



MRNPA NEWS

Volume 7 Number 1

From the Summit

In the last issue, I complained about the recent focus of our attention: roads, roads, roads. Well, it didn't take long for that to change.

Since that issue came out, we have discovered the Park Service busily hauling logs out of the wilderness area with helicopters; Plum Creek has started logging on the northern border of the Park (albeit with some sensitivity - see letter from Superintendent Briggie in this issue); we hear rumors of plans to revamp housing at Paradise; our members participated in a revegetation project at Lake Tipsoo; and XC skiing has started!

In the meantime, the older issues of changes to Highway 410 (Mather Memorial Parkway) and the West Side Road closure are still around. Do we ever resolve any of these issues, or do they just keep accumulating?

If there is any hope of resolving them, and moving forward proactively rather than just reacting to threats, we need to educate ourselves about the purpose of the Park and its wilderness areas, and the activities that people really want in this very special place.

This Newsletter is part of that education, and I hope you find it as interesting and useful as I do (Thank

Continued on page two

Wilderness Management in the Park!

**Join Us For a Lively Discussion of the
issues on Thursday, January 21st!**

On Thursday, January 21, 1993, The MRNPA Board of Trustees regular meeting will include a panel discussion of Wilderness Management in Mount Rainier National Park. Panelists will include representatives from the Wilderness Society, US Forest Service, National Park Service and NPCA. All members and friends are invited to join the Board in a lively, open discussion of the many issues affecting wilderness.

Our goal is to educate ourselves about how national park wilderness is to be managed. What are the management mandates of the Wilderness Act? How do they apply within a national park wilderness? How does this differ from management of a national forest wilderness? What tools are appropriate for a given situation, and how is this determined? This topic was selected after discussion, at a recent MRNPA Board meeting, of the use of helicopters to remove logs from the Park wilderness area (see article on page three.)

Please take this opportunity to meet the members of the Board, hear some informed views on wilderness management, and express your opinion on these issues as well.

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From the Summit cont'ed...

you, Joan and Bob!) At our next Board meeting, we will continue that education with a new meeting format: a single topic panel discussion, rather than our usual gallop through a series of brush fires. This meeting will be devoted to the wilderness management issue: What are appropriate management activities in the Park wilderness? What guidelines does the NPS have for their decisions on the use of tools in the wilderness?

Try to join in - we need to know what our members are thinking, and doing.

Wilderness Management cont'ed...

Time and Place: Mitzel's American Kitchen in Kent. If you would like to join in for dinner (moderate prices), we will start to gather at 6 p.m., with dinner orders by 6:30. The meeting will start at 7:15, and conclude by 9. Other Board business will be deferred until after the panel discussion.

Mitzel's is located at 22244 84th Ave. S. in Kent, just north of the 84th Ave. exit from the Valley Freeway (SR 167).

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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 MRPNA.

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

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Re-vegetation at Lake Tipsoo

by Van Perdue

A Mt. Rainier venture, joined by MRNPA almost accidentally last year, was enthusiastically received by the membership. This year about 25 of us joined to help re-vegetate badly impacted areas of the Park.

This year's edition of the project, held on a sometimes windy and rainy September 26th in the area of Tipsoo Lake, involved planting a variety of native plants to cover social trails that have developed over the years. Plantings included two species of sedge, alpine timothy grass, anemone, aster species, heather, and partridge foot.

MRNPA workers were joined by several members of the Student Conservation Association — college students from all over the country who spent the summer working at the Park. Although their primary responsibility was being available for fire fighting, they spent most of the season doing trail work and re-vegetation. During the September 26th outing, they were summoned for a search and rescue mission. Fortunately, the missing party was found before they were actually dispatched.

Aside from the joy of planting over 3,000 plants, those who turned out had the pleasure of working with Park volunteer Peggy Enderlein of Seattle, who has been one of those responsible for development of the Re-vegetation program. Peggy not only helps to coordinate the harvest of seed each year, she follows through with the propagation and off-season nursing of the young plants until they are ready to go back to their natural environment.

The Re-vegetation project is a fascinating one for anyone interested in Park ecology and offers more volunteer opportunities than the planting. Park Service personnel determine where Re-vegetation is most urgently required, and it is in those areas where seed is harvested. Not only is this a form of genetic insurance against crop failure, but it eliminates artificial alteration of genetic diversity.

Once collected, the seed is propagated in a Park Service greenhouse inside the Park, where it is grown and nursed until it is ready to be planted. Planting times vary from year to year depending on the weather pattern. The primary consideration is the return of the fall rains.

The success of this effort depends on a number of things: including the weather, proper planting technique, and keeping Park visitors off the re-vegetated plots. Though all of us had lots of fun planting, may a pox fall upon those who trespass upon our work. There will be 25 pairs of eyes watching the Lake Tipsoo area.

Helicopters Used for Downed Tree Removal in Mount Rainier Wilderness

by Jon Soest

When the vast majority of the Park was put into the Wilderness Area system in 1988, most of us breathed a sigh of relief, believing that many inappropriate management decisions would now be forestalled automatically. The Wilderness Act, and the 1988 Act that designated the Mount Rainier National Park Wilderness, are laws of man however, subject to review and interpretation by Park management. The first step in this interpretation was the preparation in 1989 of the Wilderness Management Plan for the Park. This plan lays out the policy for management decisions in the Wilderness, including exceptions for emergencies like fire or accident.

Even with this explicit set of procedures, day-to-day, on-the-ground decisions by Park personnel may conflict with what many of us believe to be desirable wilderness protection.

An example was brought to our attention this summer, when we learned that helicopters were being used to haul downed timber out of a tributary of Tahoma Creek — inside the Wilderness Area — to be stockpiled for trail maintenance in other areas of the Park. A quick telephone survey of our officers found that we did not believe this was appropriate for wilderness areas, where:

"Except as specifically provided for in this (Wilderness) Act, ...there shall be... no landing of aircraft (and) no other form of mechanical transport..."

A letter was sent to Superintendent Briggie, asking that the process be halted, if it was in fact inside the Wilderness.

On September 30, the Superintendent replied with a lengthy description of their action and its justification, and a defense of this intrusion in the wilderness based on the Mount Rainier Wilderness Management Plan. The specific conditions for use of aircraft in that plan were cited:

"Approval for use of helicopters in non-emergency situations will be granted only if it has been determined to be the minimum tool to achieve the purpose of the area or for protection of wilderness values." (our emphasis.)

Protecting wilderness values with helicopters, for this particular situation, strikes some of us as similar to "destroying the village in order to save it," to quote a famous line from the Vietnam war.

Mr. Briggie also noted that salvaging trees from Park streams may have "...ecological consequences which must be weighed against maintenance..." activities. Finally he

stated that the log removal was now complete, and that there are no plans for further removals at this time.

Many of us have participated in MRNPA trail parties, close to the Wilderness, where trail materials were brought in by helicopter. Most of the participants haven't objected too strongly to such intrusive activities — we have been only too happy to avoid carrying rocks and gravel on our backs up to 6,000 feet! Another example-human waste is removed from Camp Muir by helicopter. Do we have any volunteers to take on that duty in a pure wilderness spirit?

So when are helicopters and other intrusions acceptable? What are the "minimum" tools for a given job? Must we fall back on economic arguments as the Superintendent did in his letter?

"We have considered purchasing material from outside the Park, but with the present high price of timber, it has not been practical for us to purchase the number of logs needed for bridge replacement."

The Board of Trustees discussed this situation at our October meeting. Although we were glad that the activities had stopped, no one was pleased by the defensive posture expressed by the Superintendent's letter. We feel that it is time to review the Wilderness Management Plan for the Park, and to educate ourselves and our membership about the meaning of Wilderness Area designation and the limited activities of management in these special areas.

