THE WILD CASCADES

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL SUMMER/FALL 2001

The Pickets from Luna Peak, looking south — KARL FORSGAARD PHOTO

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The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

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The North Cascades Conservation Council was formed in 1957 "To protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, and wilderness values." Continuing this mission, NCCC keeps government officials, environmental organizations, and the general public informed about issues affecting the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem. Action is pursued through legislative, legal, and public participation channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife.

Over the past third of a century the NCCC has led or participated in campaigns to create the North Cascades National Park Complex, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and other units of the National Wilderness System from the W.O. Douglas Wilderness north to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and others. Among its most dramatic victories has been working with British Columbia allies to block the raising of Ross Dam, which would have drowned Big Beaver Valley.

MEMBERSHIP

The NCCC is supported by member dues and private donations. These support publication of *The Wild Cascades* and lobbying activities. (NCCC is a non-tax-deductible 501(c)4 organization.) Membership dues for one year are: $10 - low income/student; $20 - regular; $25 - family; $50.00 - Contributing; $100 - patron; $1000 - Sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is $500.

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North Cascades Conservation Council
Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The President's Report

Summer/Fall 2001

It is coming up on 20 years now since the State of Washington has formalized any new Wilderness Areas. This is not because we haven't been trying. In fact, an umbrella group called the Wild Washington Campaign has been trying to coordinate groups around the state as they work to protect their special places. Politics at the local, state and federal levels is the medium necessary to bring long-term protection to wild areas. And politics at all levels is very tricky.

Where do we stand right now? The North Cascades Conservation Council has been focusing on three areas: 1. The Skykomish Peaks Area with additions to the Henry M Jackson Wilderness Area. 2. The Noisy-Diobsud-Sauk Mountain Area. 3. Selected areas in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest including Dark Divide. You might ask, why not Golden Horn or Kettle Range or Pasayten additions? That would be a very good question and my answer might sound like this. To convince Congress to protect a piece of de-facto wilderness with national legislation, one must have an overwhelmingly broad-based support from local citizens, commercial interests, politicians, user groups, and agencies. Some members of Congress require much more convincing than others.

Predictably, certain parts of the state have fewer Wilderness advocates than others. Wilderness-friendly groups have, in fact, been debating what is possible, how big of a bite can we chew, and what is the best timing. It is a good bet that all NCCC members want to protect all roadless areas, period. Tragically, that is very unlikely.

As I see it, the best that can happen will only happen if we all make an effort to use whatever influence we have with local politicians, friends, and officials. If you have a favorite place that needs high-level help, find a local champion. If we maximize our efforts over the near term, our collective efforts might expand the possibilities.

Marc Bardsley

Paleck at it again:

Another questionable Stehekin land trade on horizon

Carolyn McConnell

Stuck with some swamp land you can't build anything on? Got some rocks and talus on top of a mountain, accessible only by foot or helicopter? No problem. If it's within a national park or forest, you can make a killing off that land. The solution is land exchange: switch your property for government land you can develop. One of these schemes is unfolding right now, in Stehekin, in the North Cascades National Park Complex, where a landowner is poised to unload his swampland in return for wild public land.

In recent years, with budgets tight and a Republican congress unwilling to release money for land acquisition, land exchange has grown increasingly popular with federal agencies around the West as a means of acquiring private parcels within their domain. But as newspapers around the country have begun to document, many of these deals have been dubious. Land exchange even at its best privatizes public land, and it is prone to abuse.

Take, for example, a park superintendent eager to curry favor with local property owners and vocal property owners who claim their community is endangered by park land acquisition. Take Stehekin. Here, land exchange satisfies every interest-except the public interest. As of 1995, North Cascades National Park management began advocating land exchange, and even identified pieces of public land it was willing to let go. It didn't take long for property owners to start trying to trade up.

First to go, in 1999, was an old mining claim in Horseshoe Basin, a high cirque accessible only by foot or helicopter, within park-designated wilderness. In exchange for this, the owner got five prime acres adjoining his dude ranch down in the Stehekin Valley itself, with express permission to divert a seasonal stream and build on the land.

Then there was the developer who bought cliffside property above the head of Lake Chelan, at a spot called Logger's Point, and got county permits to build 13 condo-cabins, a tram, and a complicated sewage treatment system on the cliff. Though there were serious questions about the feasibility of the project, the park proposed to give in exchange flat, buildable land elsewhere in Stehekin, some of it next to a spotted owl nest site, all of it beautiful and wild. Only after local activists and the NCCC raised a ruckus was this plan stopped, and the park bought the cliffside outright. (Unfortunately, the owner retains the lakefront portion of the land, which he plans to develop.)

Now the park is negotiating with Cragg Courtney, the brother of the former Horseshoe Basin property owner, over property next to the Stehekin River, much of which is wetland, or cut off from road access by the river, or in the river itself. One portion is a tiny lot squeezed in a heavily developed part of the valley. In exchange for this, the park is offering a beautiful wooded tract, whose timber has recently been surveyed to be cleared for a pasture-at least at first. It is likely to be built on eventually.

