

THE WILD CASCADES

December 1970 - January 1971



CALL TO ACTION: COUGAR LAKES IN CONGRESS

by Carmelita Lowry

On October 14, 1970 Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania introduced a bill in the House "to designate certain lands as wilderness". Among the 11 areas around the nation in this bill, H. R. 19784, is the Cougar Lakes area, that smashing beautiful country adjacent to the eastern boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park. (See map on pages 20 and 21.)

Representative Saylor is a long-time friend of conservation and champion of the last remaining vestiges of America's once vast wilderness. Needless to say, his efforts on behalf of Cougar Lakes are greatly appreciated by the many people all over the United States who have fallen in love with this alpine paradise; we hope that someday he can join in the pleasures of lyingspread-eagled in the meadows above Cougar Lakes, watching an indolent cloud drifting by, or lazing on the bank of the Upper Bumping, with a tree toad as a companion, watching an ouzel preen itself before fishing. We know of nothing nicer that we could wish for him!

The introduction of H. R. 19784 climaxes a 10-year period of successes and failures, of good news and bad, of a variety of ups and downs. When the new Congress gets down to its business for the next 2 years the bill will have to be re-introduced and this will mean it will acquire a new number. Until then, however, the old number serves as a handy means of identification.

BACKGROUND

The superlative beauty of the area was recognized in the early 1940's when the Forest Service designated 90,000 acres as the Cougar Lakes Limited Area. (The "limited area" classification had been created as a means of protecting choice areas which had as yet been inadequately studied for wilderness classification.) On February 12, 1961 a proposal for a Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area was submitted to the Forest Service by a small group of individuals. The proposed area of about 125,000 acres differed from the Limited Area

in that it extended to and included the magnificent, wild Mt. Aix-Nelson Ridge country to the east and it omitted the portion of the Limited Area lying north of the Chinook Pass Highway; it was believed that a contiguous roadless area would stand a better chance of wilderness classification. All this was, of course, prior to the passage of the National Wilderness Preservation Act; wilderness and wild areas were a matter of administrative designation under the Forest Service U-1 and U-2 regulations.

The spring months of 1961 were devoted to an effort to secure a broad base of support. The original group rewrote the proposal, expanding it to include a more detailed description of the area, maps, and a plea for support. Several hundred dittoed copies produced quick and gratifying results; the N3C offered to co-sponsor the proposal and it was featured in the July 1961 issue of Wild Cascades. In August the late Harvey Broome, then President of the Wilderness Society, and Board member of the Sierra Club, arrived in the area to spend a week doing field studies. Organizational support grew swiftly.

But those first early successes were a sort of honeymoon which didn't last long. By late August of 1961 bulldozers were grinding their way into the wilderness. A highly-disputed Copper City timber sale had taken place. Described by the Forest Service as a "salvage" sale to remove windthrown timber, prevent an economic loss, and create a materially improved aesthetic condition" it produced a 1-1/2 mile road extension knifing into the wilderness, a sea of mud, and two brandnew privies with fluted green plastic roofs standing at road's-end like a pair of gaudily-dressed fishwives screaming defiance at the wilderness beyond. It also provided a clue to the probable fate of the entire area if left to the vagaries of administrative decisions and we threw ourselves more vigorously into the effort to get the Wilderness Bill passed.

91ST CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 19784

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 14, 1970

Mr. SAYLOR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain lands as wilderness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That, in accordance with section 3 (b) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (b)), the following lands are hereby designated as wilderness:

(2) certain lands in the Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests, Washington, which comprise approximately one hundred and thirty thousand acres as depicted on a map entitled "Cougar Lakes Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1970, which shall be known as the "Cougar Lakes Wilderness";

Also included in this bill are the following Wilderness proposals: (1) Lincoln - Scapegoat W., Montana; (3) Laramie Peak W., Wyoming; (4) Upper Selway W., Idaho; (5) Minam River W., Oregon; (6) Indian Peaks W., Colorado; (7) Cranberry W., Otter Creek W., Dolly Sods W., West Virginia; (8) Granite Chief W., California; (9) Jewel Basin W., Montana.



Nelson Ridge on trail to Mt. Aix in proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness
photo by Bob and Ira Spring

Meanwhile, organizational support for the proposal continued. However, bigger, more urgent issues dominated the Cascade scene and the Cougar Lake proposal found itself low on the conservation priority list. Looking back on the 1960's one must marvel at the accomplishments of the conservation movement in the face of massive opposition; it's a miracle that Cougar Lakes even survived the decade. When the report of the North Cascades Study Team was made public in 1965, for example, it turned out that the Cougar Lakes wilderness proposal hadn't even been considered and the Study Team recommendations included the declassification of the Limited Area plus the establishment of a small Mt. Aix Wilderness Area. In February of 1966 Senate hearings were held on both the Study team report and the proposed deletion of 69,000 acres from Olympic National Park. In spite of the fact that the fates of Olympic Park and the entire North Cascade complex were at stake, hundreds of letters and statements gave support to Cougar Lakes. It was a tribute to the beauty of the area.

DESCRIPTION

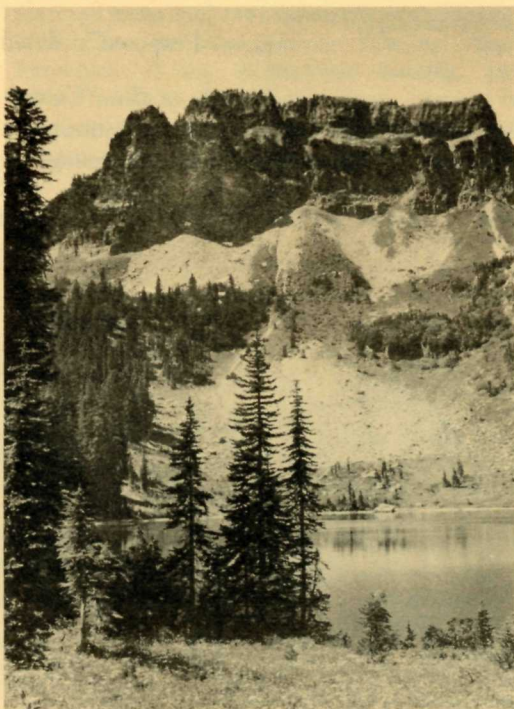
The visitor to this country will be struck not only by its beauty but by the sharp contrasts and variety of its scenery. The glacial processes which shaped the numerous rugged high-elevation basins also produced the large sweep of nearly-level high meadow country in the southern part. Here the imprint of ice sheets 300 feet thick can be seen in the form of giant stair-steps on Spiral Butte. Tumac Mountain dominates this meadow country. The first volcanic cinder cone to be found in Washington, it was formed after the glacial ice had withdrawn. Because it is located on the Cascade Crest, heavy snow and ice have reshaped it in recent geologic times, breaching the cone and gentling the contours.

The surrounding sweep of meadow country is dotted with numerous lakes and countless varieties of wildflowers, a very fragile and lovely area indeed. There are marked contrasts between portions of this meadow country. One section may be a scarlet-and-blue splash of paintbrush and lupine while just beyond a small stand of alpine fir there may be a predominance of heather or of mimulus.

Travel is easy in this gentle, delicate country but the same cannot be said for the

rugged country in the eastern arm of the proposed wilderness! Mt. Aix, a 7800-foot matterhorn peak, dominates this section which includes Bismarck Peak, Rattlesnake Peaks, Nelson Ridge with Buffalo Hump and Baldy, Nelson Butte, and Old Scab. The two most frequently encountered directions in this country are Up and Down. Up may bring you to camp in one of the superbly beautiful high-elevation basins surrounded by steep walls of rock. The whistling of a marmot heralds your arrival and pikas squeal at your approach. Evidence of elk is abundant and you'll almost certainly see mountain goats on the rocks above. The true alpine flowers here are smaller and more vividly colored than their cousins in the lower meadows.

Down brings you to camp in one of the lowland timbered valleys to the east; on the North Fork of the Rattlesnake, perhaps, or on Dog Creek or in the Hindoo. The forests in this area are not as lush as those on the wet western slopes of the Cascades. Rainfall is much less abundant and the dependence on winter snows for moisture is greater. The watershed value of these forests is consequently very great, especially during the spring period of rapid runoff.



Cougar Lake and House Mountain -
photo by Bob and Ira Spring

But Up is where the vistas are. Standing on top of Nelson Ridge you survey the scene. Mt. Rainier looms before you, majestically dominating the view. To the south the snowy shapes of Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens seem much closer than they are. Below you the ridges and valleys of the country rise and fall, the valleys disappearing in a soft haze. The strange soft roundness of Ironstone Mountain, again to the south, contrasts with the sharp jagged profile of Rattlesnake peaks. There is Tumas and there are the giant stair-steps of Spiral Butte, though the spiral shape itself is better seen from the top of Tumas.

The crescent shape of Bumping Lake draws your eye to the northwest and American Ridge with Big Basin facing in a southerly direction. Cirque cutting was severest in the northerly-facing basins in glacial periods because melting due to the sun's heat was slower. So, in contrast to many of the other high basins in the area Big Basin is rather broad, somewhat less precipitous, and well mantled with soil. Elk and goats are to be found in this large bowl ringed with alpine fir and carpeted with wildflowers.

Finally your eye falls on House Mountain, rising steeply from the shores of Cougar Lakes. The lakes lie close to the boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park at the bottom of Cougar Lake Basin, which is partially rimmed by a 1200-foot wall. Viewed from the meadows above they are two alpine jewels separated by a narrow strip of land. Big Cougar is shaped roughly like a huge footprint and is six or seven times as large as Little Cougar. A steep trail down to the lakes brings you to a meadow filled with a variety of wildflowers. Even in late summer avalanche lilies still bloom in the shadier spots.

THE THREATS

The Cougar Lakes country has been the subject of a good bit of controversy. The potential availability of approximately 1.5 billion board feet of timber constitutes the major threat to the area. Some of the opponents to wilderness classification have translated this into "140 days of operation annually for a saw-mill on a one-shift basis" plus "15 days production in a good sized pulp mill". This of course brings the old conflict between tangible and intangible benefits right to the fore. They



Pond along Crest Trail in proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness - photo by John Warth

have also pointed out that logging roads terminating at Swamp Lake and near Twin Sisters Lakes would make a large recreation area accessible to large numbers of people. They would indeed! And this would spell instant doom for the fragile meadows!! The logging threat has materialized of course, not only at Copper City but on Russell Ridge and Summit Creek. A large timber sale on the North Fork of the Rattlesnake was stopped but who can say for how long?

The enlargement of Bumping Lake by a proposal put forward by the Bureau of Reclamation would cause further destruction, especially if accompanied by a proposed road 4 to 5 miles up the Upper Bumping River. As all good conservationists know old dam plans never die; they merely get shelved for a few years before someone tries to revive them. Although Bumping Lake lies in the corridor between the two arms of the proposed wilderness its enlargement would affect the area considerably; the accompanying road would be an unmitigated disaster.

If facts and common sense ruled the world the area would be safe in terms of mineral exploration and development. Unfortunately, high hopes motivate many a prospector and this area is an interesting study in high hopes. The Black Jack prospect, near Little Twin Sister Lake, was opened in the early days, abandoned, and promoted again in 1951. A 3-day examination by a mining company engineer and geologist resulted in a negative report but every now and then the meager showings stir interest again. Billy Richmond's mine on Nelson Ridge, the Keystone prospect above Deep Creek, and the Copper City Mine at the southern tip of the corridor have long been abandoned. They were never productive but their very names ring of optimism. Only at the Copper Mining Company's claims on Miner's Ridge, also in the corridor, was full-scale mining ever undertaken. U.S. Bureau of Mines figures show that the Copper Mining Co. shipped a total of 10 tons of copper concentrate and 650 pounds of tungsten concentrate in the 1930's.