So at our next Board meeting, we will have a panel discussion about wilderness in Mount Rainier National Park, with experts from several conservation groups. We hope to have representatives from Park management present as well. Our objective is to understand the intent of our nation in forming Wilderness Areas. From that understanding, we will develop a MRNPA position regarding proper management activities at Mount Rainier.

Please see the meeting announcement on page one of the newsletter, and join in our discussions on this important topic. (All members are invited to Board meetings!)

The Story of Mount Rainier Mining Company, continued

*from Mt. Rainier Historic Resource Study, by
Erwin Thompson, 1981 National Park Service*

Whether or not the Park concessionaire, the Rainier National Park Company, became interested in the mining company's "hotel" in Glacier Basin as a possible addition to its guest facilities, is not known. Nevertheless, about 1920, Asahel Curtis of Seattle visited Glacier Basin, then wrote to the

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Mining in Mt. Rainier continued ...

president of Rainier National Park Company describing, not to flatteringly, both Storbo Road and the building.

He said that the first two miles of the road within the Park had been graveled; the second two miles were over glacial moraine and needed to be graveled; and the next four miles required widening, grading, and gravel. The last two miles of the road required the most work. Part of it paralleled the moraine of Emmons Glacier and the roadbed was merely cobblestone, measuring from 2 to 6 inches in diameter. The last mile was cut along the side of Inter Fork, where streams cutting across had caused bad ruts and landslides had already half closed it. Moreover, the grade of the last two miles was about 13 percent.

As for the hotel, it was unfinished, being boarded up on the outside with none of its rooms finished. There were some temporary partitions in the interior, but the eight-foot porch planned for the front of the building was not yet built. Still, Curtis thought that the structure could be adapted to proper hotel functions. Moreover, there was space nearby for about 100 guest tents. Neither Curtis nor the Rainier National Park Company showed any further interest in developing guest facilities in Glacier Basin.

Heavy rains destroyed long sections of the upper part of the road in 1926. Landscape Architect Ernest Davidson reported that where the road had been built in old river channels it had washed away so severely that it was impossible to guess that a road had ever existed. A year later Davidson again visited Glacier Basin, noting the repairs that Storbo had made to the road.

The new road was, as expected, hardly more than a first class trail, but compares well with his other roads and is probably all that could be expected. Storbo failed to burn his clearings. Location of road near the bed of the stream rather than high on the hillside seems by far the better place. From a distance it seems much the same as river bed.

As the 1920s drew to a close, complaints by midwestern stockholders against the officers of the mining company began to rise. The issue climaxed in 1930 when Peter Storbo and another company officer, Orton Goodwin, were charged with and found guilty of fraudulent use of US Mail in promoting stock sales. Each was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to 18 months in the federal penitentiary at McNeil Island.

This outcome threw the Mount Rainier Mining Company into a state of disarray. The company was disenfranchised in 1932 for nonpayment of corporate taxes to the State of Washington. Then in 1932 Thomas Engelhorn of Churches Ferry, North Dakota, purchased the Glacier Basin claims at a sheriff's sale in Pierce County for \$500. The new owner undertook no work at the site, and as the 1930s passed, both the road and the developments in the basin gradually fell into a state of disrepair.

About 1940, Ole Oakland, a stockholder in the old company, secured permission from Engelhorn to work on the Glacier Basin claims. When Engelhorn died in 1942, Oakland became the administrator of his estate. Not until July 1946, did Oakland and some other survivors from the old company succeed in organizing a new corporation with the same name, under the laws of the State of Washington.

Much had happened over the years to the east side of Mount Rainier since the old company had built its first road into Glacier Basin. The eastern boundary of the Park had been extended to the crest of Cascade Range; a state highway ran north and south through the eastern part of the Park; and the National Park Service had constructed a modern road westward up White River to Yakima Park and a spur road to White River Campground. In the early 1950s, the new company secured permission from the National Park Service to rebuild the approximately three miles of road from the White River Campground to Glacier Basin. A report dated July 9, 1952, stated that the Oaklands had engaged a general contractor to do the road work. As of that date, the road had been graded to a width of 10 feet and for a distance of two miles beyond the campsite—or to a point 1/2 mile short of the old sawmill site.

In 1951 the National Park Service made appraisals of structures belonging to the Rainier National Park Company, including the Mount Rainier Mining Company, as a first step to their purchase by the federal government. The old US Mineral Marker (a large rock) was located in the meadow near the old hotel and it was used as a starting point. Down the trail on Inter Fork the mill site was inspected. It then consisted of 14 by 16-foot generator building having cedar siding and a shingle roof; a safety breaker measuring 10 by 10 by 25 feet high; and a badly rotted water wheel, 5 by 11 feet.

At Storbo Camp (Lake City) the appraiser found the hotel a ruin, it having been crushed by snow. Lumber had been taken from the site to build a cabin. Traces remained of the former road within Glacier Basin that ran from Storbo Road to the upper reaches of the basin. Slides, snow, ice, and water had eradicated most of the road and it was now no more than a trail. The appraiser's total evaluation of the property came to \$9,980—\$1,700 for the structures and \$8,280 for the land.

Following the road reconstruction in 1952, the new company resumed operations in a limited way. That September, Ranger William Butler visited the basin. He wrote that the bulldozing had followed the old alignment very well and had done very little damage. He continued on foot to the end of the road at the cabin. There he found four men at work on Tunnel No. 2. Their transportation consisted of a 4-wheel army surplus weapons carrier. They had opened the tunnel to a depth of 240 feet and they were experiencing a lot of water in it.

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Mining in Mt. Rainier continued ...

The Oaklands were no more successful in these renewed operations than their predecessors had been. Throughout the 1950s and into the '60s, minor road repairs and some work on the claims were occasionally carried out. But there was another way to make money with these claims — sell them to the federal government. The National Park Service, in its efforts to reduce the number of "inholdings" in the national parks, was quite interested in acquiring the property. The main problem at Glacier Basin was the question of the value of the claims. In 1950 the stockholders in the company stated that the claims were worth up to \$2,500,000. US. Geological Survey inspectors valued them at somewhere between \$500 and \$6,000. A year later the company offered to sell out for \$252,000; the federal government countered with an offer of \$10,000. There the matter rested for a number of years. Again in 1973 the government offered \$10,000 for the claims; once more the surviving stockholders held out. The Mount Rainier Mining Company remains the last private inholder in the Park as of 1979.

Mining activities within Mount Rainier National Park were entirely unsuccessful. Neither copper, nor gold, nor silver ores were found in paying quantities in any of the several areas in which claims were located. The history of mining within the Park boundaries is an insignificant one in terms of local history or of regional mining activities. Some physical evidence of mining remains today. While of passing interest to the visitor, the sites do not warrant consideration as a 'Historic Place'.

Parts of the road up White River and Inter Fork, constructed in 1914, modified over the years, and reconstructed in 1952, still remain. The dirt Park road that runs from the road to Sunrise to White River Campground is most likely on the same alignment as the original mining road. The trail above White River Campground is recognizable in its lower reaches as once being a road. Higher up, today's trail departs from the roadbed along Inter Fork, but comes out at Storbo Camp as did the original road. Although sometimes passable, the upper part of the road was rarely in good condition. It was continuously exposed to damage from water, snow, ice, and slides.

Above Storbo Camp today it is difficult to realize that there once was a road to the upper reaches of the basin. Though used by miners, this road possesses little or no historical significance.

Little evidence of mining remains in Glacier Basin. The ruins of the stone cellar walls of the "hotel" at Storbo Camp remain. Mine tailings, most likely those associated with the claim, are to be found higher up in the basin. Nearby are the rock foundation ruins for a cabin. (Climbers ascending Mount Rainier via Inter Glacier pass close to the ruins.)