The deal is rotten. A clear sign of this is that the North Cascades park superintendent has cut his staff out of the negotiations. Not even the North Cascades National Park land resources chief, Rick Wagner, has been privy to them for a year. Wagner said that the deal was "complicated" by the disparity between a reasonable appraisal of the private land and Courtney's demands. Yet Superintendent Bill Paleck gives every indication that the deal will proceed. Asked what public interest was served by the park's acquiring a tiny lot surrounded by development, Wagner said that park employee housing might be built on the land.

One problem with land exchanges is that appraisals are typically kept secret during negotiations, and the public learns the valuations only after the deals are done, if they are revealed at all. This invites sloppiness at best, abuse at worst. In the Logger's Point deal, the park allowed the property owner's own appraiser to establish the value of his property. Furthermore, before the deal was completed, the park had issued a finding that the condo development was incompatible with the park, which gave it the legal power to condemn the property and called into question the valuation based on that development plan. This could have been an opportunity for public scrutiny of the valuation-but scrutiny was not allowed.

Park Service policy and enforcement has a clear influence on land values. Because in Stehekin the Park Service claims it has no power over private land, and has generally failed even to exert its influence over the Chelan County permitting process, valuations based on an anything-goes theory become plausible, upping the amounts the park must pay for those lands (or the value of the property it must exchange for them) and turning unbuildable land into valuable property. For example, the Park recently failed to object when Chelan County

allowed a Stehekin landowner to build on a postage-stamp-size lot that becomes wetland each year when Lake Chelan rises to its summer level. Now, anybody who owns a lot like this can plausibly threaten development and demand other land from the Park.

What you can do: By law, if this latest deal goes forward, an environmental assessment must be issued, with a public comment period. But Superintendent Paleck has said that he will not release information on the appraisals. Write Superintendent Paleck expressing your concern about this deal and Stehekin land exchanges in general, and request a copy of the environmental assessment when it is released. Tell him to release the appraisals and to intervene against anything-goes private development.

Ask to be put on the mailing list, be sent copies of all future environmental assessments, and be informed of all present and future land-exchange proposals in the North Cascades National Park Complex.

Superintendent Paleck, North Cascades National Park, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

ON ENERGY SECURITY

— Robert Redford

In this climate of national trauma and war, it is up to us – the people – to ensure that reason prevails and our natural heritage survives intact. The preservation of irreplaceable wildlands like the Arctic Refuge and Greater Yellowstone is a core American value. I have never been more appreciative of the wisdom of that value than during these past few weeks. When we are filled with grief and unanswerable questions it is often nature that we turn to for refuge and comfort.

In the sanctuary of a forest or the vastness of the desert or the silence of a grassland, we can touch a timeless force larger than ourselves and our all-too-human problems. This is where the healing begins. Those who would sell out this natural heritage – this spiritual heritage – would destroy a wellspring of American strength. What's worse, their rush to exploit the wildness that feeds our souls won't do a thing to solve our energy problems.

Robert Redford:
Biogems: Saving Endangered Wild Places,
a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council.
"Robert Redford"
<biogemnews@savebiogems.org>

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

The Weyerhaeuser Company says it will be hurt, not helped, by the Bush administration's 19.3% punitive trade tariff on Canadian soft lumber which is intended to protect domestic lumber companies. That's because Weyco is not all that domestic. It has "timber licenses" to manage 31,600,000 acres of government-owned forest land in Canada, and owns outright 664,000 acres in four provinces. We don't have at hand figures on how much of Siberia, Indonesia, Brazil, et al, are managed from Federal Way.

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The October 14 *Seattle Times* devoted a double-truck to "MetropoLIST 1500: People Who Shaped Seattle." From 150 years of the city's history just one mayor and two governors made the cut to 1500, compared to three prominent members of the North Cascades Conservation Council. Two of these had been viciously attacked during the Red Terror, despite neither being a Communist, though one was a Party member during the Great Depression. The third of our listees was so trustworthy he was granted a Secret Clearance during the Cold War to work on weapons of mass destruction.

FEE-DEMO AGAIN *(and again, and again)*

Synopsis of the Story to Date

1996, Congress approved the Fee Demonstration Program, as a piggyback on an appropriations bill, a procedure which eliminates the requirement for public hearings. The program was stated to be a 2-year test of public acceptance, ending in 1998.

In August of 2001, requested by Bush *fils*, the House passed a bill to extend (for a third time) the test to 2004. The Senate version had no extension.

September 25, 2001, a joint committee held its first-ever oversight hearing on Fee-Demo. Because of the piggyback dodge, many members of Congress never before had heard of the program. Many expressed serious misgivings.

October 10, the conference committee agreed to a compromise that extends the program 2 years beyond the previous legislative expiration of September 30, 2002.

Preview of the Next Chapter

At the oversight hearing of September 25, the Acting Associate Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service informed Congress that the extension of Fee-Demo was not to further "test" public acceptance but to give time to develop a replacement program to be introduced by the President in the spring of 2002. He made it plain that collecting revenues for maintenance of existing recreation facilities was not the reason for the "test," which was thought of by friendly government supporters of the American Recreation Coalition as a transition program from "wild and free" outdoor recreation on public lands to "Commercialized, Industrial-Strength, Pay-to-Play Recreation."