A survey by the Guggenheim Foundation in 1949 showed a lack of ore in commercial quantities in the area and an intensive study by a geology graduate student who spent two entire summers in the field several years later

confirmed the paucity of ore deposits. Opponents to wilderness classification, however, fanned the flames of hope by blowing up the 6-inch vein in the Black Jack prospect to "veins up to 6 feet wide" and by claiming that "roughly 47% of the total (limited) area can be considered favorable" for prospecting.

The inclusion of the Cougar Lakes area in Representative Saylor's wilderness bill is by no means a final success. It represents a first and very critical step in the final phases of efforts to protect the area. It's absolutely imperative that the wilderness proposal receive a strong show of support NOW.

Please help!!! Write to both your Senators, your Representative in Congress, and to Representative Saylor. If you live in the 4th Congressional District it's doubly important for you to write to Representative Mike McCormack as the area is in his district!

Addresses: Senator Henry M. Jackson and
Senator Warren Magnuson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative John Saylor and

Your Congressman
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

JUST FOUR LITTLE LETTERS, FRIENDS,

PLEASE SEND THEM NOW!



Blankenship Lake and Tumac Mountain in proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness
photo by Bob and Ira Spring

LA BOHN GAP

STATUS OF THE LAWSUIT

by Dave Knibb

In November 1969 the Snoqualmie National Forest awarded a contract, over the protests of conservationists, for reconstruction of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie trail. The reconstruction design called for clearance of 5, instead of 3, feet on each side of the tread center, with extra widening on curves and six 100-foot turnouts. The Forest Service made no secret of its intention to allow use of this reconstructed trail by Cougar Development Corporation for operation of gyro-stabilized, motor-operated ore carriers (gyro-carriers) to and from La Bohn Gap. The contract called for completion of the project within 150 working days. To get a head start on the 1970 work season, the Forest Service directed the trail contractor to commence clearing in November 1969, and approximately 2 weeks of work was completed before snow brought operations to a halt.

With a reprieve granted by the weather, conservationists regrouped to consider their alternatives. After much soul-searching, they concluded that a fait accompli was about to occur unless drastic steps were taken. Persuasion had failed, the Forest Service seemed determined to press ahead with the super-trail, and the choices were simply capitulation or a lawsuit.

On April 14, 1970 the North Cascades Conservation Council, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, and the Sierra Club filed a complaint in federal court in Seattle to stop the trail construction. The complaint named the Secretary of Agriculture and the Forest Service Chief, Regional Forester, and Snoqualmie Forest Supervisor as defendants.

The complaint challenged a number of aspects of the trail project. It alleged that the Forest Service had not charged Cougar Development for its full share of the construction costs. Out of a total project cost of \$145,000, only \$39,000 had been requested of and contributed by the mining company. The complaint alleged that a greater portion of the cost was attributable to work required to accommodate

the gyro-carriers. Also challenged were the Forest Service decisions to proceed without due regard to access alternatives, to use profit as the controlling test of access options, and to proceed without assurance of compliance by Cougar Development with federal, state, and local zoning and pollution laws. The project was also challenged on two specific statutory grounds: failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and misinterpretation of the "reasonable access" requirement of the National Scenic Trails Act, of which the Middle Fork Snoqualmie trail is a part. The latter statute forbids motorized traffic on such trails except to meet emergencies (not presently applicable) and to afford private landowners "reasonable access" to their lands.

One of the main thrusts of the lawsuit is that no independent mineral examination of the La Bohn Gap claims has been made by acceptable geology standards. In 1966, a Cougar Development prospectus contained a geologist's report on the claims wherein he recommended further exploration prior to development because of the confusing geologic picture and difficulty in obtaining an accurate estimate of ore tonnage. To date, his recommended exploration has not been done. Conservationists wonder if there is sufficient

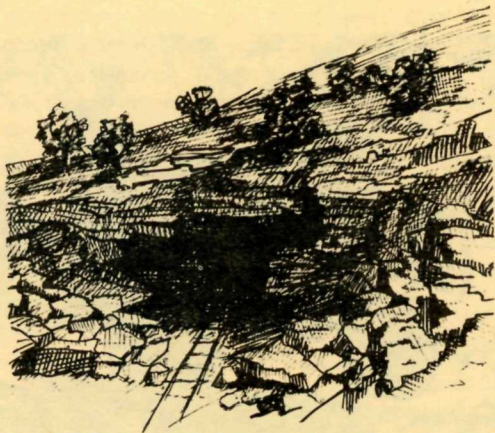


Gyro-carrier.

quantity and quality of ore at La Bohn Gap to warrant construction of the wilderness-scarring super trail at predominately taxpayer expense -- particularly when the Forest Service seems so under-financed for other recreation projects. Under these circumstances, the complaint alleges "reasonable access" does not mean motorized surface access.

A significant early development in the lawsuit was the government's decision to delay the reconstruction project until the outcome of the case. Plaintiffs' attorneys told counsel for the defendants that a preliminary injunction would be sought unless assurances were received that the Forest Service would hold up construction voluntarily. Before it became necessary to proceed in court, plaintiffs were notified that the project would be stopped voluntarily pending a final decision by the court. This was viewed as an encouraging sign.

In midsummer the complexion of the lawsuit changed with an application to the court from Cougar Development for leave to intervene in the action. The application was resisted by plaintiffs on the grounds that the issues were whether the Forest Service was correctly applying federal law. Plaintiffs argued that the U. S. District Attorney was the best advocate the Forest Service needed, and Cougar Development's interests were accordingly adequately represented. However, when the government announced its support for Cougar Development's motion, the court allowed the mining company to intervene.



Cougar Development immediately filed a counterclaim against the plaintiffs, alleging that Cougar Development and the Forest Service had reached an agreement on the matter of access to La Bohn Gap, and the conservation plaintiffs had "officiously intermeddled" in that relationship and caused \$50,000 damages to the miners by delaying the trail reconstruction project. That counterclaim is still pending, although plaintiffs have been advised by their attorneys not to be unduly concerned with this tactical move by the miners.

The most recent development has occurred on a preliminary court ruling regarding a matter of pretrial discovery. Plaintiffs served a number of interrogatories upon Cougar Development in a procedure that is commonly employed in civil cases. One of these questions related to geologists employed by Cougar Development at the La Bohn Gap claims. The mining company objected to this question on the grounds that the quantity and quality of ore at its claims were not relevant to the issues in the case. Plaintiffs took quite the opposite view and filed a motion in court to compel an answer to the interrogatory. After oral argument, Judge Beeks ordered Cougar Development to answer the question, thus accepting, at least on a preliminary basis, the view that "reasonable access" depends upon the quantity and quality of ore at La Bohn Gap.

No trial date has been set, although it is expected that the case will be decided before next summer. Preliminary motions and further fact discovery will precede the trial in an effort to narrow the disputed factual issues. The defendants have raised numerous jurisdictional challenges to the complaint but none of these have yet been presented to the court for a ruling. Much work remains to be done and over 50 hours have been spent on the case by plaintiffs' attorneys already.

In the meantime, both the plaintiffs and the Forest Service still meet and discuss other subjects on the same basis as before the lawsuit was filed. One of the plaintiffs, Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS), is continuing efforts to prepare legislation that will create an Alpine Lakes National Recreation Area with a Wilderness Core for the area in question. Part of the theory is that an ounce of legislative prevention may be worth several tons of litigation cures.

RAIN AT THE LAKE (An Elegy)

Mourning doves in the hills call through the
sun's summery closeness. I
Breathe so lightly at this height, as if
breath can ease all my sorrow.
Flowers stipple the earth: these, now, the
late-seasoned; lupine, larkspur,
Wild pink roses, white mockorange and choke-
cherry. The children surprise
Me with wilting, bright bouquets; the stalks
droop like softened candles;
Blossoms burning to no seed fall from my
reluctant hands.

Afternoon, the southwind blowing, a storm whirl-
winds across the sky;
Canopy of unshadowing gray shadow; echoes
thundering, light kiting
Over mountains; the cloudburst of warm large
drops on the cracker-hard
Soil beginning to send waves of a clean fragrance
upward and far
Through the dusty black pines. Faintly the
young time when I used to stand
Small and pick wild flowers stirs in my mind.
Homing, I walk my land.

-- Ruth Edwins



AT WUELFINGEN, LAKE CHELAN

Storm-riven, rocks cleave and fall
Straight-edged and steep, along the fringing
Open shore. Waves swirl and gurggle
Around our knees as we wade in.

Lifting, sinking, the water pulls
Clean and cold on my skin. Clattering,
Chattering, whispers, chuckles --
The edge we swim is crystalline.

The breakfast wind that frothed the lake
Has blown away, and birds quiet down.
Today, this is a slumbering place,
The maple leaves move without sound;

Visible through its still reflection,
A pine's roots rope down in depths
Where fins of drowsy trout fan
And flutter like the wings of moths,

Drifting along the dim shelves
Of sunken granite; apricots
Ripen in the trees, mellow
And rose-faced; grapevine sprouts

Leaf out, and the grapes take shape,
Though deer come, at dusk and dawn,
Nibbling by the fenced-off human place,
And sometimes a bear comes down.

Up stone trails, our footprints follow
An exiled German baron's dream.
We lean softly on red pillows --
Our summer hours hushed, serene.

-- Ruth Edwins



N. Cascades Park boss transferred to Midwest

Roger Contor, superintendent of North Cascades National Park since its creation in 1968, has been promoted to associate director of the National Park Service's Midwest region, with headquarters in Omaha.

Contor, 40, said he will leave the Northwest reluctantly—and hopes to be back someday. He will leave Sedro Woolley, park headquarters, December 28 and will report to Omaha January 4.

The Midwest region encompasses national parks and other Park Service properties in 10 states, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

Contor was assigned as a planner for North Cascades National Park 2½ years ago.

Seattle Times, Dec. 15, 1970



Roger Contor

He was named superintendent when the park was created.

"If I have to go, now is a fairly good time," Contor said. "We have finished the North Cascades Park master

plan, the joint plan with the Forest Service and the wilderness proposal.

"Hopefully the park now will move from the planning to the construction phase."

Contor said of his family—wife, Julie, and sons, Bryce, 13; Patrick, 12, and Craig, 10:

"We are deeply committed to this region. We hope to buy land in the Skagit Valley for a part-time and vacation home.

"We'll be back."

New head of North Cascades Park named

W. Lowell White, 36, chief of interpretation at Redwoods National Park in California, has been named superintendent of the North Cascades National Park.

White will replace Roger Contor, who has been promoted to associate director of the Midwest Region of the National Park Service.

The regional office of the National Park Service here said White's appointment is effective Monday.

White previously has served at Yellowstone National Park, Blue Ridge National Parkway and Black Canyon, Saguaro and Montezuma Castle National Monuments.

A graduate of Colorado State University, White is married and has three children.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, who announced the appointment, said White was well recommended to guide the new park in its developmental phase.

Seattle Times, Dec. 22, 1970



Roger Contor (left) and W. Lowell White

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK: THE SECOND YEAR

Roger Contor, the "founding" superintendent of the North Cascades National Park and the two associated National Recreation Areas, and before that a planner for the proposed Park, has been transferred to Omaha as Associate Director of the National Park Service's Midwest Region. The transfer was to be expected, since the Service generally keeps its key people pretty much on the move, and represents a promotion, so we can't lament too violently. Of course, from our provincial viewpoint we don't see any move from the North Cascades, much less to Omaha, as a "promotion." However, Roger goes to his new post with our best wishes. We didn't agree with him on every detail, and he leaves a number of problems for his successor to solve, but we found him always ready to listen to our opinions and we learned that his philosophy of Park management and ours were fundamentally identical. Though he surely was not "our man," and gave "the other side" equal attention, he gained our respect, admiration, and friendship.

Shortly before his departure your editor was able to meet with Roger and discuss with him certain aspects of the second summer of the new Park, particularly several complaints that have been registered by our correspondents in the field. The following dialogue is a reconstruction (from rough notes and memory) of key portions of the conversation. Note: this is not an exact transcript, and Roger's departure made it impossible to check the copy with him, so he is not to be held responsible for any inaccuracies of fact or interpretation introduced by the memory of your editor.