The short, easy trail from White River Campground to Glacier Basin is highly popular with today's visitors. Most cas-

ual hikers go only as far as Storbo Camp, but a few continue on to the upper reaches of the basin. Climbers use the back-packer's camp as a base for summit attempts. In 1984 two claims totaling 164 acres were purchased from remaining stockholders by the federal government for \$55,800, and the last remaining private inholdings became part of Mount Rainier National Park.

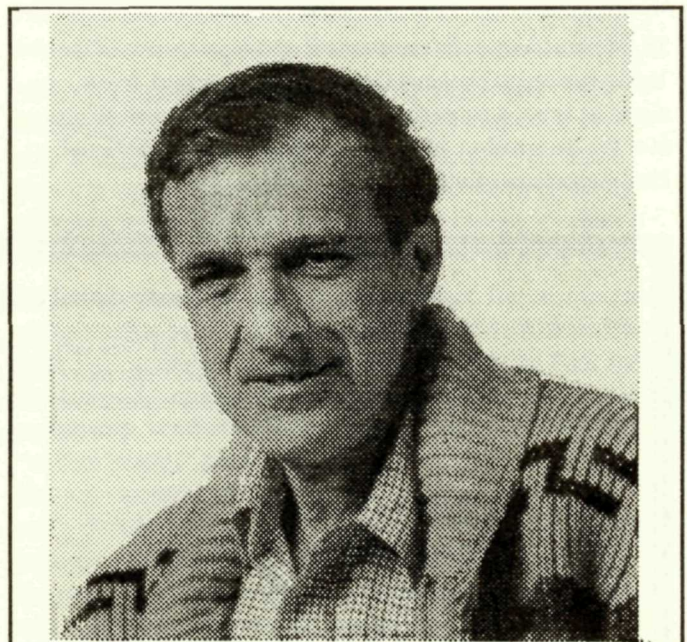
Ira Spring Wins Theodore Roosevelt Award

Ira Spring, long time activist for Northwest trails, has been awarded one of twenty-five Theodore Roosevelt Conservationist Awards given annually by the President to environmental activists across the nation.

Ira and his twin brother Bob were twelve years old when the Kodak Company said it would give a free box camera to every twelve-year-old in the U.S. The effect was instantaneous on the Springs. The boys grew up in Shelton, next to the Olympics, where they spent much of their leisure hiking and photographing mountain scenery. Ira knew early that photography and mountains were to be his life work. Many of his first photos were of Mount Rainier, since he spent summers working in the photo shop at Paradise. As a first-time employee the teenager spent every spare moment exploring and photographing Rainier's back country.

Ira's energy and enthusiasm for mountain trails have led to a lifetime spent hiking, climbing and backpacking in Washing-

continued on next page



Ira Spring, a well deserved recognition.

Ira Spring Story continued ...

ton's Cascades and Olympics. He has a photographic memory for every trail he has ever hiked, and after many years, can recall details such as small pools, streams, boulders, and stumps that serve as landmarks on hundreds of trails. The 100 Hikes books were Ira's concept. He still does most of the trail research for each book, turning his notes over to Harvey Manning or others to "polish" into smooth sentences. He is continually revising the trail guides, updating them by adding new trails, dropping those no longer accessible or worthy of being included. He has recently re-done the Fifty Hikes in Mount Rainier, for example.

In addition to these achievements, other reasons for the environmental award are his monitoring Washington's national parks, national forests, and wilderness trails, and lobbying of the Washington delegation, the Interior Committee on Public Lands, and the Sub-Committee on Land and Water Conservation. For many years Ira has spoken out ardently about such trail-related issues as ORVs and the Forest Service road budget. He has repeatedly traveled to Washington, D.C. to address Congressional committees at his own expense. As a member of the R.E.I. Board of Trustees, Ira helped found the R.E.I. Conservation Committee, which directs a percentage of profit to conservation-oriented lobbying.

Recently he founded the Emergency Trails Committee, an action group organized to save back country trails for hikers. Membership requires that members write and testify at Forest Service hearings. Membership categories: 1 Grumblers who write letters: FREE. 2. Grumblers who do nothing: \$1,000.00 annually. A long-time lover of the beauty of Mount Rainier, Ira Spring has a large color photo of a sunrise taken from Camp Muir hanging on his living room wall.

To the amusement and amazement of the presenters of the Teddy Roosevelt National Conservationist Award, Ira insisted he is not a conservationist, but a recreationist. Whatever the designation, members of Mount Rainier National Park Associates salute him too.

A Response to the Sunrise Lodge Development Concept Plan Environmental Assessment

August 20, 1992

Superintendent William J. Briggie
Mount Rainier National Park
Tahoma Woods
Ashford, WA 98304

Dear Superintendent Briggie:

"Please enter the following comments in the official record:

1. It is appropriate to comment on both the adequacy of the assessment and the proposed action. This EA may be vulnerable to legal challenge because of the incomplete disclosure and inadequate analysis. We support the alternative selected, but not the quality of decision making. We believe the replacement of the White River staff housing on a site north of the Park is a higher priority.
2. It does not seem reasonable or legally defensible to exclude transportation from review because both the need and the capacity for parking are set by the proposed action. A smaller food service, for example, might require less in transportation facilities.
3. Documentation of a definitive wetlands' determination must accompany the final decision. Any drainage collected from around basement foundations must be adequately disbursed.
4. Life cycle costs may not be credible, and may be skewed toward the preferred alternative. How can you have a building in an alpine zone with no 30 year life cycle roofing costs?

continued on next page

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

The Sunrise Lodge Plan continued ...

5. The orientation and scale of the air photo of existing conditions and the alternative site plans are different, making comment by the lay public difficult. The schematic plans do not differentiate between existing and proposed trees. 300 year old alpine trees must be treated as a significant resource and moved only when absolutely necessary. The Park Service has documented that at least 300 trees would be removed for the relocation of the road in scheme C. Contours are not shown. The slope from north to south has a significant bearing on the siting of a new facility. The existing food service does not attempt to take advantage of the view. The concessionaire has gift shop wares stacked in the windows. With careful design, a good view of Mt. Rainier could be achieved without a view of the parking lot, and still grant ADA access without an elevator.

6. The assumption that Sunrise should continue to serve its present function must be justified and documented. Food Service and employee housing are the most intrusive in high alpine environments. Perhaps the food service should not include animal fat products because of their difficulty when disposed of in seasonal septic systems. As an absolute minimum, the septic system must be upgraded to the maximum feasible technology as defined by the amendments to the Clean Water Act. Include an aerobic recirculating trickle filter and grease interceptors.

7. None of the parking plaza designs meet current federal requirements for Americans with Disabilities Act or reasonable functioning for bus parking. Alternative D comes the closest to being legal. What is meant by "the full complement of overflow parking" on page 27? Focus the design on the Visitor Center, not the Lodge. A great deal more design study is required. Is the runoff of this parking lot treated? It must be treated in this environment.

8. The Mountain Overlook Plaza proposed in Alternative D is redundant with the Trailhead Interpretive Kiosk. Only the Kiosk should be included to avoid confusion for first time visitors.

9. There is no good reason to replace the walks to the Block House/Visitor center as proposed in Alternative D.

10. NPS should open the Architectural design process to public review. The Paradise Visitors Center design, "The Mother Ship", has resulted in a loss of credibility with the Northwest public. Public viewing of the proposed designs with opportunity for written comment would be appreciated.

