Payne should be contacted about their interest. Dave Berry will approach Mountaineers about any members who are interested. Roger Garrett said he would step down as Secretary if anyone else wanted to run for the position. Nominating Committee will consider who will run for officers for new terms.

Wilderness Policy Committee Report. Jon Soest reported that this committee has yet to meet, and asked what days in April would be suitable. A MRNPA Wilderness Policy Statement probably will not be ready by the Annual meeting as planned, and another meeting may be needed to reschedule this issue. Other environmental groups might be invited to attend, it was suggested.

Polly Dyer talked about possibilities for new Director of the National Park Service.

MRNPA Publications Committee: Jon Soest talked about whether we need to establish a Publications Committee to assist the newsletter staff. Sally Soest said that the Olympic Park Associates does this, and it works for them. Pat Smith suggested that contributors to the newsletter should be asked for firm dates to submit articles. A suggestion was made that articles common to all park newsletters be published. Pat Smith volunteered to seek newsletter contributors. John Thompson suggested that NPS officials also be asked to submit material, such as personnel changes.

Communication with NPS. Pat Smith said we need more contact with NPS than we have at present, including the Regional Office. We have not received a 5-year Plan. Paul Joslin mentioned the success of the "howl-in" volunteer programs on the east side of the Park, near Raven's Roost-Bumping Lake area. He asked that MRNPA draft a letter to state legislators supporting wolf/bear research projects whose funding is imperiled. Jon Soest asked Paul to draft correspondence.

Jon Soest suggested we sponsor a Student Conservation Volunteer (SCA) at the Park for \$250. Motion passed. Sally Soest suggested we distribute copies of MRNPA newsletter at Burke Museum old-growth exhibit.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Garrett
Secretary

The Annual Meeting of MRNPA

The 1993 Annual Meeting and election of new Board of Trustees and officers was convened at the Graham Visitor Center, Washington Park Arboretum, in Seattle on May 20, 1993.

The following candidates were selected for a two-year term on the Board of Trustees. Dick Baker, Joan Burton, Roger Garrett, Paul Joslin, John Thompson, John Titland, Norm Winn, and Vim Wright. This leaves one vacancy on the Board and Jon Soest stated that the Executive Committee would reserve the right to appoint an additional member to fill that vacancy during the year. The following are continuing on the Board: Bob Aegerter, Polly Dyer, David Berry, Van Perdue, Pat Smith, and Jon Soest.

Officers were elected by voice vote: President: John Titland; vice-president: David Berry; Treasurer: Bob Aegerter; Secretary: John Thompson.

Terri Pauley, a representative of the National Parks & Conservation Association commented on the current issue of establishing an international park. Jon Soest asked members interested in signing up for the Wilderness Management Committee, or a new committee which will examine boundary expansion issues, to sign up if they are interested in participating.

Superintendent Bill Briggie was introduced, and he congratulated the new Board. The selection of Bruce Babbitt as Secretary of the Interior is good news for mount Rainier, he says. Babbitt intends to climb it this summer, and he hopes to raise employee morale throughout the National Park Service. Briggie believes Roger Kennedy will be the new National Park Service Director. The Student Conservation Association may start a project at Mt. Rainier which will involve youth from the Seattle area, and will cost about \$20,000.

Mt. Rainier National Park will be 100 years old in 1999, and planning has already commenced for achieving goals for the celebration. The Park Service is cooperating with the City of Tacoma in revitalizing the city's historic district. There is also a vision of interpreting the relationship of the three national parks in Washington to the cities, and the influence the parks have on the state. Briggie said one project envisioned will be to have schoolchildren operate a greenhouse for re vegetation projects within the Parks. The cost will be about \$2 million. A new group has formed to seek money and volunteers for projects in the Park. A grant of \$25,000 will help start this project, which will include an 8-minute video. The main goal will be strategic fund raising for the Park. Lou Whitaker and former Governor Evans are Board members for this project.

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MRNPA Annual Meeting continued ...

A new General Management Plan for Mt. Rainier should be forthcoming in 1994. NPS is also initiating a transportation study which should be developed by July. There will be a good deal of construction in the Park this summer, including a new water system at Paradise. The ski dormitory has a target date of 1996; the Sunrise Lodge plan is still being worked on; and there will be four alternatives in the Mather Memorial Environmental Assessment due in late July. Briggie invited MRNPA members to help in this process. The Park has closed the Westside Road, due to maintenance costs and continuing slide damage. However, the Park will provide a shuttle service to trailheads for the public if possible. Dr. Gary Ostrand, a natural resources planner, has been appointed.

Guest speaker for the evening was introduced by Jon Soest. Dr. Paul Joslin is Director of Research at Wolf Haven International, located near Tenino, Washington. Dr. Joslin is an MRNPA Board member, and is known for developing techniques for locating wolves in their native habitats. He began by saying wolves have been located close to Mt. Rainier National Park, to the east in an area called Raven's Roost.

Wolves lead a feast or famine lifestyle, sometimes eating 20 pounds of food at once. Historically the first inhabitants revered wolves as co-hunters, but when Europeans arrived, wolves were viewed as sinister creatures. In children's literature wolves were always portrayed as bad. Killing wolves became the norm, and traps and poison

were used. In the lower 48 states, some wolf species have been totally eradicated. Joslin points out that 54% of the animals that have become extinct have been predators. There is no documented case of a wolf ever killing a human being.

Wolves see very well in the dark, but their sense of smell is hundreds of thousands of times more acute than that of humans. They can smell a moose 1 1/4 mile away. Should their olfactory senses become impaired, they will not reproduce. Their hearing is also very good. The total wolf population in the lower 48 states is about 2,000. Congressman Peter DeFazio of Oregon has introduced a bill to make aerial hunting of wolves illegal.

When "howling brigades" howl in the wolves, the wolves move quickly toward the sound until they catch the scent of humans, then quickly disappear. Dr. Joslin said that Wolfhaven volunteers were presently doing some "howl ins" east of Mt. Rainier Park, and that he was also training agency personnel in techniques of locating wolves. Volunteers need to be free on Saturday nights June through September, and to work in close association with government agencies.

President Soest ended the meeting by thanking the newsletter staff and the annual meeting committee for making the arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Garrett
Secretary