EDITOR: You'll recall that when you and the Park Service came to the North Cascades we warned you the honeymoon would end someday and we'd start thrashing you the way we have the Forest Service all these years. If you've been reading our publication, you know the time has come.

CONTOR: I've been reading and I've noticed. But we don't mind the barbs and we understand why they are necessary. What you can best do for the National Park Service and the good in

which you believe is to continue doing just what you've done.

EDITOR: We've had many complaints from our agents in the field about the massive helicopter assault on the North Cascades in recent summers -- especially last summer. We realize a helicopter may in some circumstances be a less disruptive tool for management, as well as less expensive, than ground transport. However, we're concerned that the chopper might be adopted as the basic method of travel and rangers would find any number of excuses to go joy-riding. And, of course, one machine in the sky violates the wilderness experience for everyone on the ridges and in the valleys for miles around.

CONTOR: I agree that helicopters are a mixed blessing. Referring to last summer, we had them flying madly back and forth for about 6 weeks looking after the 53 fires we had between July 20 and early September. In many cases, because of time spent fighting fire, our staff took advantage of the deadhead mileage of these choppers and used them to take signs and other needed supplies or equipment into the backcountry to try to help keep up with the usual summer work. 1970 simply has to be marked down as the year of the fires and the helicopters are an unavoidable product of a fire situation. Also the USGS and Seattle City Light were unusually active in the northern part of the Park putting in radio snow-measurement devices and making other studies. Our total helicopter use was approximately 80 hours during 1970, at least 90 percent of which was for fire suppression. The balance was for emergencies. We rescued people off Mt. Shuksan and Boston Peak who had broken bones and other injuries.

Frankly, the helicopter "craze" disturbs me as much as you, and we hope to balance it out much better with the use of horses and mules. But at this time our trails and the backcountry facilities for hitching horses and so on are so miserably poor that it is too damaging to do much this way. We don't have that much money. There just isn't a good answer at this time, but we have tried to do

helicopter flying at times when it is least noticeable to the backcountry visitor.

Incidentally, one of the loudest complaints we had was from a group of supposed conservationists who were squashing out the meadow at Fisher Pass with their camps when a fire patrol went over them. Until they become sophisticated enough to stop sleeping in the fragile meadows when there are forested sites a few yards away, we question their right to complain about a helicopter flying overhead.

In 1971 we will continue to use helicopters where they are overwhelmingly logical, but only then. You will also have to realize



that we anticipate "wilderness" being officially adopted by Congress in a year or two after which our use of helicopters will be greatly reduced. Our position is somewhat one of trying to do in a period of 2 or 3 years a great deal of the signing, trail maintenance, and campground improvement that will be needed for years ahead.

EDITOR: Maybe all the helicopters should be required to carry large identification symbols and numbers, so ground observers could trace them down later if they thought there was an impropriety. You're going to get blamed for every chopper in the sky -- including those operated by the new sightseeing and goat-shooting service based in the Methow Valley. You've probably heard the opinion expressed that what the North Cascades needs is a light-weight backpacker's anti-aircraft gun.

However, to move on. As you pointed out, 1970 was the summer of fire and every Smokey Bear-ite in the country was doing a

big dance all around the North Cascades. I rode up Lake Chelan just after the Safety Harbor fire started, and the sky was full of airplanes and helicopters dropping water bombs and chemicals. I rode down the lake a week later and the bombing was still in progress, with such success that the fire had spread 5 miles farther along the ridge, which reminded me of the old forester's saying that you can fight a fire all you want but only nature can put it out. From my observation, most of what was burning was grass and scattered pines that never in the world would have been logged. On a trip up the lake this winter, one of my kids asked, "where was the fire?" That's how much "devastation" there was. To my eye it was a lovely fire -- started by nature's lightning, a grand spectacle while in progress, and leaving behind a scattering of what will become perfectly natural and very beautiful silver snags. And the relatively small area of "commercial" timber killed by the flames will all be logged, as it would have been anyway, ultimately. So despite the figures bandied about by Keep Washington Green, I fail to see that the fire caused much economic loss -- except for the millions of dollars spent fighting it -- to little effect, so far as one could tell.

CONTOR: Did you know the wholesale minimum price for a project fire of any size over 200-300 acres is \$250,000? From there it goes up into the tens of millions spent in Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests last summer. In most cases I think the cost of fighting a fire equals the value of the land plus the timber plus about 50 percent.

EDITOR: Aside from the fact that fighting the kind of natural fires that occur in high mountain areas is often, if not usually, a waste of money, there's the factor of ecological propriety. I note that in Yosemite National Park it's been found that after a half-century of fire suppression -- which is, of course, sometimes effective, if you get to the fire while it's small, and have a lot of luck -- the ecosystem has been totally transformed and that therefore in order to return the land to a natural state, the Park Service has started a program of managed burning -- deliberately setting the fires that should have been allowed to burn in past years. What is the policy in the North Cascades?

CONTOR: Basically, the policy is to let most naturally caused fires burn unchecked. Actually, this is what really has been happening all along, though no one is willing to admit it. Nor is the public completely ready to accept it. We get some raised eyebrows from people who are uncritically and categorically anti-fire, and we frankly need support from those who understand the role of fire. We saved an estimated \$3,000,000 and about 15 times as much helicopter disturbance as actually occurred last summer simply because we let half of our fires burn their merry way up the mountain and out as they have been doing for centuries. The ones we fought were those we felt we had to put out for public relations, ecological, or economic reasons.

Now, we don't plan to burn the Park out or let any significant percentage of it go up in smoke. But we like the natural fire-breaks and wildlife forage areas which can only be produced by fire. Our intention is to evaluate each fire separately and make a decision in each case whether it can be permitted to burn out or must be suppressed.

EDITOR: Coming out in support of fire is a lot like coming out against motherhood.

CONTOR: Well, I note that many conservationists and environmentalists aren't really so enthusiastic about motherhood anymore. However, we realize we must convince people slowly and gently after we prove that our new approach actually works.

EDITOR: A number of questions have come up about the Stehekin Valley and the three-cornered relationship there between the Park Service and the residents and the third party, namely us, "the public."

To start with a relatively simple one -- the Stehekin Airport, or rather "emergency landing strip." Last summer, we hiked the Company Creek - Devore Creek loop and ended the trip by walking the trail up the Stehekin River to the Company Creek road. When I came out of the green, cool forest into the raw devastation of the field, I was appalled. It shouldn't ever have happened, and the error should be corrected. As you know, the North



Colonial Peak from north side of Diablo Lake in Ross Lake National Recreation Area -
John Warth photo

Cascades Conservation Council is on record as wanting the airfield totally closed. After all, Lake Chelan has been and will remain a perfectly fine landing strip.

CONTOR: A battle is beginning to shape up on this. We have told the Governor's Task Force that we plan to get rid of that airport as a working entity. The compromise we hope for is that the airport be closed to any other than bonafide emergency use. We expect a lot of static from this.

EDITOR: You'd get a lot of static from us if the airport were to be continued in operation indefinitely -- especially if it were to be enlarged.

What's this we hear about a rash of streambank stabilization projects proposed by various property owners along the Stehekin River? We surely would be concerned if that magnificent wild river were mucked up by a lot of Corps of Engineer type riverbank and riverbed stabilization work.

CONTOR: It's legal to stabilize streambanks that are flanked by private land. The State retains jurisdiction in this case. They cannot of course do anything with streambanks owned by the federal government without our approval and this would be given only in the immediate vicinity of private land threatened by stream action.

EDITOR: Well, I hope the Park Service lets us know when stabilization projects are proposed so we can go after the correct State agency. Hopefully new state legislation will stiffen up the regulations.

We "outsiders" have been puzzled by the "great scandal" over the Stehekin River road. First it was transferred from the County to the Park Service, and now apparently there are lawsuits and whatever to give it back to the County. What's going on?

CONTOR: The Stehekin River road was transferred from the County to the United States last spring. We want the road so we can dust-proof it and control it so that it isn't perpetually widened and improved. We also hope to have a shuttle bus rather than private vehicles running above High Bridge. The Valley residents agreed to the change with the understanding

that we would replace the Bridge Creek bridge. The transfer from the County took place last spring and we reopened the road to Cottonwood Camp.

We presume the transfer was legal. At least a United States solicitor and the Chelan County attorney jointly handled the matter so that it would be legal. The roads spurring off the central valley road were not transferred to the National Park Service. The responsibility for them remains unchanged. We do plan to maintain the Company Creek road to the PUD power plant since the National Park Service has an interest to that point. Private roads and other County roads in the valley simply are not our responsibility. The Company Creek road beyond the PUD power house can legally be maintained only by the private landowners in Chelan County. For over a year, we have recommended that the County assume responsibility for that 1.6 miles of road in view of the fact that the transfer of the valley road would relieve them of nearly 25 miles of maintenance. Contrary to common belief, the County has never expended maintenance or snow-removal funds on the Company Creek road, and it has never been on the list of County roads. It was apparently maintained by Curt Courtney at his own expense.

However, lawsuits have been filed, in effect telling us that since we can't take over the 1.6 miles at Company Creek, then we shouldn't have the valley road. The valley people freely admit they don't want the valley road transferred back to the County, that they are using this device to force the County to take over the Company Creek road. But meantime the Park Service is caught in the middle and has had to suffer a lot of false charges. We're accused of not keeping up the valley road, but in fact it certainly is maintained about as well as it ever has been. It is physically not possible to maintain a road surface composed of round river gravel in totally satisfactory condition no matter how much money is poured into the project. A year ago many residents were afraid that the National Park Service would keep the Bridge Creek bridge closed. Now that it has been replaced and the road reopened to Cottonwood for the first time in years, we are told the valley residents wanted it left closed.

EDITOR: I know we wanted it left closed --

we're sore at you about that.

CONTOR: Yes, I know, and I can only say the policy certainly can be reexamined in future. In any event, we also were accused of not letting people gather firewood in the valley. And that is false, because the rangers have given free wood-cutting permits to anyone who asked. One just complaint was our change in the parking rules at the Landing. We did inconvenience a few valley residents needlessly on that, but there had been an eyesore situation at the Landing, and in the process of fighting fires last summer we temporarily lost track of the parking problem.

EDITOR: I was talking to one valley resident about that and he said some of his neighbors who got upset had had cars parked at the Landing -- without moving -- for as long as 3 years. I must say that it's marvelous now to get off the boat at the Landing and not feel you've walked into an automobile wrecking yard.

I'd like to ask about the new Stehekin Property Owners Association. I've seen some of their newsletters and lists of members, and it looks to me as if the Association represents all the people who fought the National Park for years, and none of the people who fought for it. Is the Park Service going to accept these 30 or so Association members as "the voice of the Valley"?

CONTOR: Frankly, we've encouraged the

organization of an association so we could deal with a single group rather than 149 individuals. However, if SPOA does not become truly representative of the Valley, then obviously it will not serve the purpose and we still have to talk to individuals.

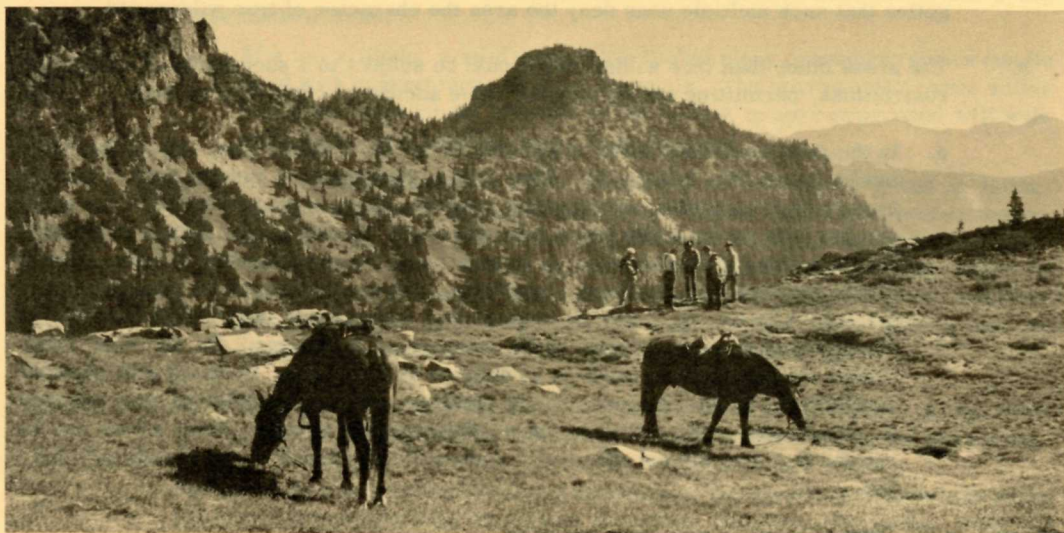
EDITOR: I guess we wonder if SPOA isn't basically a land-developer group. I notice they usually hold their meetings in Manson or Chelan -- not Stehekin -- and I understand the Chairman of the Board spends most of her time in the Bahamas. We'd feel better about it if those Valley residents -- year-around and summer-only -- who are known for wanting to preserve the distinctive qualities of the Valley, instead of "opening it up," were members.