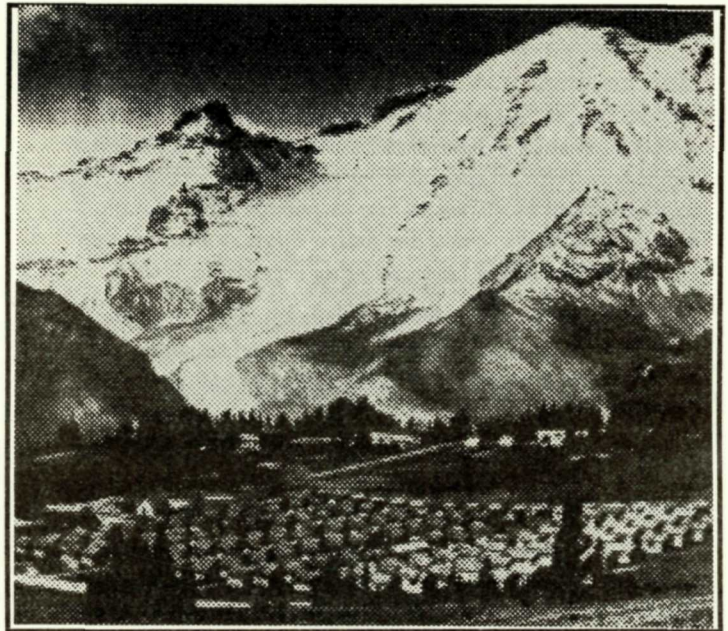
11. We urge the Park Service to develop a definitive restoration plan as mitigation for the proposed action. The discussion of re vegetation is too vague.

We urge the Park Service to redraft and reissue this EA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bob Aegerter Vice President MRNPA



Sunrise 'camping' in the 20's

Highway 410 Reconstruction A MRNPA Position

by Sally Soest

At the October board meeting, MRNPA clarified its position on the proposed reconstruction of the Mather Memorial Parkway (Highway 410). The federal and state agencies involved have announced that, because of the cost of doing a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (\$400,000), they have decided to do only an Environmental Assessment (EA).

MRNPA's position is that repairs to the Deadwood Creek bridge and the high-elevation switchbacks might conceivably be accomplished under an EA. However, if the intention is to complete the remaining construction as presently designed, including removal of the forest canopy to create a wide, treeless swath, then MRNPA will call for a full EIS.

We have been closely following this project. Reconstruction of the Mather Memorial Parkway (Highway 410), from Chinook Pass westward through Mt. Rainier National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N.F. is complicated by multiple bureaucracies, conflicting mandates, diverse definitions of "natural beauty," and funding headaches. State and federal highway agencies are sources of funding, and would normally dictate the design and construction standards. However, the National Park Service has both jurisdiction over the park lands through which the highway passes and a federal mandate to protect park resources.

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Highway 410 continued ...

Since his arrival at Mt. Rainier National Park, Park Superintendent Briggie has been influential in fostering a climate of cooperation among the various parties involved in planning the project. Representatives from MRNPA have been invited to attend discussions and on-site inspection trips. The highway agencies have scaled down their original, freeway-like concept to one that is closer to being acceptable.

The design currently under consideration calls for 11-foot wide lanes, a paved surface of 26' - 28', and shoulders of 2' - 3'. Beyond the shoulders, a cleared zone would extend out 19 feet from the fog line on each side of the roadway. This swath is considered a safety measure by the highway designers; it would theoretically allow a driver room to recover if his car went off the highway. Within this cleared swath, only "significant" trees would be left standing, which would be protected by a 50-foot guard rail. ("Significant" trees are defined as trees that were there when the road was built, which in this case isn't very many because the area was mostly logged-over.) All other trees larger than 4" within the swath would be removed, and this would become an on-going maintenance expense.

MRNPA maintains that conventional highway design standards are neither necessary nor suitable for the Mather Memorial Parkway. This is a scenic highway, not a high-speed freeway. Commercial traffic is actually prohibited. The highway runs through a national park, where a federal mandate clearly specifies that natural resource protection is paramount. Furthermore, the accident record shows that automobile accidents are not a significant problem, especially along the lower elevation stretches where it is proposed that trees be removed for safety reasons.

Most highway "standards", it turns out, are not really standards, but rather "guidelines." They leave lots of room for professional judgment and compromise. For example, the width of the roadside cleared zones is not actually specified, and lane widths can vary greatly. In the case of Highway 410, the narrow switchbacks between Chinook Pass and Cayuse Pass will have to be rebuilt to non-standard specifications simply because there is no room for wide lanes on the steep cliff faces. Thus ample argument can be made against building to freeway standards.

Liability for accidents worries the state and federal agencies, who lean toward more conservative design standards. However, they may avoid liability if it is agreed that they have taken safety into account when designing the road, and this they clearly are doing. With regard to the National Park Service's liability, it can be argued that they are shielded by the 1970's act's mandate to protect the natural resources.

MRNPA favors scaling down the entire project to the absolute minimal level necessary to accomplish necessary road repairs. The cathedral-like forest canopy and scenic character of the drive must be retained. If safety is regarded as an issue, then it should be addressed by lowering the speed

limit, and enforcing it. Finally, we would not want to see this project set precedents for roads through other national parks.

Bob Aegerter Comments on 410 EIS October 17, 1992

We learned that an EIS for the 410 Project would cost \$426,000 and require three years to prepare. They have concluded to issue an amended EA within one year. You will recall an earlier realization that the impacts of the project were discovered to be larger than the Summer '90 EA revealed. Since then, some intense preliminary design effort and compromises on design guidelines have them hoping the impacts will be close to those originally projected. I would prefer to have 1/2 million of re-vegetation to an EIS unless the natural science study reveals significant unknown environmental risks.

The project within the Park is approximately 16 million dollars, of which 9 million is mitigation (Enhancement). The funding comes from the Public Lands Road Fund. These projects must be requested by the State and serve federal lands on both sides. The current federal highway appropriation bill may say that future appropriations to the state will be reduced by the amount of the project. In the past, both the Park Service and the State may have looked on PLRF as "free" money. Now the state is not so sure. An alternative source, the National Parks Roads Program has a ten year commitment. I spent some time on the road to/from the re-vegetation at Tipsoo Lake. This road does not have ten years left.

The project is proposed to be done in three phases: Deadwood Creek Bridge, The High South, and the Low North.

There were 80 responses to the Fall '90 EA. East side businesses were concerned about the length of the closure of the road. The majority expressed concern about loss of the existing character of the road and the number of trees being cut.

There was a discussion of the origin and purpose of Highway Design Standards. The Federal Highway Act requires the states to set standards and have them approved by the Feds. There is a common standard/specification published by the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Washington State's standards are more likely a design manual and are on the lower range of the allowable scale. Standards can be adjusted by the supervising engineer if formally documented. The feeling is the state is going to be tested on this project. If the design agency fails to meet its own standard, it is subject to tort liability. There have been recent cases on the Crescent Lake Road in Olympic Park. MRNPA may want to seek some legal counsel on how to best deal with this issue. The state may escape liability if the Park Service is compelled to dictate the standard to preserve the resource.

The problem is the clear zone, or roadside management area. An "unforgiving roadside", like a killer tree can cause

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Highway 410 continued ...

damage to an errant vehicle. This represents the crux of the environmental design problem. If the technology is not complete enough to keep the vehicle on the road, then use mechanical power to overwhelm and remold the natural setting in our own image. If you view nature as hostile, it is even a patriotic thing to do.

The project is justified on pavement failure, not increased safety. When a project is started, then the standard of care as to safety comes into play. If the road is built, the job should be done well enough that the contractors will not be back for 100 years. It takes that long for the wounds to heal.

Dale Crane reminded the participants of the Congressional Act of August 18, 1970, that imposes a public trust doctrine upon the National Park Service.

The Deadwood Creek bridge replacement has developed an interesting problem. The temporary span requires a center support. Because the old bridge is an arch, it will be exploded and dropped into the creek. There is no way to protect the support, so the road will be closed for about a month. Perhaps more correctly, opening will be one month late.

It is my observation that the roads in Mount Rainier National Park have been laid on the landscape with an increasingly heavy hand. In a photo taken from Sunrise Point Mather Highway looks as if a jagged knife cut across the landscape. Steven's Canyon road is even worse. My theory is that with heavier construction equipment and higher engineering costs it was simply more expedient to do the cheaper, less elegant job.

Sustainable design may mean planting native species, so that you do not need irrigation and herbicides, or only leaving cut slopes that will not unravel. Clear zones do not seem to me to be a part of sustainable design in a forest ecology that is trying to constantly regenerate itself. Edward O. Wilson defines sustainable development as 'the use of land and water to sustain production indefinitely without environmental deterioration, ideally without loss of native biodiversity.' Wilson noted that it is the species at the top of the food chain that is most severely at risk with loss of biodiversity. If I were to ask Helena Norberg-Hode what sustainable design of Highway 410 means, my guess is she would say return it to a trail.

There are some natural system impacts of road construction that are not being addressed. One is the change in the hydrology. Road construction channel and concentrates sheet water flow into stream flow. What is the impact on natural plants? We have not discussed what special precautions will be taken to insure that exotic species will not be introduced into the Park by construction activity.

I want a specific agreement that the minimizing of tree cutting, re-vegetation, and prohibitions against air-quality degradation are written into the NEPA clearances as

compulsory mitigation that cannot be cut out when the change orders get out of control.

We agreed to hold more meetings before the EA is released. I support this idea although it has significant risks for both groups. The Park Service could be accused of not having the meetings open enough, although the newsletter could be used to keep the interested public informed. We run the risk of being co-opted: speak now or forever hold your peace, and of not being representative of a broader public. I'm willing to take the risk and fight for a good road, but we need to hear from you.

Sustainable Design... A Collaborative National Park Service Initiative

"As we work with the National Park Service and others to achieve a reasonable approach to modifying Highway 410 within the Park we have supported design features that lead to minimal maintenance and reduced impact on Park resources. For example, re-seeding road cuts with native vegetation can reduce slides and erosion without requiring mowing.

The Park Service is thinking along these lines too. Mike Tolofsen of the Northwest Regional Office recently sent us a pamphlet on "Sustainable Design." We are reproducing part of that pamphlet here, and encourage everyone to support this forward looking design effort."

The concept of sustainable design has come to the forefront of design thinking in the last 20 years. It is a concept that recognizes that human civilization is an integral part of the natural world and that nature must be preserved and perpetuated if the human community itself is to survive. Sustainable design articulates this idea through building that exemplifies the principles of conservation and encourages the application of those principles in our daily lives. Following are some of the highlights of the guidelines and recommendations.

Natural Resources

Facilities should, to the extent possible, function within the surrounding ecosystem and should not place additional stresses on its resources or processes. A basic understanding of the ecosystem is essential to designing facilities that will function within it.

The carrying capacities of facilities should be based on resource considerations (capability, resiliency), not on the physical capacity of a site to contain development.

Indicator species should be identified and monitored to determine the potential impacts of development.

Continued on next page

Sustainable Design continued ...

Limits of acceptable environmental change should be established before development begins. All parties involved in the development should recognize and respect these limiting factors and not attempt to circumvent them through short-term technological solutions.

The effect of the development on the condition of resources should be routinely monitored and evaluated, and actions immediately instituted to correct identified problems.

Further fragmentation of habitats on a local and regional scale and loss of biological diversity should be avoided.

Transition zones should be considered between parks or recreation areas and unrestricted development areas; special guidelines or controls on development should be established as needed.

Long-term resource protection should involve planning and government controls on a regional scale.

Site Planning and Design

Site planning and design is a process of intervention involving the location of roads, trails, structures, and utilities to make natural and cultural resources and values available to people. To reflect the principles of sustainable design, planners and designers should assume an accountability to the environment. Both ecosystem dynamics and resource carrying capacities should be understood so that resource values are preserved and disruption of natural systems is minimized.

Site resources and their landscapes should be analyzed and understood before intervening.

Alternative sustainable design strategies should be evaluated for functional and performance deficiencies and for potential impacts on natural and cultural resource values.

Development should occur in phases, with monitoring of site resources between the phases to ensure that facilities and their use are not damaging resource values or exceeding the capacity of resources to sustain themselves.

Technological intervention should be minimized. Development should reflect simplicity in form and function.

Mitigation and site restoration *after* development, although useful tools in certain cases, should be considered a last resort rather than a standard practice. Avoiding the need for such actions should be the rule in sustainable design.

The effects of previous development should be carefully considered before proceeding with additional development.

Adaptation, recycling, reuse, and energy conservation should be promoted in site design.

Architectural Design

The long-term goal of sustainable design is to minimize resource degradation and consumption on a global scale. To achieve this goal, sustainable design should create in visi-

tors, designers, and developers a new awareness of the built environment. Because design and development have contributed to environmental degradation in the past, design for sustainable developments should become a model and teaching tool for a new ethic.

All elements of a building should be considered equally important, especially as they relate to harmonious integration within the ecosystem. In other words, the building system should be nonhierarchical.

The human activities that create and maintain a building should be as important as the building itself.

The concept of growth within sustainable limits should be considered. A facility may begin on a small scale; then, based on knowledge of the environment gained by the designer, manager, and staff during the initial phase, it may experience a period of growth. The ultimate size of the facility should depend on the ability of the environment to sustain it.

A building should be interactive with the environment. This is an important concept, because it acknowledges the fact that the building has an effect on the environment, just as the environment has an effect on the building.

Building Ecology

To qualify as a sustainable development, a park or recreation facility should provide specific functions related to education, recreation, relaxation, recuperation, and restoration. Additionally, it should incorporate research and development for, or demonstration of, ways to live environmentally aware lives in the 21st century.

Sustainable development should meet three of the following criteria: provide education on the wilderness, native cultural resources, historical features, or natural features; provide health recuperation; provide spiritual and emotional recuperation; accomplish environmental restoration. It should also provide research and development for and/or demonstration projects of ways to minimize human impacts on the environment.

An environmental report card—an ongoing record of positive and negative environmental actions—should be established for each development. To be considered sustainable, a development's environmental report card should show close to zero global impact or no net environmental loss. In the selection of materials for the development, its environmental report card should be weighed against those of others to achieve the lowest total environmental loss.

Building materials should be prioritized by origin when considering their selection—for example, primary materials, found in nature, including wood from sustainable sources, stone and plant fibers; and secondary materials from recycled products, including some wood, aluminum, cellulose, and plastics. Hydrocarbon-based products should be avoided, even those that are recycled. Tertiary materials in-

Continued on next page

Sustainable Design continued ...

clude man-made and synthetic materials and those made from nonrenewable sources.

After materials are in place in the development, a declaration of their global impact is recommended. Each material should be labeled, stating, from cradle to grave, the environmental degradation caused by its extraction, fabrication, and use, and what are its toxic and harmful components.

Interpretation

Sustainable park and recreation development will succeed to the degree that it anticipates and manages human experiences. Interpretation provides the best single tool for shaping experiences and infusing a set of values. To succeed, it must affect not only immediate beliefs and behaviors but also longer term beliefs and behaviors that control our lives.

Visitor experiences in parks and recreation areas should be based on resources, should be environmentally sustainable, and should encourage the value of protecting the environment.

The local culture should be a significant part of visitor experiences.

Site and facility design should allow visitors to experience natural and cultural resources in an intimate, sensory fashion. Opportunities for private moments in natural settings should be created. Visitor interaction with resources should be encouraged.

Educational opportunities should include interpretation of the systems that sustain the development as well as programs about natural and cultural resources values.

The values of sustainability should be apparent to visitors in all daily aspects of operation, including services, retail operations, maintenance, utilities, and waste handling. The best model is a good example.