CONTOR: Remember that our basic job is to make sure that though the hundred or so property owners in the Valley are not disturbed in their rights and privileges, they do not unduly interfere with the enjoyment and proper use of the Park by several hundred thousand visitors.

EDITOR: Well, Roger, to conclude this, we're sorry to see you go. Hurry back.

CONTOR: You've not seen the last of me. Our family hopes to return for vacations. Meanwhile, keep letting the Park Service know what you have on your mind.

EDITOR: You can count on that.



Cascade Crest trail above Cougar Lake on western edge of proposed Cougar Lakes Wilderness-
Photo by John Warth

WHAT TO DO ABOUT OUR MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

by
Stimson Bullitt



Editor's Foreword:

In 1965 the author of this article was honored by the N3C for his sponsoring of the KING-TV documentary, Wind in the Wilderness, which first drew the attention of the Northwest public at large to the North Cascades controversy, and was of immeasurable value in creating the climate necessary for the ultimate passage of the 1968 North Cascades Act. Later, to organize his thoughts on the subject, he set down the following outline of personal observations and judgments. Upon reading the statement we felt it simply had to be shared with others, which -- with Mr. Bullitt's kind permission -- we hereby do.

A. What is Distinctive About the Mountain Wilderness?

Its three elements are solitude, nature, and beauty. For solitude, one may lock the bathroom door. For exposure to nature, one may look at the sea and sky from aboard a ship or plane. For solitude plus nature, one may have polar wastes, equatorial jungle, or the Sinai Peninsula. For nature and beauty together, one can have the Zugspitze, Lake Louise, or the slopes at Aspen. The magic only works where all three elements are combined. In middle latitudes hardly any such places remain outside mountainous regions. Those few include some marine marshlands on the east coast, some swamp areas in Florida, and some mid-west areas which have been set aside as part of the National Park system.

B. Our Wild Areas Need to be Zoned for Different Forms of Use.

1. True Wilderness - areas both above and below the timber line, invaded by trails for hikers and fishermen only. Any other uses are antagonistic to and incompatible with wilderness. Certain areas lend themselves to multiple uses, but it should not be forgotten that such multiple uses deny the area the character of true wilderness.
2. The areas other than true wilderness should be subject to a succession of zoning use restrictions, permitting one or more of these additional outdoor area uses.
 - a. In the most restricted zone, trails should permit horses. They impair the wilderness more than hikers do. They create problems of overgrazing in certain areas where campsites are located, erosion, flies, dirt, and smells. An equal number cuts up the trails more than hikers do. Easier access brings more people in; and the kind who come on horses tends more commonly to make a mess of campgrounds than do hikers - scattering whiskey bottles and tin cans (too heavy for hikers to carry), lurching around with sixshooters (which they sometimes shoot) attached to their belts in the practice of machismo. On the other hand, horses enable the wilderness to be enjoyed by old people, by those with physical disabilities, by families with young children, and by a number of other classes of people who avoid injury to the wilderness they occupy. Many areas are so remote that they are not effectively accessible by ground travel except with horses.

- b. Some areas should permit hunting which gives much pleasure to certain people but impairs the ecology since it drives the wild animals away. Further, it intrudes upon all other persons there, imposing on them physical dangers and the sound of gunfire. However, with the proper controls it does not throw the ecology far off balance.
- c. In some zones, grazing should be permitted. If restricted in intensity, this does little harm. Greece, Turkey,*and the Middle East demonstrate how unrestricted grazing will make a stony desert.
- d. In some small areas, permit motor bikes as well as hikers and horses. These provide the same harms as horses only to a greater degree, and they add noise, numbers, and stink, all large factors. They admit to the wilderness those who lack horses and are not in shape to hike.
- e. Some zones should permit logging. Logging destroys the original wilderness. The desecration is a permanent change for which there is no restoration, only a substitute by way of second growth over a long span of years, a replacement of an entirely different nature. However, with good timber practices and in a limited area, logging does not destroy the surrounding wilderness; and, in time, the logged area can become once again a remote, wooded area.
- f. Where the economic advantages are particularly large, some zones may permit mining. This affects only a limited area. The use of open strip mining - as in the Kennecott proposal - makes the area look like the face of the Moon.
- g. A small proportion of lakes should permit float planes, and certain mountain areas should permit helicopters. These should be severely restricted because of the drastic adverse impact which they have on the wilderness character - noise, numbers and comparative low quality of visitors, persons who tend to respect the woods less than those who have climbed in.
- h. Roads - These cause severe damage to the wilderness. Along a band far wider than the road itself, the isolation is ended and the ecology destroyed. Because of the extensive area covered, roads do more harm than mines. On the other hand, they can provide substantial pleasure and satisfaction to many. There are three kinds of road.
 - (1) At a low altitude, a road through the timber along creeks and rivers can be lined with campgrounds at short intervals. The nearby uphill areas suffer negligible impairment because so few people in the campground will walk more than a few hundred yards from the road.
 - (2) At a middle altitude, a road penetrating the mountains to end at skiing-sightseeing areas, having ski lifts, aerial trams, funiculars, lookout lodges, and so forth. This pattern can give pleasure for many, and uses a comparatively small area. It does not cut the wilderness through. Except for the road, it does not impair the ecology substantially; except where structures are located, the ground cover is not disturbed, and at an altitude near the timberline comparatively few trees need to be cut down.
 - (3) Through the high country, scenic routes such as Paradise, giving much pleasure for sightseers, although they take a heavy toll on the wilderness.

Such publicly administered zoning is essential to the proper use. Mountain parks are not more susceptible to private operation than are city parks. Only the strictly protective public administration can preserve the whole area which would otherwise be broken, with harmful consequences both to itself and to the surround-

ing territory as well. Under private operation, the rational first step would be to log off the forest, and to put lighted advertising signs on the tops of the more spectacular mountains.

C. Each Wilderness Tract Must Be Large.

A city can make excellent use of many "vest pocket" parks, but the Central Park system is not simply better but essential as such when contracted beyond a certain point. The wildlife cannot be kept in a stable and unchanged relationship with their surroundings, like peacocks on a baron's lawn.

D. The Total Wilderness Territory To Be Preserved Must Be Large.

1. The ratio of population to land rises. Our race grows, but our planet does not. The demands of population, if satisfied, and the requirements of wilderness are incompatible with this growing ratio. Unless either the number of persons allowed to enter the wilderness is actually rationed or the world acreage devoted to wilderness is expanded, the wilderness will become overrun with its lovers and, therefore, cease to be wilderness. A drastic example of this process is Lake Tahoe, as Mark Twain described it in Roughing It, and as it has become.
2. Its appeal extends to more people, who are turning their attention to this limited resource which by direct use enhances the quality of their lives. The number is increasing doubly, in part by rise in total numbers, and in part by a shift of taste toward the wilderness as people's culture develops with leisure and education. Growing concern for the esthetic and general quality of their lives increases people's concern for natural beauty. They are coming to develop the taste and acquire the time to enjoy this. For them, the value of this beauty rises rapidly as their desire for it goes up, while beauties themselves grow scarce.
3. Commercial value. A wilderness area provides economic as well as social benefits to the surrounding area, serving as an essential functional backstop and visual backdrop for businesses which depend on outdoor recreation in or by the woods and mountains. This industry has become large and important, with far greater potential dollar worth (and on a perpetual basis) to most regions than do the extractive industries. Advances in technology reduce the importance of raw materials' existence, and advances in transport and communication reduce the importance of raw materials' location. To leave the wilderness exposed to steady erosion by men, by their machines, and by the forces of nature acting on the land which has been torn open by men and machines, prevents much money from being made.

E. A Large Portion Should Be "True" Wilderness.

1. It constitutes a singular and complex museum piece of what life has been on our long-time home.
2. It provides for the unborn. In Bertrand Russell's words: "It is hard not to feel a certain sympathy with the Irishman who said: 'Posterity never did anything for me, why should I do anything for posterity?' " But to our set of duties has been added the duty of providing for posterity, deriving from our newly-acquired power to affect it. In the past, we were too busy scrambling, taking care of the living, to have time to consider mouths which did not yet need to be fed. We lacked our present technology which can destroy the future for the unborn. In ancient Rome, the Latin word gloria connoted a concern for posterity. Men strove for fame so that their names and splendid deeds would be known and admired by later generations. Now we can touch those who come after us by setting the conditions of their lives in almost every respect. We no longer are limited to the building or destruction of cities and to the setting of good or bad examples of individual conduct.

Like saving for the future, providing for the unborn compels some present sacrifices, but in this case they are small: foregoing some immediate commercial benefit through extractive industry. Sources of energy can be found in many places and in large supply. Many raw materials can be replaced or regrown or recreated after use, but natural beauty can be destroyed and cannot be recreated. "Solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant." -We have the power to make a desert and, perhaps, to make peace but we cannot make the kind of wilderness we want.

3. Groups receiving direct, non-economic benefit.
 - a. A few who make frequent, direct use.
 - b. A larger group, but still a small one, whose members make occasional direct use.
 - c. A large group, the size of which is hard to measure, never enters yet receives satisfaction from awareness of the simple presence and availability of the wilderness, the knowledge of one place not treated as plasticene by men, perpetually remodeled. The Psalmist said: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my strength." Here are some hills which will still be there the next time one looks. It gives a kind of security through a fixed point of reference in a perplexingly mobile world.
4. How justify such a large area to be set aside, where so few use it directly?
 - a. The previously mentioned benefits - both economic and of other kinds - to non-users.
 - b. The direct users. In terms of the greatest good for the greatest number, the number here is small but the good is large. This band receives deep refreshment and satisfaction from the wilderness which corrects their perspective and restores their souls. For them, the wilderness is essential for their lives; nothing else will do. Its profound effects on them have, through them, substantial effects on their fellow men. To some extent they act in a representative capacity by which others receive, in a small degree, a vicarious satisfaction. "Furthermore, man's loss of the sense of relationship between himself and nature would be disastrous, not only to the spirit that is America, but also to the ability of the individual to obtain a true perspective of himself, his problems and the problems of society. The areas in which one can observe and identify himself with nature are already too few. We need to preserve a fair share of the remaining areas." (Statement by The Mountaineers regarding proposed North Cascades National Park, Senate Hearing in Seattle 5/25/67.)