Energy and Utilities

Responsible energy use is fundamental to sustainable development. Renewable energy should be on site and significant. With the ultimate goal of energy sustainability there are clear steps to reducing the amount of energy consumed. Existing technologies offer cost-effective alternatives to conventional power and water utilities.

Primary renewable energy resources should be analyzed to best apply alternative sources (sun, wind, biogas).

The principles of siting and architectural design should be applied to reduce the need for energy-consuming utilities (air-conditioning, water heaters, high-level artificial lighting).

Water and energy conservation measures should be incorporated in all aspects of design (toilets, showers, commercial kitchen and laundry appliances). Ground and surface water sources should be protected from contamination. Alternative

water treatment methods suitable to the ecosystem should be explored and implemented.

Energy production and use should be a visible component of the sustainable development. Visitor experiences should be broadened by awareness of energy use issues and the use of efficient appliances, conservation methods, and renewable energy sources. Energy "meters" should be installed to monitor and illustrate energy consumption.

Waste Disposal

Experience has shown that there is no completely safe method of waste disposal. All forms of disposal have some negative environmental impacts. The only way to avoid environmental harm from wastes is to prevent their generation in the first place. Waste prevention does not mean doing without, but doing differently. It pays economically as well as environmentally. Alternative methods of waste disposal can help reduce the environmental effects of wastes that are generated.

Planning for any sustainable development should provide a comprehensive strategy for minimizing the generation of solid waste. This strategy should include

Limiting the use of disposable products and packaging

Ensuring that products that eventually become waste are non toxic

Composting or anaerobically digesting biodegradable wastes

Reusing materials on-site or sending materials for off-site recycling

Facility managers, operators, educators, and maintenance and service personnel should be trained in waste prevention and the priorities of avoid, reuse, and recycle.

Waste prevention methods and systems should be apparent to visitors, and ways to change personal habits and adopt more responsible attitudes toward waste should be described.

Recycling and biodegradation should be the preferred methods of waste disposal.

Facility Maintenance and Operation

To succeed, sustainable development must be maintainable. Designers need to work closely with managers in defining acceptable maintenance and operational practices and employee training requirements that will allow the facility to operate and be maintained at the same level as when it was designed and constructed.

Sustainable facilities should exhibit the following characteristics: an operational mandate and direction (commitment to sustainable design), minimal resource damage, high-quality materials, visitor satisfaction, low operational costs, low maintenance costs and reduced maintenance staff, low utility costs, low levels of rehabilitation, and values that remain intact over the long term.

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Sustainable Design continued ...

Facilities should be designed using the minimum technology necessary to meet facility needs. Simplicity of design and construction will reduce maintenance costs and make operations easier.

Facilities should meet or exceed safety and accessibility standards. Materials chosen should meet public health standards concerning toxicity. Materials containing toxic substances should be carefully selected and monitored to eliminate or drastically reduce the possibility of those substances entering the ecosystem.

Facility designers and managers should work closely with local communities to share knowledge and experience and to minimize any effects of the project on local lifestyles, customs, and traditions. Local workers should be employed in the development as well as the operation of the facility.

"Killing of three elk in national park may bring charges"

News Tribune, Nov. 17, 1992

The U.S. Attorney's office in Seattle is expected to decide within a couple of weeks whether to charge several persons in connection with the killing of three elk this month in Mount Rainier National Park, officials said.

Hunting is prohibited in Mount Rainier and in all national parks in the United States.

The animals, two cows and a bull, were shot and gutted about Nov. 4th on the West Fork of the White River, east of Enumclaw, in the northern part of the Park.

John Jensen, chief Park ranger, said law enforcement personnel seized the elk, several firearms and a four-wheel-drive vehicle as evidence. The vehicle later was returned, he said.

The persons from whom the items were seized allegedly had driven through a road-closure area to gain access to the Park, Jensen said.

Tree Establishment in Subalpine Meadows of Mount Rainier National Park

by Regina Rochefort and David Peterson, NPS Cooperative Park Studies Unit College of Forest Resources, Univ of Wash 1991

Subalpine parklands are a transition between continuous subalpine forest and the treeline/alpine border. The subalpine parkland zone of Mount Rainier National Park is characterized by a mosaic of tree clumps and open subalpine meadows between approximately 1,600 and 2,200 m elevation. Although factors that determine the extent and location of these meadows are not well understood, there is evidence that meadow boundaries respond to climate change. Periodic tree establishment in meadows has been documented in the late 1800s and 1930s during periods of reduced snow-pack and warmer temperatures (Franklin et al. 1971; Henderson 1974). More recently, periods of seedling establishment in meadows have been documented in Alberta, Canada, during periods of above average temperatures in the late 1960s (Kearney 1982).

We are studying the current status of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*) seedling establishment (regeneration) in subalpine meadows of Mount Rainier National Park by re-sampling previous established permanent plots in sub-alpine parklands. Tree size and age data indicate that there have been periods of conifer establishment since those documented in the 1930s. We are analyzing patterns of this recent period of regeneration to determine how they might be related to climate or other environmental factors.

The subalpine meadows of Mount Rainier National Park are well known for their spectacular floral displays, and approximately 60% of the 2 million people who visit the Park annually go to view wildflowers in the meadows (Salvi and Johnson 1985). Several of the Park's subalpine meadows are managed specifically for their historic value as flower fields, and concern about increasing tree densities led to a tree removal program in the 1970s. Increased understanding of the factors affecting seedling establishment of subalpine tree species will improve predictions of the future composition of the subalpine parkland zone. This will provide better information on which to base management alternatives in response to potential climate change and increased resource demands.

Local Glacial Geology from "A Visitor's Guide to Mount Rainier Glaciers"

by Carolyn L. Driedger, USGS

Continued from the last issue of the MRNPA NEWS...

Nisqually Glacier

Since Mount Rainier began receiving visitors, Nisqually Glacier has been one of its more entertaining actors. The glacier has advanced and retreated several times in its valley surprising all but the most attentive observers. It masquerades as an elongated rockpile. And a capricious rash of outburst floods from the glacier has been the bane of bridges on the upper Nisqually River.

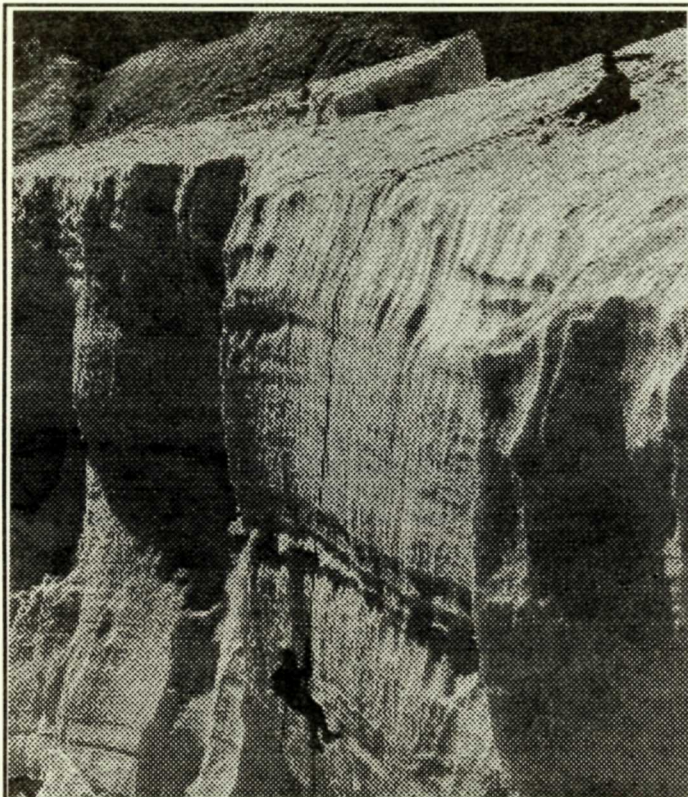
Six of the mountain's glaciers are larger than the Nisqually, which covers about 1.8 square miles. It is the most noteworthy, however, for not only is it easy to observe, but its movements through the years have been well chronicled and publicized. Nisqually Glacier provides easily seen examples of classic glacial features. Scientists believe that during the Pleistocene ice age, Nisqually Glacier extended 30 miles from the mountain base to the site of Alder Lake Dam. The ice was more than 1,600 feet thick in what is now the town of Elbe. Remnants of its moraine are visible about 0.2 miles of Ashford, along Highway 706. Since the Pleistocene, however, the earth's climate has not allowed the glacier to extend beyond the present Park boundary.

Closely examined, the evidence yielded some startling facts. About 1945 the surface on the highest profile had begun to bulge. This wave of thicker ice moved down glacier much faster than the glacier itself moved, leaving in its wake a tell-tale surface of crevassed ice. The wave had reached the terminus, which then advanced. Scientists believe that this kinematic wave was caused by a small variation in climate that allowed the glacier to grow. The Nisqually has shown scientists that our glaciers are not merely dying ice masses left over from ice ages past, but that they are active and sensitive indicators of recent climatic changes.

Kautz Glacier

People often view the Kautz-Pyramid-Success Glacier system when they visit Paradise, but may not recognize it as the source of one of the most dynamic events in the Park's recent history.

Kautz Glacier is immediately to the Southwest of Nisqually Glacier and has only one quarter of its area. The accumulation area of Kautz Glacier stretches very nearly to the summit. Numerous gigantic icicles hang from the cliffs above —



Crevasse

the evidence of the cooler temperatures at that altitude. At 11,600 feet elevation, the ice divides, as if driven against a wedge. Located below the ice cliffs is the climber's Camp Hazard, named after climber Joseph Hazard.

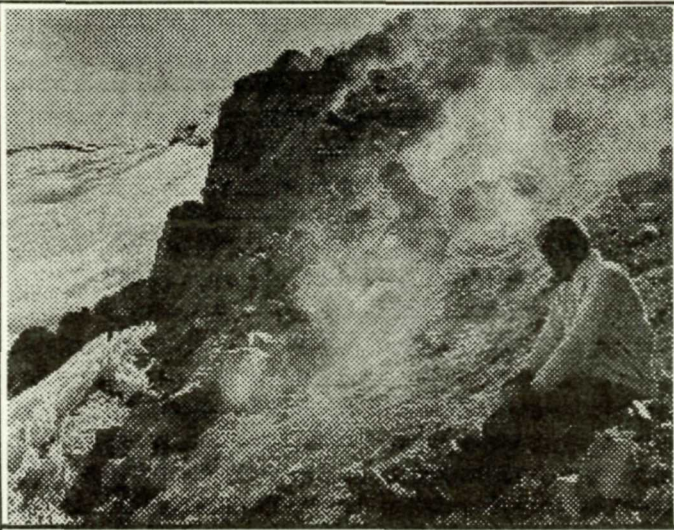
Ice flowing east from the divide avalanches onto Wilson Glacier. The western lobe that flows toward the lower Kautz Glacier is a good indicator of glacier extension growth. During the 1970's, this lobe made a visible extension farther down the cliff than in previous decades.

During October of 1947, heavy rains and a jokulhaup racked the lower Kautz Glacier. The resulting torrent ripped away a section of the glacier one mile in length down its center, and gouged a 300-foot deep canyon once occupied by ice. A 60-foot-deep swath was eroded into the glacial gravels beneath the ice until the power of the flood was rendered ineffective on the hard bedrock. Witnesses observed that as the flood coursed down Kautz Creek it collected enough debris to form a lahar that pooled behind the box canyon and surged to the valley below. The mud toppled some trees and buried others so deeply that they died, then flowed across the Park highway six miles distant. Examine the exhibit three miles west of Longmire where today the paved road crosses Kautz Creek over the remains of that lahar.

South Tahoma and Tahoma Glaciers

South Tahoma and Tahoma Glaciers are the major glaciers on the mountain's southwest side and together cover an area twice that (2.3 square miles) of the more commonly viewed

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Resting above the glaciers

Glacier Geology continued ...

Nisqually Glacier. South Tahoma Glacier flows from a cirque at about 10,800 feet into the valley of Tahoma Creek. Near the terminus the glacier tapers into a slender finger of stagnating ice so smothered by rock that it is nearly indistinguishable from the surrounding moraine. Tahoma Glacier to the North flows from near the mountain summit as a single imposing ice stream before diverging into two brilliantly colored lobes that terminate in the Tahoma Creek and Puyallup River Valleys.

Between 25,000 and 15,000 years ago Tahoma Glacier's southern lobe and the South Tahoma Glacier were connected as part of a tributary of the great Nisqually River Glacier. This once mighty tributary built conspicuous moraines on the now meadowed and forested slopes of Emerald Ridge.

In August 1967, South Tahoma Glacier was the site of a spectacular glacial event. According to witnesses, water stored inside the glacier burst through the glacier surface at the 7,000 foot level. A current of water swiftly severed the lower glacier into two halves. But what began as a jokulhlaup soon became a lahar. The mixture of rocks, mud, trees, and water resembled concrete. Imagine the surprise of park rangers as the slurry swept over picnic tables and roads in the former Tahoma Creek Campground and their relief that the area had been evacuated the evening before because of high forest fire hazard! No human lives were lost, but the campground and the glacier terminus were devastated. Today a tangle of logs, boulders, and stagnant ice remains as evidence of the flood.

Glacier Water from the Carbon River

by John Thompson

Commerce came to the Carbon today. Just about noon on Friday, Nov. 20th, Jon Corriveau began sucking up the Carbon River into a 5000 gallon Less & Estes tanker truck. Thus began the Glacier Water Company's "manufacturing of a pure glacial water beverage from raw surface water...". According to Corriveau this is the first extraction. The filtering system and bottling works are approximately sixty miles north of the Carbon River at the Preston industrial area next to I-90. It is expected that filters will remove all silt, glacial till, and organic material.

Even though Corriveau originally asked for a fifty-year permit to extract up to eight acre feet per year (slightly less than three million gallons), the Dept. of Ecology last summer issued a temporary permit for testing only, with no authorization to use the water otherwise. Thus, if the filtering system works as planned, and the economics are as hoped, some of the Carbon River may flow down the road, instead of in its bed.

Possibly, re-application for a permanent permit may be necessary. If so, public comment may be requested again, as it was initially in the Peninsula Gateway newspaper in Gig Harbor. Since the Carbon River's water is public, and free for the taking, the public should be aware of how it is being used, whether or not you support the activity.

District Ranger Ted Lewis Spearheads Rehabilitation of Coplay and Summit Lakes

by John Thompson

The Forest Service is exploring the possibility of rehabilitating—mitigating—redesigning the recreational area around Coplay and Summit Lakes. The Forest Service is shifting gears from forestry to recreation. In this region there are virtually no trees to be cut, but recreational potential is high and use is growing exponentially. The population growth curve and the recreational need curve are not parallel. The more dense the crowd, the greater percentage needs to get out, and Pierce County alone expects 12,000 new residents per year.

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Ted Lewis continued ...

Though the Forest Service has always been aware of its charge for multiple use, that has not always been apparent. Now, in Ted Lewis' words, "we've got to get moving." He has presided over the last of the timber harvests in the White River District, and he has initiated several activities that foster a transition of mission from the tradition of timber harvests to true multiple use. During these several years of his tenure, he has seen the need for personnel with skills and vision. The District office in Enumclaw is a different place and experience than it used to be. And it will continue to change. Ted Lewis retires at the end of the year. Letters of appreciation for his outstanding work during turbulent transitional times would certainly be in order.