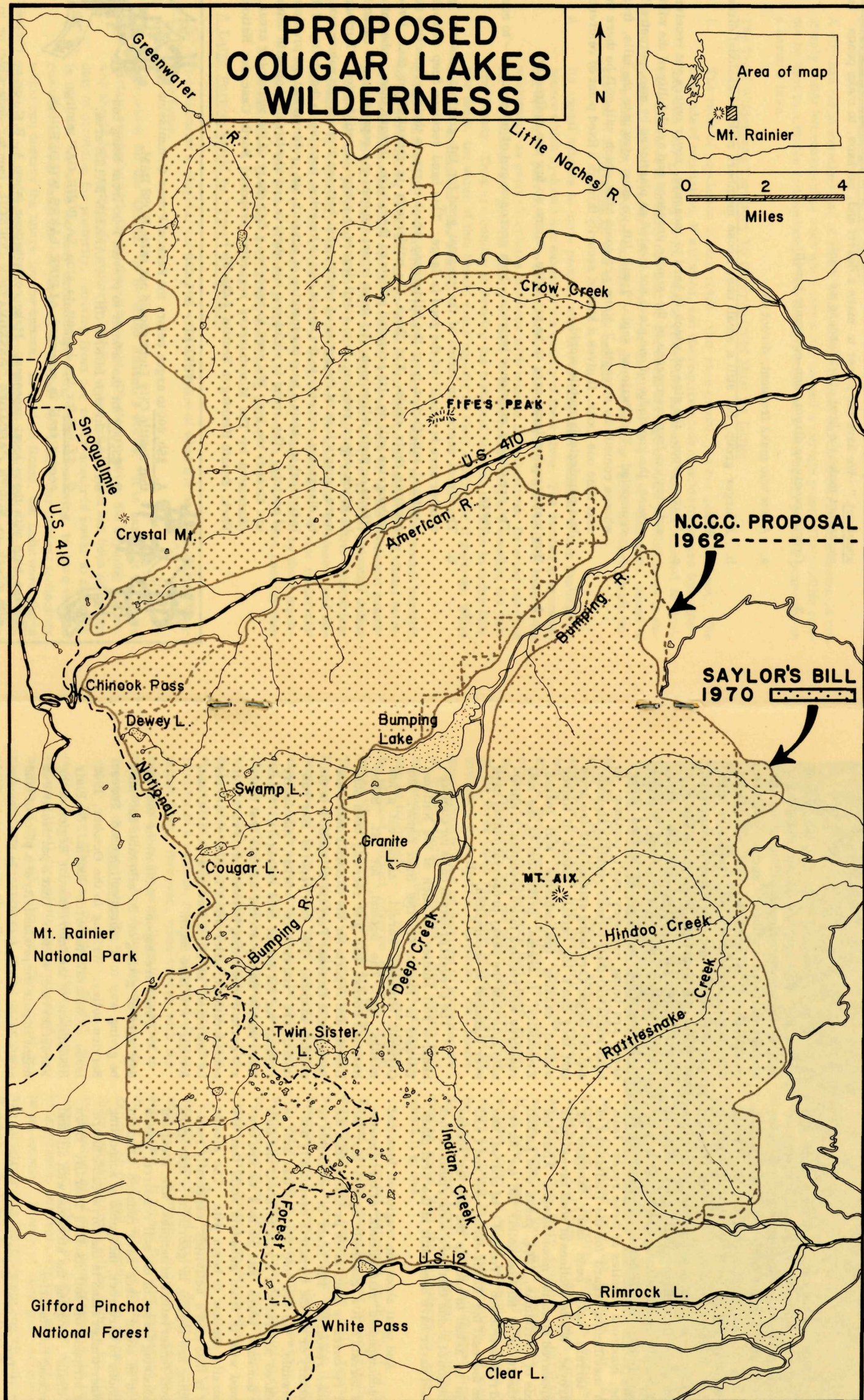
NEEDED - \$55,000

A. \$50,000 to argue before the Federal Power Commission that Seattle City Light should not raise ROSS DAM.

B. \$3,000 for the lawsuit to prevent I-90 from being constructed through DENNY CR. - FRANKLIN FALLS area.

C. \$2,000 for the lawsuit to stop LA BOHN GAP mining access trail in proposed ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS.

Please help with these legal expenses. Make contributions (show A, B, C, or no choice) with check to NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL (non tax-deductible) or to NORTH CASCADES FOUNDATION (tax-deductibility pending).



THE NATIONAL FOREST SOIL RESOURCE REPORTS

by
A Correspondent in the Field

Most of us have observed again and again the erosion damage which has resulted from Forest Service logging activities in the Cascade and Olympic Mtns. We have seen it so often that we're almost numbed to the pain, simply from self-defense. Washed-out roads, muddy streams, eroded clearcuts, causing altogether more damage than the timber was worth in the first place. Roads pushed across unstable slopes have been paid for by the sale of our timber, and when the inevitable floods came, hundreds of miles of these roads, built with insufficient regard for the limitations of the terrain, have been badly damaged or destroyed. Whole sections of road have simply disappeared down the mountainside. After the floods of Christmas, 1964, guess who picked up the 20 or 30 million dollar tab for forest road reconstruction? You and I, of course, and when the next big floods come, you and I will again be asked to pick up the tab for reconstruction of roads that were poorly built or that should never have been built in the first place.

And what about the tragic soil loss that has accompanied "management" of these mountain forests? It's generally agreed that the soil resource is even more precious than the timber resource. The latter is renewable in a century or so; the former is essentially non-renewable. We are told that the lost soil is replaced naturally at a rate of about one inch per thousand years, and the loss we are concerned with is from mountain soils that are generally shallow to begin with. The simple fact is that man's activities, especially road-building and logging in ignorance or disregard of soil conservation principles, are resulting in shocking losses of the soil resource, losses which in some cases have reduced clearcut hillsides to bare rock, incapable of supporting another timber stand in the foreseeable future. The stripped-off soil itself is literally "down the drain", clogging the streams with silt and wrecking the fisheries.

Ten or twelve years ago, some soils experts were brought into the Forest Service (Region 6) to help it avoid expensive mistakes

of the past. It was expected that they would advise the engineering and timber management on how "intensive management" could be continued unabated without such expensive consequences as road failures, slumpages, and slides. As it turns out, "intensive management and in some cases any "management" at all, is often incompatible with conservation of the soil resource. The soil scientists - dedicated professionals - are doing their professional duty in defense of the land. Engineers are being told they can't continue to build roads with their former reckless abandon, and the loggers are being stunned with the news that they can't log certain stands of timber without causing unacceptable soil losses. Eventually, it seems, protection of the soil resource will require more reduction in allowable cuts than the pesky preservationists have ever managed to accomplish.

The present program calls for comprehensive soil studies on each of the National Forests in Region 6. The first report, for Olympic National Forest, came out a few months ago. The second, for Mt. Baker National Forest, has just recently been published, and reports for the Gifford Pinchot and Snoqualmie National Forests will follow in the coming months. The two reports now published are impressive works, mandatory reading for all forest land managers. When these people finally accept the fact that there are certain conditions, beyond purely economic considerations, under which timber should not be "managed" at all, a new era in American forestry will have begun.

There are hopeful indications that the dark ages of "getting out the allowable cut" may be giving way to a more enlightened Forest Service policy. Writing in the October, 1969 issue of Natural Resource Journal, S. Blair Hutchinson, of the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service, writes: "That a particular use might impair the productivity of a piece of land has seldom aroused sufficient public concern to deter the individual, company, or public agency from committing the offense. Damage



to land ordinarily has not been included as a cost of operation....Public awareness of resource problems has certainly increased, but the impairment of these resources continues, though perhaps at a slower rate. Moreover, we have no assurance that trees, grass, fish, songbirds, and the many other products of the three basic renewable resources will be produced in sufficient abundance that future generations will not be deprived to some degree of these natural heritages...How much soil movement beyond that which occurs naturally can be tolerated?... To what extent can timber be utilized without adverse effect in forest areas where growing conditions are harsh?... There are many acres of otherwise good timber-growing land that should not be logged because of very fragile soils or very steep slopes. Such areas could easily be identified and mapped except that no one has yet been able to specify how much soil movement should be tolerated in individual situations... The failure of a road located on an unstable slope or not built sturdily enough, resulting in the siltation of a stream, may be shrugged off as a minor loss. However, when viewed with the realization that the same thing is occurring in many other places, this failure is actually one fraction of a total calamity."

The "Douglas Fir Supply Study", put out by the Forest Service in 1969, did not address itself directly to the problem of protection of the soil resource. The closest to such concern is expressed in the paragraph which states (p.48) that "--accelerated construction (of roads) could be expected to increase sediment loads, --. If sediment loads

were increased over the present rate, fish production and survival would be seriously affected." And again, "---land flows, slumps, and slides are more common in harvested areas, especially those with steep slopes, ---". If a new "Douglas Fir Supply Study" were written today, it would presumably pay a lot more attention to soil conservation. It would be awkward, in this more enlightened time, for the Forest Service to appear to value the timber more than the irreplaceable soil in which it grows.

A recent statement by the Chief of the Forest Service encourages us to believe that henceforth soil conservation will receive priority over timber management, even if this necessitates a reduction in the allowable cut. To make such a policy stick, however, he needs not only approval from the administration but cooperation from his subordinates and support from citizen conservationists.

The fact that these Soil Resource Reports are Forest Service documents available to all interested citizens is especially significant. It means that land managers who do not give serious attention to the recommendations of the soil scientists in planning for their respective areas will be taking a big risk. Past examples of poor management of the soil resource can perhaps be forgiven on grounds of ignorance, but from now on, ignorance will be no excuse. Plenty of such past examples are illustrated in the Olympic and Mt. Baker Reports, which incidentally contain the only photographs we have ever seen in a Forest Service publication which depict mismanage-

ment and actually call it that! There are photos showing debris slides, surface slips, massive failures (of roads), sidecast waste damage, cutslope raveling, sheet erosion, cutbank failures, etc. Evidently the soil scientists felt they had to be quite direct to penetrate the shell of complacency which has characterized so many members of the Forestry Club. It is important to remember that these reports are valuable to conservation only to the extent that they are given their full weight in land use planning. The public interest clearly requires that the soil resource be jealously guarded, and the soil scientists, with their recommendations on timber harvest, logging systems, slash disposal, roadbuilding, etc. are telling the land managers how this can best be done. It is our job as citizen conservationists to see to it that they pay strict attention. (So what we need now are citizens who care enough about the land to compare the district five-year plans with the management prescriptions contained in the Soil Resource Reports. Pick your favorite Ranger District and go to work, then let the rest of us, including the Forest Service, know what you find out.)

A case in point is the Mildred Lakes area between Mts. Cruiser and Pershing in the Olympics. In all this area of alpine and subalpine terrain there is very little commercial timber, but there is some, a pocket of about 640 acres of timber just southwest of the Mildred Lakes. The Forest Service has been planning eventually to "develop" (translate

"log") this area by extending the present road several miles up from the bottom of the Hamma Hamma River valley. Not surprisingly, however, the Olympic Soils Resource Report includes the area in question in Soils Area "D", where the recommended emphasis is on scenery, watershed, and recreation, but not timber harvest. In fact, 80% of the area for which "development" is contemplated consists of soils where the Soils Report specifically recommends against roadbuilding and timber harvest because of the probability of serious soil loss and the difficulties of achieving forest regeneration. The remaining 20% of the area has a soils type which is, at best, marginal from the standpoint of potential soil loss and regeneration problems. The soil scientists are, in effect, answering the question posed by S. Blair Hutchinson, when he asks, "How much soil movement beyond that which occurs naturally can be tolerated?" The answer in this case: "none at all".

On the Mt. Baker National Forest let's just pick an area at random, say, the Boulder River, west of Whitehorse Mtn., and see what the Mt. Baker Soils Resource Inventory has to say. It shows that the forested area of this valley consists almost entirely of Mapping Units 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 61, 62, 66, and 91. All of these areas are characterized by moderate to severe (mostly the latter) surface erosion potential, moderate to high (mostly the latter) susceptibility to failure and erosion on road waste and fills, a likelihood of increas-



Fog in subalpine forest on the trail to Tumac Mountain - photo by Bob and Ira Spring

ed mass soil movement as a result of man's activities, and moderate to high susceptibility to soil and other resource damage from timber harvest activities. In addition, most of the soils in the valley are of low fertility. This isn't all, of course, but it's enough to give an idea. It is clear that the prudent land manager would never touch this valley with a ten-foot pole, so to speak. It remains to be seen what the U. S. Forest Service will do with it.

Other examples are easy to find. There's Big Creek. This is the one that tumbles over Teepee Falls near the Suiattle River Road. The west boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness crosses Big Creek near its headwaters. For about 2 miles to the west of this line Big Creek valley remains yet in its natural state, unlike gutted Tenas Creek just to the south. Commercial timber stands (true firs, hemlocks, cedars) cover some 40% of the 9 square miles of this part of Big Creek. This forested area lies on soil types 81, 82, 83, 21, and 38, all of which have severe surface and subsoil erosion potential, increased mass movement due to man's activities, and low-to-moderate potential for forest regeneration. The bulk of the forested area has high susceptibility to soil and other resource damage due to timber harvest and high probability of failure of road waste and fills. One should note that the "timber mine" road on Tenas Creek was built largely on the unstable type 38 soil, for which the report specifically recommends: "Skyline, avoid roads where possible, end-haul surplus waste." Does anybody imagine that they skylined the logs or that they end-hauled the road waste? Well, it's too late for Tenas Creek but perhaps the Dark Ages of ignorance are at last coming to an end. The thoughtful land manager with a long smooth career in mind should steer clear of Big Creek.

Diobsud Creek is a long (11 miles) stream heading on Watson and Bacon Peaks and draining into the Skagit. An old trail which at one time led most of the way up Diobsud Creek has not been maintained. The narrow drainage covers about 19 sections on National Forest land, and a little less than half of this has commercial timber on it, mostly true firs and hemlocks. A breakdown of the soil types shows that 87% of the 19 square miles is either unforested or consists of soil types 24, 26, 38, 76, 78, 710, 720, and 780, all generally forested. All these are soils of very high susceptibility to resource damage from

roads and logging. 10% of the area is soil type 71, with moderate to high susceptibility to resource damage. A scant 3% consists of soil types (25, 36, and 37) which have only a moderate susceptibility to resource damage. Clearly, any timber harvest on Diobsud Creek would be carried out at great cost to other resources, particularly to the land itself.

There has been talk of Forest Service plans for a loop road around the east side of Mt. Baker, connecting the Nooksack and Baker River roads. How much the taxpayer would have to shell out to destroy the de facto wilderness of Swift Creek has not yet been revealed, but be assured it would cost us a mint. This, of course, won't stop the Forest Service. As the General Accounting Office pointed out last November, the Forest Service doesn't hesitate to throw away our money on unnecessary roads, all the while assuring us there just isn't any money for trails. In the case of Swift Creek, however, there is even some question as to how much road would be left after the money was spent. Most of the valley above Baker Hot Springs consists of steep and unstable to very unstable soil types. The upper valley is mostly made up of mapping units 9 and 43. Soil type 9 is "eroded glacial materials", very steep and very unstable, with greatly increased expected mass movement due to man's activities, high probability of cutbank failure, and high probability of road waste and fill failure. Soil type 43, derived from ash and cinders, is hardly more promising for road construction, having very severe surface erosion potential, high subsoil erosion potential, moderate to high probability of cutbank failures, and high probability of road waste and fill failures. Farther down the valley the roadbuilders would encounter soil type 5, talus slopes, which the report characterizes as "frequently unstable". All in all, this valley presents some interesting engineering problems, and it might serve the public interest for the General Accounting Office to take a good look at the project before, instead of after, the Forest Service spends our money.

For now, we should examine the wedge of de facto wilderness lying between the Whitechuck and Sauk Rivers, approximately 30 sections of lovely country from the wilderness boundary to Pugh Mtn. The most striking thing about this area is that the forested soils are types 80 (rock), 81, 82, 83, 20, 21, frequently in combinations. The characteristic common

to all these soils is low fertility, with Douglas fir site classes IV and V. The Soils Report states (p. 28), "The fertility is especially limiting on mapping units 81 and 82, and also on the deep soils of mapping units 20 and 21 because of the inherently low fertility of the parent rock. Fertilization program is needed." Judging from the size of the areas involved, that would require a pile of fertilizer. These soils also have high surface and subsoil erosion potential, high probability of road waste and fill failure, high windthrow hazard, moderate-to-high susceptibility to resource damage by timber harvest, and increased expected mass movement due to man's activities. Loggers may not care much about these things, but a lot of other people, people who love the land, do care. Crystal Creek and Meadow Mountain, north of the Whitechuck,

were logged some years ago. The soil types of Crystal Creek are 80, 81, 82, 21 and 38, just like those of Big Creek, discussed above. The soils of Meadow Mountain and of the de facto wilderness south of the Whitechuck are much the same. The Soil Resource Report makes it quite plain that none of these areas were built to be tree farms. Logging then is, in effect, timber mining.

In view of the Soil Resource Inventory findings that much of the North Cascades has soil of high erodability and low-to-moderate potential for forest regeneration, the question naturally arises whether this new data is being promptly incorporated into a more accurate determination of the sustained-yield allowable cut for the Mt. Baker National Forest. It's worth investigating.

Bellingham Herald

... editorials

Ross Dam is a moral issue too

This editor has come to the conclusion that Seattle City Light should abandon or at least suspend its plans to gain additional generating capacity by raising the height of Ross Dam.

We adopt that position with some reluctance because we feel strongly that City Light—and the other utilities that serve the Northwest and the whole nation—must have more electricity. And raising the dam, located in eastern Whatcom County in the Skagit headwaters, would provide a needed block of hydro generation, the type that is most pollution-free.

Rather, it is the strong feeling in British Columbia that dictates our belief that City Light should back off, regardless of the legalities of the situa-

tion. (Seattle has a valid contract, which reserves the right to raise the dam when needed.)

It could be argued that the scenic and recreational benefit of a larger Ross Lake, extending farther into Canada, would outweigh the environmental values claimed for the valley area that would be flooded. But Canadians don't see it that way. Whether right or wrong, we consider it understandable that they would resent a unilateral decision by Americans to take an action that would have profound effects on the Canadian landscape.

Seattle City Light is within its legal rights, but unless there is a change of heart across the border, we think it would be morally wrong to jam the project down Canadian throats.

BROUSSON CITES 1909 TREATY**Skagit Valley pact 'invalid'****Sun Victoria Bureau**

VICTORIA — Liberal MLA Dave Brousson said Wednesday he has been given legal advice that the deal between B.C. and Seattle City Light to flood the Skagit Valley is invalid.

And, he told the legislature during the debate on the speech from the throne, that Attorney-General Les Peterson should review the matter thoroughly, accept no further payments from Seattle and halt the light company from conducting any further surveys in the valley near Hope.

B. C. and Seattle Light have signed a deal under which for a payment of about \$5.50 an acre a year the utility can raise the level of its Ross Lake Dam and flood some 6,000 acres in the Skagit Valley on the B. C. side of the border.

The added water would be used to generate more electricity for Seattle.

Brousson said the route that could be followed to invalidate the agreement is complicated and highly technical in the legal sense.

It revolves around the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 which set up the International Joint Commission. The IJC in the early 1940s gave its ap-

proval for B. C. and Seattle to sign a deal to raise the Ross Lake Dam.

There are two key points under the treaty's articles, Brousson said.

One is that the commission "shall require" that the injured party (in this case B. C.) get proper indemnity.

"The important words here are 'shall require' " he said. "This is mandatory. There is no room for discretion on the part of the IJC." And he said there is no power given to the commission by the treaty to delegate its authority in this way. But on the other hand, the treaty does say that the IJC 'shall require' that suitable provision be made for indemnity.

"So it may be argued that for this reason the order of approval is invalid."

Brousson said the second key point is that the IJC has to approve the indemnity.

He said he had spoken with J. L. MacCallum, of Ottawa, assistant to the chairman and legal advisor of the IJC.

"He (MacCallum) has confirmed to me that the agreement between Seattle and B.C., while having been received and noted by the IJC, has been neither approved or disapproved," Brousson said.

"It (the treaty) specifically states that the provision for the protection and indemnity must be approved by the commission.

"It is my opinion and the opinion of my legal adviser that on both these counts the order of approval must be invalid and the agreement between B.C. and Seattle is also invalid at this time.

"The Skagit Valley will not be turned into a mud pond for the Coca-Cola coolers of the United States."

Brousson said he was not reassured by the promises of the government that it would give B.C. the "greatest ecological climate in the world."

He also said that B.C., instead of seeking new means to create more electrical energy perhaps should be looking for means to reduce the province's power needs.

"Our population is already in excess of our ability to meet its needs of employment, housing and education, health and social services," he said.

Turning to matters affecting his riding of North Vancouver-Capilano, Brousson said he personally favors a tunnel for a new crossing at the First Narrows.

FLASH! URGENT! ROSS DAM HEARINGS URGENT! FLASH!

Conducted by the Washington State Ecological Commission

MARCH 16 Tuesday 9:00 A.M.	SEATTLE	Eames Theater, Seattle Center
MARCH 17 Wednesday 9:00 A.M.	MT. VERNON	Moose Hall

To hear testimony for and against Seattle City Light's proposal to raise ROSS DAM and thus flood 6 miles of BIG BEAVER wilderness valley in North Cascades National Park and Recreation Area Complex and 10 miles of the CANADIAN SKAGIT valley in a proposed new Canadian national park. Organizations and individuals desiring to present oral testimony should write to the Ecological Commission Secretary, Capitol Center Building, Olympia, Washington 98501. Reread THE WILD CASCADES (Jan., Apr., and Oct. 1970) to see why N. C. C. C. opposes the raising of ROSS DAM.

WE ABSOLUTELY MUST PACK THOSE HALLS AND FILL THE RECORD

1. Please attend one or both hearings, if possible, and present oral or submit written statement.
2. Mail statements, letters, or post cards to Ecological Commission before March 29 deadline.
3. If you still have any energy we would appreciate receiving a copy (or digest) of your statement.

GOLDMEYER

MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE ROAD

3215 Northeast 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125
October 28, 1970

Mr. Ron Metcalf
Deputy Supervisor
Snoqualmie National Forest
919 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

SUBJECT: 7720 - Goldmeyer Road Extension

Dear Ron:

We wish to express our gratitude for your having conducted an inspection trip on October 24th, for a group of us (Ben Hayes and Jim Hottot - Alpine Lakes Protection Society, Kenn Covington - The Mountaineers, Earll Murman - Puget Sound Group of Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Sierra Club, and myself - North Cascades Conservation Council) and some of your staff, of the proposed Goldmeyer Road extension.

We were impressed (1) by the catastrophic damage to the scenery that is being accomplished by the logging currently going on on the westernmost of two private parcels of land just beyond the present road-end; (2) by the impossibility of constructing adequate trail-head parking at the present road-end, due to the steepness of the valley wall; and (3) with the fact that the leveling out of the terrain on both sides of Hardscrabble Creek would provide your expressed need for additional car-parking space.

In the long run we believe it would be desirable for the Forest Service to:

- (1) Acquire the private inholding properties upstream from the present road-end and then to let nature revegetate the denuded slopes.
- (2) To establish a major road-end and campsite in the Goldmeyer Hot Springs, allowing the roadway to become revegetated.

In the immediate future we would recommend that the Forest Service:

- (1) Revise its plans so that the road extension will not cross Hardscrabble Creek by a ford or bridge.
- (2) That parking be planned for along the sides of the road in the relatively flat terrain west of Hardscrabble Creek.

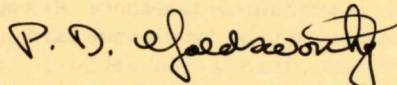
- (3) That fill dirt and gravel, as needed, be borrowed along the present road grade rather than digging a conventional unsightly borrow-pit.