Last Wednesday, November 25, eight or ten of Ted Lewis' young Turks of the Forest Service and one old layman met to set a tentative schedule for planning the Coplay/Summit Lakes strategy. Led by a capable young ranger, Donna Palmer, the 'team' discussed the past, present and future of the area. It was determined to proceed on a 'whole drainage' basis to include all the area north of the Park and include some of the Clearwater Wilderness. The team is determined that a plan be in place by April, 1993. A major element of the plan will be public awareness and input. Please volunteer to be involved.

Discovering The Wonderland Trail Encircling Mount Rainier

*by Bette Filley.
Dunamis House,
Issaquah, WA. 1992.
214 pp. \$12.95.*

A Book Review by Dr. Richard M. Baker

Buy and read this new book if you want a basic primer on hiking in Mount Rainier National Park, or if you need a detailed Wonderland Trail log. The first half of the book, in a somewhat cutesy style, provides some background on the history, geology, weather, fauna, and trees of Mount Rainier National Park. Then there is too much skimming of basic hiking techniques: equipment, food, camp-making, and first-aid. The author might well have referred readers to more complete sources

The Wonderland Trail Log, on the other hand, nicely covers each of thirteen trail segments. Several options for starting points, trip durations, and routes can be accommodated.

Clockwise travel is assumed. With help, the author measured distances precisely, and the spans usually contradict the Park signs, which apparently underestimate by 10-20% frequently. The book's notations allow the hiker to prepare for easy or hard days with elevation change, trail conditions, available water, traffic and clarity of signage. The segments of the trail I know well are well-described and very accurate, as of 1992. Viewpoints name the specific peaks, valleys, and streams. Each campsite is described, often including recommended tentsites. Notably lacking are maps, even sketchy ones for trail segments or optional routes. The few black-and-white photographs are mostly structures at various sites, now long-gone.

Ms. Filley calls herself a "Rainierholic", and her book reflects her devotion and enthusiasm.

Minutes of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates Board of Trustees Meeting on October 23, 1992

The meeting convened at the Keg Restaurant at 6 P.M.. Those present were: Jon Soest, Bob Aegerter, Jeannette Franks, Paul Joslin, Polly Dyer, Van Perdue, and Pat Smith. Also present were Sally Soest, Jane Titland, Dick Baker, and Yolanda Thompson.

Jon Soest thanked the Board for filling in for him during the summer months. Treasurer John Titland reported on the MRNPA treasury. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Jon Soest mentioned that there had been some problems with delivery of the last newsletter—primarily in the Seattle area and asked if mailing it first class would expedite it. The consensus was that the problem was not worrisome yet. Jon thanked the newsletter staff for a high-quality product, with special thanks to editor Joan Burton and Layout Assistant Bob Landen and the volunteers who have devoted time to the newsletter.

Jon has received a "Vision Statement" for Mount Rainier Park from the Park Service. He felt it was a basically good document. Superintendent Bill Briggles has encouraged his staff to get involved with "friends" groups such as MRNPA.

Bob Aegerter reported that a total of 52 MRNPA members had participated in the three trail work parties at the Park. Jane Titland (who ramrodded the revegetation work party in John's absence), reported that 18 members had attended,

continued on next page

Board Minutes continued ...

planting 3,000 plants in the area around Tipsoo Lake. Weather was cool and misty—just right for planting. John Titland commented on the flexibility of plant delivery at the Park, and how it was dependent on weather conditions.

Bob Aegerter brought up the Westside Road EA. He said he feels confident that the Preferred Alternative (putting the road to bed approximately 20 years) will be chosen. His mail was running about 50-50% between closing the road or repairing it and keeping it open. A recent washout on the road since August was storm related. Sally Soest asked how much maintenance the road received. Bob Aegerter said most of the damage is caused by glacial retreat—which is occurring worldwide. He suggested MRNPA wait for the EA to come out before we make our decision. The Sunrise Lodge EA comments are being reviewed presently. The old lodge may be listed as historic.

Sally Soest commented that Highway 410 proposals have been scaled back significantly from the originals. Paul Joslin asked what the probability was of trees causing accidents. Sally said very low. So far, there has been one death, probably unrelated to trees. She recommended that we draft a letter which advocates maintaining the current road prism, and that if NPS wants to increase road width, we push for an EIS. Jon Soest asked that Sally Soest draft a letter to NPS. Paul Joslin asked that references to "quality of Park" be included in the correspondence.

Roger Garrett commented on the Laughingwater Bridge replacement project. He had physically inspected the bridge, and felt a minimum of 11 large trees 30" in diameter would have to be removed. Additionally, a large slide area on the northeast side of the bridge could fall if disturbed. The biggest issue is widening the road prism, which will mean a great deal of disturbance to the adjacent vegetation, and

blasting of rock within the right-of-way. There was little comment on this issue since the comment deadlines for the EA have expired. Roger also commented on the closing of the hot springs at Ohanepecosh Campground, evidently due to nude bathing and high coliform counts in the water.

Jon Soest commented on recent helicoptering of blowdown logs from wilderness areas. Jon related Superintendent Bringle's response justifying the use of aircraft. Jon proposed talking to Dale Crane. Jon suggested MRNPA members attend a session on wilderness issues at some future time, which might assist us in determining where to draw lines.

Jon Soest commented on a letter from Superintendent Bringle which discussed the Plum Creek timber harvest on the north side of the Park. John Thompson also remarked on the 200' buffer which will be left on the north side of the Carbon River. Plum Creek states it will utilize "New Forestry" techniques on this cut as well. John suggested we document activities on the operation, so that we have a record for future activities which occur outside Park boundaries, but impact the Park. Polly Dyer suggested the Land and Water Conservation Fund buy adjacent lands.

Van Perdue said that he had heard of a proposal for a 4-story building at Paradise to house employees. The building would be near the Nisqually/Vista trailhead, and might be a visual nuisance, as well as a threat to adjacent wetlands. Van would like to look into this project for possible comment.

The next meeting was tentatively set for the third Thursday in January.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Garrett

Secretary

Mt. Rainier National Park Associates

Designated in 1899 as the country's fourth national park, Mt. Rainier is the very symbol of Washington State - a wilderness gem of 300 square miles centered around an active glaciated volcano with magnificent streams, meadows, and forests flowing down its flanks.

Under federal law, the National Park Service, which manages Mt. Rainier, has a dual - too frequently conflicting - mission: to protect the park's natural wonders, and to provide access for tourism and recreation. Moreover, the Park Service can not control damaging developments (such as clear-cut logging) which takes place outside the park's boundaries.

Because all this imperils the natural values of a great national park, concerned citizens in 1985 founded **Mt. Rainier National Park Associates (MRNPA)** seeking wise stewardship of park lands and the surrounding region. Among other accomplishments to date, MRNPA has:

- Prevented the removal of 90 huge old-growth trees during the recent upgrade of the Nisqually-Paradise Road, and
- Fought for permanent wilderness protection of all the park's roadless lands when Congress passed the Washington National Parks Wilderness Act of 1988.

However, we still must find a solution for visitor impacts, particularly the crush of motor vehicles on the park's roads. And the boundaries of Mt. Rainier National Park need expansions to protect adjacent wild lands.

If you share our vision of a Mt. Rainier National Park, forever wild, we invite you to join MRNPA. You will receive a quarterly newsletter, and, more importantly, you will enjoy the satisfaction of joining with others to help preserve a living symbol of what is best in Washington and the nation.

Please sign up today!

Mount Rainier National Park Associates Membership Form

Date _____

Name _____

Membership & Newsletter \$10.00

☐

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☐

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☐ Water

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I am interested in attending a board meeting ☐

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