As a consequence of our revised opinion of this matter, based upon additional information obtained on this inspection trip, we still believe it is reasonable to accept a Goldmeyer road extension which does not cross Hardscrabble Creek, subject to the following provisions:

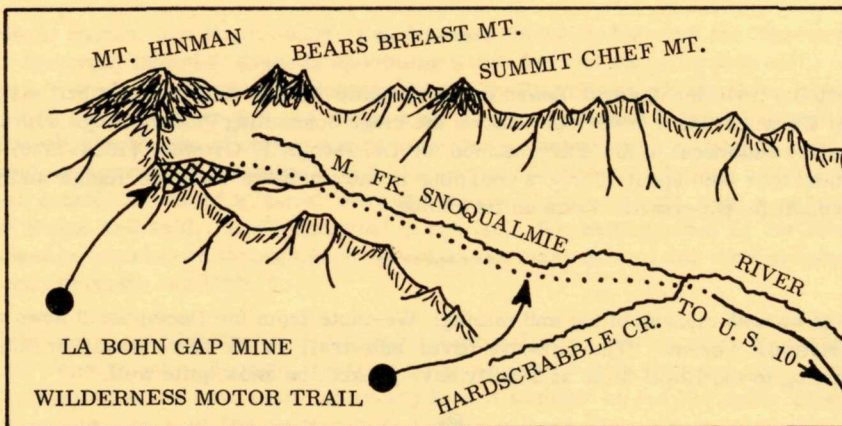
- (1) That any use of the extended road or road-end parking area for purposes related to the operations of the Cougar Development Corporation or related to the reconstruction of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Trail be minimal and be secondary to the primary use of this area for recreation.
- (2) That any logging or associated activities connected with private or public lands be specifically excluded from using the road extension and new parking area.
- (3) That there be no further extension of the Goldmeyer road at a future date.

We appreciate your sincere efforts to establish good communication lines between your agency and groups such as ours which have had and shall continue to have a long history of intimate concern for the scenic resources of the Cascades. We look forward to a continuation of such opportunities for exchange of alternative ideas and philosophy.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick D. Goldsworthy, President
North Cascades Conservation Council



NEWS & VIEWS

of the north cascades

From Our Correspondents at the Front

In a letter dated November 2, 1970, Senator Henry M. Jackson responded to a proposal by your editor as follows: "Thank you for your letter of September 24, 1970, concerning the Wilderness Act, the nation's mineral reserves, and your suggestion that there be established a "National Mineral Reserve" system to be composed of National Parks and Wilderness Areas. I have requested the Secretary of the Interior to furnish me with a report on this proposal. When the report is received I will furnish you with a copy. "

Which Secretary of the Interior will that be? Not long ago we expressed deep suspicion of Mr. Hickel's appointment. Of course, we never will know how much our loudly stated doubts had to do with the record he established in his brief tenure. Which wasn't a bad record, in fact was pretty good, overall. Now a new man must make his own record.

Former Secretary Udall comments in his newspaper column that Hickel, "in record and outlook, came off as a potential resource raider," but that he became a "forceful secretary." And what about the new man, Rogers Morton? Udall says he was once a most promising environmentalist, but as a Congressman "compiled a very weak voting record on the environment." Morton the Congressman voted against "clean water," against "estuarine preservation," against the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. He voted for limiting the spending on mass transportation. Will Morton prove to be the ultimate hard-line "tool of the interests" we expected Hickel to be?

Udall concludes: "As Headstrong Wally Hickel heads home, we'll all be watching the first moves of his temperamentally different successor. Where does Morton stand after his conservation lapses of the past two years? Will he relax Interior's guard against the giveaway of Western resources? This time environmentalists would be wise to reserve judgment. After all, if Wally Hickel could be educated, why can't Morton?"

In October 1970 the federal Board on Geographic Names announced it had approved the name, Mount Crowder, for a 7082-foot peak on the ridge connecting Pioneer Ridge with the Picket Range 1.6 miles southwest of Mt. Fury, named for Dr. Dwight F. Crowder (1929-1970), geologist and mountaineer who spent 12 years mapping in the northern Cascade Range and published significant scientific papers and books on its geology. "

A note on both snowmobiling and mining: We quote from the December 9 news release of Wenatchee National Forest: "The Chiwawa River snowtrail is in ideal condition since supply tractors running to the Royal Mine at Trinity have packed the snow quite well. "



Some years ago a gang of motorcycle hoodlums invaded an isolated town in California and kept the inhabitants in a state of terror for a number of hours. Stanley Kramer later made a movie, The Wild Ones, very loosely based on the incident. Not to go into the artistic merits of the production (which did, in the end, moralize for "law and order") there is no question but that one comes away empathizing with Marlon Brando in his black leather jacket. He stands for youth, for freedom, against the old, narrow-minded, vicious band of Pedestrian Vigilantes.

Recently Easy Rider has reinforced the message that "wheels are with it." To illustrate the impact on some segments of our population, in a recent family conversation I quoted the comment by Al Capp (of whom I am not an admirer) that he enjoyed the movie because "it has a happy ending -- the two dope peddlers get killed." My teenage daughters were outraged by the remark. And isn't this strange? That two fanatical environmentalists and motorbike haters should identify with the cult of wheels?

In the late and unlamented Here Came Bronson television series, we saw the sensitive, philosophical, gentle, poetic hero racing over the ocean sands next to the breakers, razzing along mountain trails, and thus demonstrating his Wordsworthian identification with nature.

Walking is equated with stuck-in-the-mudism, old-fogeyism. Get thee upon a wheel and be free, vroom-vroom your contempt for the old fools on foot.

Without condemning the motorcycle itself (after all, it has two less wheels, a couple tons less metal, and uses less gas than a car, and if properly muffled -- which it never is -- could be no more a polluter of quiet) the Motorcycle Mentality induced by the romanticizing movies and by the barrage of trailbike and snowmobile ads is one of the greatest dangers -- and may in time prove to be the very greatest -- to our back-country ecosystems.

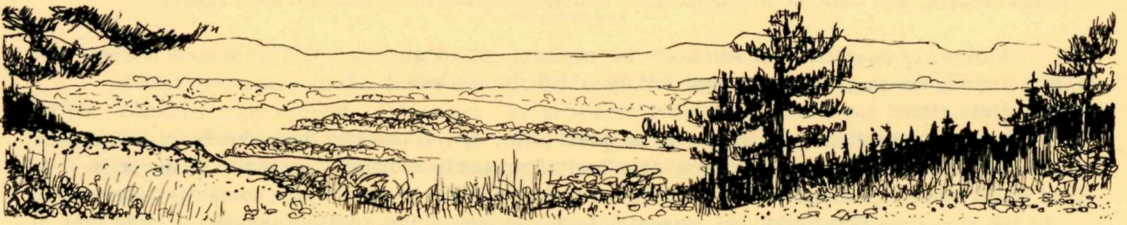
We know that. Where do we find the administrative officials, federal and state, and the elected officials, national and state, willing to brave the wrath of all those voters they count blasting around the countryside on their noisemakers?

Perhaps we should organize a Council Against Loud Machines (CALM), representing all concerned conservation and outdoor and sportsmen's groups and devoted specifically to restoring sanity to the land that so recently was noted for peace and quiet. Certainly the time has come to stop sitting around wringing our hands and organize a concerted, positive program of action.

Mount Rainier and Puget Sound: two features unique in America for their special magnificences. Governor Daniel J. Evans is appointing a task force to study the possibility of connecting them with a 75-mile "park" running along the Nisqually River from glacier level to sealevel. The "ribbon park" would be from 1/2 to 4 miles wide, starting at Mount Rainier National Park, ending in the Nisqually Flats, one of only two such estuaries remaining in a largely natural condition on Puget Sound, and currently threatened by the "super-port" plans of Olympia and Tacoma. Recognizing that establishment of a "park" over the entire 75 miles might take a number of years, Governor Evans has said, "Until that goal is realized, the environment of the Nisqually River system must be maintained through such means as the many federal and state programs and funding sources currently available."

Speaking to the Washington Public Ports Association on December 3, John Biggs, director of the state Department of Ecology, told the port promoters they were too late. Ten years ago, or even 5, Tacoma could have built "about anything it wanted" on the Nisqually Delta. However, "I feel the people who want the delta retained in its natural state now represent the majority of public thinking."

Daniel J. Evans, Governor of the State of Washington, on November 24, 1970, smacked the Army Engineers right in the mouth, announcing the state's opposition to the proposed dam and reservoir on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. He acted in response to a report from the new Department of Ecology, headed by John Biggs, former director of the State Game Department, and called for a federal-state in-depth study before Congress considers authorization for work on the project. This is a terrible blow to the Engineers, who for years have been accustomed to dealing successfully and comfortably with local Chambers of Commerce, County Commissioners, and their ilk. The Seattle Times, which already had come out in strong editorial opposition to the Army plot, applauded Evans' decision. The war is far from over -- and one must keep in mind that we are, after all, fighting the U. S. Army, which smacks of being unpatriotic -- but it's a battle won.



Load up your "conservation action" bookshelf, if you haven't already, with the Friends of the Earth/Ballantine Survival Series. The purpose of the paperback volumes in the Survival Series, all priced at 95¢ or \$1.25, is to provide the best possible information, written for the intelligent layman, about the current threats to the environment that urgently demand remedial action and information on what to do about these threats.

First in the series was the bestselling The Environmental Handbook, edited by Garrett De Bell and including contributions from dozens of distinguished environmentalists, a concise summary of the host of problems besetting our planet, from the cities to the wilderness.

Defoliation, by Thomas Whiteside, portrays in detail what happens when most of a nation is sprayed with weed-and-tree killer.

The User's Guide to the Protection of the Environment, by Paul Swatek, tells the reader the daily decisions he can make that will improve or deteriorate his environment -- what builds health and which products are potentially dangerous -- which household cleansers contribute the most pollution, and which the least. Brand names, product names, where to get those products which are safe.

The Voter's Guide to Environmental Politics (Before, During, and After the Election), edited by Garrett De Bell, is a guide to the major issues affecting the environment, telling the reader what must be done and how to get it done.

Teaching for Survival, by Mark Terry, a young teacher in Portland, Oregon, should be studied by every environmentally-aware teacher who wishes to help train the generation that is going to have to save the world, or die in the attempt. Students will want to read the book too, and parents.

The SST and Sonic Boom Handbook, by William A. Shurcliff, has been so widely denounced one can be sure it struck home.

Nuclear Dilemma, by Gene Bryerton, is "a full exposure of the known dangers to health and life of our proliferating nuclear plants." The author reveals the proliferation of reactor accidents, mechanical failures, and persistent problems of radioactivity leakage, and brings the proponents and critics of nuclear power into confrontation.

More titles in the Survival Series are on the way. Visit your local bookshop (or drug-store, or supermarket) and look for the Friends of the Earth/Ballantine imprint.

A fellow-traveler of the North Cascades expresses the following sentiments:

Despite the specious popularity of small, unmanned trailside shelters in the heart of the alpine wilderness, they are problems, not solutions. Modern camping equipment and increased backcountry use have outdated them. By providing fixed destinations and concentrated use they cause radiating patterns of environmental damage. There is no way to adjust their capacity to the demand which they themselves create. It can be argued that they exemplify the antithesis to wilderness experience, which should be one of self-determination -- the freedom and ability to meet the wilderness on its own terms without in-place manmade conveniences. Accordingly, existing old shelters should be removed.

The following resolution by the Idaho Environmental Council demands all our support (WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND ASK HIM TO JOIN THE SPONSORSHIP):

The Idaho Environmental Council requests that the Idaho Congressional delegation jointly sponsor a bill that would require all U. S. Corps of Engineer projects be approved on a project-by-project basis, as opposed to the present Public Works Omnibus Bill method. The present Omnibus Bill method allows the Corps of Engineers to place all of their projects into one large bill for funding and authorization purposes. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation must ask for project approval in funding on a project-by-project basis. National Park proposals are acted upon separately. National Wilderness proposals are acted upon separately, except where there is no controversy involved. It seems only fair that the largest and most costly aspect of public works (U. S. Corps of Engineers projects) should be subject to the same type of regulations and authorization procedures as the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Park Service, and the U. S. Forest Service.

We commend Idaho Congressman James McClure for suggesting such a conversion in a September 17, 1970 press release concerning the authorization of the U. S. Corps of Engineers Lenore Dam Project.

Thousands of years ago a glacier from Canada conveyed a granite boulder into what was later to become north Seattle. Several decades ago "Glacier Boulder" or "Big Rock" was the local nursery of modern rock-climbing. Then, in 1948, the developers arrived. Climbers did not give up all at once, and continued to make ascents -- mainly after midnight. Time passes, and on October 13, 1970, the Seattle City Council enacted an ordinance making it illegal to climb "Wedgewood Rock," located at Northeast 72nd Street and 28th Avenue Northeast. According to the news report, "The law was urged by residents of the area after the huge landmark rock became a hangout for drug users and pushers and a lookout perch for burglars."



Following are excerpts from an article in a recent issue, volume 98, of Science News:

"The Forest Service has grown into a complex and often rigid bureaucracy. And although the exploitive 19th century practices have largely been abandoned, a recent report from an interdisciplinary committee at the University of Montana makes it clear that the dominant emphasis in the Forest Service is toward lumber production to the exclusion of delicate ecological and social concerns. And the Forest Service itself has cautiously conceded that the committee, headed by Dean Arnold Bolle of the UM School of Forestry, is correct in many of the points it makes. The suggestion, both in the UM report and the Forest Service's apologetics, is that the agency has become a partly unwilling captive of economic interests.

"The report, first requested by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) and released late in November, is on a single forest, the Bitterroot National Forest in southwestern Montana. But, says the report, 'The Bitterroot... is really representative of a large part of the Rocky Mountain West' where most of the national forests are located.

"Singled out for particular criticism is the practice of clearcutting, commercial cutting of all the trees in wide swaths through a forest. This practice, says the report, is highly destructive to delicate ecological balances and esthetic considerations... The Federal Water Quality Administration reports that this practice can create soil erosion and consequent pollution of waterways all the way to estuaries on the coasts.

"The Forest Service's single-minded devotion to timber production is clear, says the committee, in the short shrift it gave to wildlife values...

"Although the committee does not explicitly say that the Forest Service practices are directly in violation of the agency's ostensible philosophy of a sustained yield, this is a clear implication in the section on forest economics. Current practices, says the report, make it economically impossible ever to recover even the timber values lost through clear cutting, let alone the wildlife, esthetic and recreation values.

"The problem, in part, says the committee, is created by a top-heavy and inflexible bureaucracy, which it suggests is unresponsive to public needs and easily manipulated by special interests who want to make a short-term killing.

"In the light of current environmental concerns, says the committee, such approaches are completely out of step with the interests and desires of the American people.' "

It appears likely that under the new government of President Salvador Allende, Chile will expropriate the copper properties of Kennecott and other American firms. This could be used as an excuse, if Kennecott felt it needed one, for proceeding with an open pit on Miner's Ridge.

We are interested that Allende intends to indemnify the companies only for the money they have invested in developing the mines, and not for the value of the ore bodies. Allende proposes to amend the constitution to revise the property rights clause and make the state "absolute, exclusive, and inalienable" owner of all minerals. In other words, Allende is saying that just because a company finds an ore body, it can't take credit for creating it; the riches of the earth belong to all the people.

If Allende gets away with this monstrous crime against frontier freedoms, if the Chileans decide they own their minerals, maybe the time will come when Americans, too, will own their minerals.

George H. Andrews, Washington State Director of Highways, recently said in so many words that "ecology is a threat to roads." At a meeting of the road buffs in Olympia, he warned that the welfare of the state and nation might depend on good highways in case of a national emergency, and that the highway system was imperiled by people who worried about pollution. The only thing he left out was that highways are essential to fight Communism, hippies, dope fiends, and kids. At a recent court hearing on the proposed I-90 route through Snoqualmie Pass, Andrews admitted on the witness stand that he had no knowledge, direct or indirect, of the techniques for highway construction that have been standard in the Alps for generations. To Andrews and his ilk, the Cascade Range is nothing more than an engineering problem. An inconvenience.

In the "Behavior" section of the December 7 issue of Time, a new disease of American man is identified -- the "motorcycle syndrome." Next time you encounter a trailbiker or snowmobiler or jeepster, see him as does Dr. Armand Nicholi II, psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School:

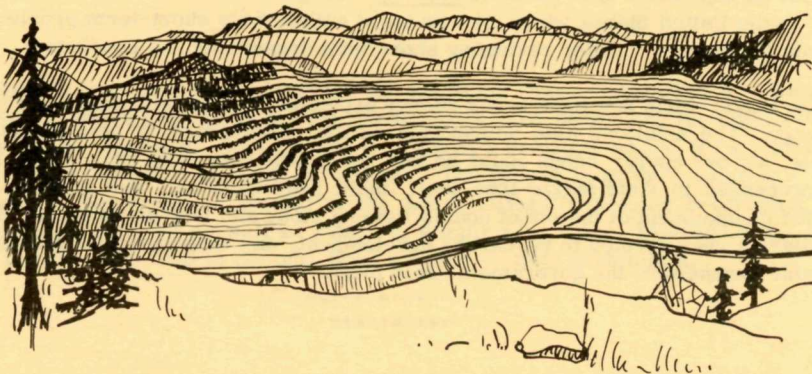
"Driving it is a very physical, almost sexual feeling. You accelerate fast and there is nothing between you and nature. The wind blowing in your face is a marvelous sensation. It has tremendous appeal. My new machine has a huge motor. With this under me, I feel I can do anything I want to. . . .

"Writing about this psychiatric disorder in the American Journal of Psychiatry, Nicholi explains that he found the same basic symptoms in all his sick cyclists. Leading the list was a day-and-night preoccupation with the machine: when the patient was not actually riding, he was daydreaming -- or nightdreaming -- about it. A person with the motorcycle syndrome literally needs his machine; without it, he has a sense of 'something missing' and an 'acute awareness of inadequacy.' As one patient told Nicholi: 'If I got rid of the bike, there would be nothing but me, and that's not enough.'

"Occasionally Nicholi's patients were promiscuous, but without pleasure; often they were impotent; always they worried about discovering that they were homosexuals. All the patients saw their cycles as extensions of their masculine selves. Said one: 'The noise is all you hear. It's masculine and makes me feel strong. I approach a girl on a cycle and I feel confident.'

"All these symptoms are explained, Psychiatrist Nicholi believes, by the patients 'tenuous masculine identification,' often caused by difficult childhood relationships with demanding, critical and successful fathers. The sons felt it hopeless to try to be like them, and thus used their motorcycles to compensate for feelings of effeminacy and weakness.

"Compensation came high. The patients were rarely without conscious and unconscious fears of death and mutilation; fantasies of going blind often kept them awake at night, and terror of possible castration haunted them. . . ."



From the latest bulletin of the Washington State Game Department we learn that on the average of the 5 years from 1965-1969, 350 mountain goats were "harvested" annually in the State of Washington by 860 hunters, providing 3440 man-days of recreation. --Impressive figure? Not very, compared to the total man-days of hunting recreation --6,469,000. Compare those 3440 man-days with the next-lowest total for any species of bird or beast -- 116,000 man-days hunting for dove. In short, goat-hunting makes a minute recreational contribution. However, in order that 860 hunters a year may enjoy their sport, tens of thousands of wilderness travelers have pretty much lost their opportunity to see goats -- except in National Parks. Two reasons: (1) after 23 years of shooting the goat population is now thoroughly spooked; (2) the reported "harvest" of 350 a year does not include the animals shot from long range and never recovered to be mounted on a wall, nor the "extras" killed when hunters manage to ambush a band and shoot every animal in sight and then, at leisure, pick out the best specimens to pack out -- usually, the head only. There is abundant testimony from hikers that goat sightings in such places as Lake Chelan and the Goat Rocks are much less frequent than they were 23 years ago. In our opinion, the 3440 man-days of recreation are more than counterbalanced by the recreation losses. As a very minimum first step, goat-shooting should be banned from Wilderness Areas.

Way up Thunder Creek, deep within the North Cascades National Park, the 19th century lives on. There, as previously reported in these pages, the miners are plotting. The corporation is called Inter-Domestic Exploration Corporation, and seems to be largely the apparatus of a group of State of Washington employees who while away their coffee breaks in Olympiareading prospectuses written about the property half a century ago and trying to figure some way, somehow, to get the public to build a road to their patented claims so they can make a small fortune selling stock.

In a recent issue of the Seattle Times, Ross Cunningham, noting the decision of the federal Internal Revenue Service to resume granting tax-exemption status to "public service" law firms of the Ralph Nader style, says: "...It is difficult to conclude other than that the side of the environmental protectionists benefits the most from the ruling. Using, for example, the controversy over increasing the height of the Ross Dam...: Should a court battle erupt -- which is virtually certain -- City Light would have its own financial resources as well as those of the municipal corporation counsel to wage its battle. But since there are no large corporate or other institutionalized interests at hand to finance the court battle of the environmental protectionists, they would have to be dependent upon solicitations and-or lawyers who would volunteer their services or be willing to give representation for relatively small fees. The tax decision, of course, may have changed all this. Tax-exemption status is likely to be an incentive to corporate or individual donors who otherwise might be hesitant about contributing to the legal expenses in opposition to enlarging Ross Dam..."

In the 25 September 1970 issue of Science, Philip H. Abelson comments on the "Scarcity of Energy" in the United States, which "is now faced with serious short-term problems in satisfying its needs for energy." After reviewing short-term expedients, he concludes:

"The longer-term solutions to our energy problems involve becoming more prudent in the use of energy. The solutions also demand the skillful employment of coal and atomic energy. In principle, all our energy needs could be met for a long time with coal. This raw material could be processed to yield sulfur-free fuel, liquid hydrocarbons, and methane. In practice, however, the development of the use of coal is limping along and is underfinanced. A few hundred million dollars a year devoted to research, development, and demonstration plants could be the most valuable expenditure the government could make."



The October 1970 issue of Edelweiss, newsletter of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, notes certain environmental policies of Norway, observed by Bill and Janice Asplund while traveling there. We quote:

Motor bikes are not allowed on trails in the forest. They must be used only on roads and streets.

Snowmobile use is forbidden except for special work, transportation to residence, and for search and rescue.

Clear cuts do exist in Norway, not in 640-acre square chunk sizes, but in landscaped 10 to 20 acre sizes. All material is used and cleaned up. Surplus slash is not burned.

Electricity is metered at two rates to discourage excessive individual use. The customer pays approximately \$45 a year for use not exceeding 2KW/hr. Every hour is an individual, rather than an averaged, unit. Use beyond the 2 KW/hr level causes a higher rate to apply. Thus the housewife staggers her use of power, avoiding situations (if possible) where she cooks and heats water at the same time. All water heaters can be set or turned off. This is a sharp contrast to our encouragement of the consumption of limitless electricity.

The Norwegian government ordered the largest waterfall in Europe, located in the Romsdahl Mountains in Norway to be used for hydroelectric power. However, people from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and even as far away as Italy, came to protest this work. They camped on, and in front of, bulldozers and earthmoving equipment, as well as over the entire area. At last report the government and protestors had reached a compromise.

The November 1970 issue of Popular Mechanics contains an article, "Cruising the Cascades," which describes in text and photos the "first amphibious snowmobile expedition into Cascades National Park." The party of some 10 or so snowmobiles was conveyed up Lake Chelan on the Speedway and unloaded by derrick at Stehekin. The article is vague about how far up the valley the group went, but says it was the "first time snowmobiles ever penetrated above High Bridge into Cascades region." They definitely crossed Bridge Creek and may have gotten to Cottonwood Camp or even farther. No comment required.

Snowmobilers have been warned to stay off the North Cross-State Highway, according to a Seattle newspaper, which goes on to say the mechanicals have been using the highway illegally by passing barricades. So warn! Just as with trailbikes, a principle appeal for a major portion of snow-racketeers is the sense of being an "outlaw." The yahoos know their noise is a violation of the natural quiet, they delight in fracturing the peace. Illegally passing barricades, tearing down signs, breaking man's law as well as nature's, simply adds spice. Eventually the excesses of the machine maniacs will lead to the only final solution -- total prohibition.



THE WILD CASCADES

December 1970 - January 1971

North Cascades Conservation Council
3215 Northeast 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Founded 1957

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