Recreation user fees are not about maintaining EXISTING facilities but about "providing ENHANCED user services and facilities." It is about the Corporate Takeover of Nature and the Disneyfication of the Wild.

(NOTE: On November 5 President Bush signed the Interior Appropriations Bill including authority of Fee Demo to September 2004)

Choosing Up Sides

Derrick Crandall, president of the American Recreation Coalition, acknowledged in his 1999 report on Fee-Demo that the program was in trouble in Congress. His assessment is good news, inasmuch as the idea is credited to him and he and his ARC have been pushing for it ever since the Reagan-era mounting of an all-out counter-offensive against protecting the American earth. We can take heart. The Anti-Fee-Demo Movement now includes 230 organizations and millions of Americans in all 50 states. (See http://www.freeourforests.org.opposition.html).

Why does it not include all the Greens? Why are so many decent people straddling the fence in the mugwimp posture?

Among the charitable explanations: Despite the follies of a chequered past, for the large part the rangers are (or want to be) Good Guys. It pains us to find these old buddies of ours serving as "button men" for industry godfathers. As the little kid sobbed to Shoeless Joe Jackson, when he was implicated in the Black Sox scandal of 1919, "Say it ain't so, Joe!"

We try not to hear the comment by Deputy Chief James Furnish, in his resignation letter of October 3, 2001:

"What remains confusing and troubling to me is that the Forest Service seems to consider itself as our most important constituency. We are much more adept at being aware of and acting on the 'best interests' of the Forest Service than we are the best interests of the public. This introversion hasn't served us well for the last 20 years and it won't in the future. We will never truly 'serve people' until we have the courage to tell our own employees that we need to set our own precious views aside."

We are distressed that the General Accounting Office tells Congress that serious accounting and financial-reporting problems "render the Forest Service's cost information totally unreliable." Were a chartered bank to behave this way, the examiners would shut its doors and the officers would be sent to prison. Yet if the President of the United States accepts the Forest Service word, it must (may) be so. But if the GAO says it's not . . .

Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness brings the mess to our doorstep: (ssilver@wildwilderness.org):

To put this into further perspective consider that in Oregon and Washington, an area where the USFS has been MOST AGGRESSIVE in collecting recreation user fees, the fee-demonstration program GROSSED $5.9 million dollars last year. The USFS, however, only spent approximately 45% of that money on actual projects with the remaining going toward overhead, enforcement, collection and administration. In 2000 in the Pacific Northwest, Fee-Demo provided less than $3 million in supplemental revenues for actual on-the-ground work, AND TODAY, the Forest Service announced that they will take $12 million in funding from the Pacific Northwest's recreation budget and spend that money elsewhere.

Folks ... In case you didn't know it — you were just robbed.

A charitable motivation: the Forest Service pleads poverty. And it surely is disgraceful to condemn good-hearted folks for clapping on hardhats and taking Christmas baskets to the poor. But there is an ugly side to volunteer benevolence. When the volunteers (who earn free Forest Passes) serve as "enforcers," supplementing the police efforts of the rangers, we find such personal confrontations as when the Patriots held a Tea Party in Boston Harbor and the Loyalists took up muskets in support of the Redcoats.

Aside from everything else, Fee-Demo is (1) darkening the reputation of the rangers, and (2) blighting personal friendships among hikers.

NORTHWEST FOREST PASS: Don't Buy It!

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO FIGHT FEE-DEMO!

Leeanne Siart displayed on her vehicle a "Notice to Forest Officer: "The occupants of this vehicle are not engaged in a recreational activity. They are not required to purchase a recreation pass. Please do not issue a ticket to this vehicle."

Returning to her vehicle, she was accosted by two forest officers who had lain in wait for her with a video camera. The officers issued Leeanne a ticket.

Leeanne bravely chose not to do the "easy thing" and simply pay the $50 fine associated with the ticket she had been issued but instead contacted a lawyer. Even with her lawyer working at a rate approaching minimum wage, the hundreds of hours of research, legal writing and court appearances have left Leeanne with an unpaid bill that is truly formidable.

If Leeanne's case is decided as we hope it will be, then she and her lawyer will have provided all of us (indeed they will have provided ALL Americans) a most valuable service. At a minimum, we need to thank Leeanne for her courage and for her efforts to challenge fee-demo and to keep our nation's public lands Wild and Free.

Please send your generous contribution to:

Leeanne Siart
PO Box 11648
Eugene, OR 97440
e-mail ls@onrc.orgP

Flash! Three-quarters of a billion hikers vanish

"Forest Service staff commonly inflated visitor numbers in hopes of getting more money for recreational facilities."

From *The Oregonian*, November 15, 2001, Michael Milstein

About three-quarters of a billion hikers, sightseers and other visitors have suddenly vanished from national forests, after a new tally proved that earlier counts were vastly inflated and based more on guesswork than fact.

Instead of the nearly 1 billion annual forest visitors reported to Congress and cited until recently by U.S. Forest Service officials, including former Chief Mike Dombeck, the new figures show that about 209 million people actually visit national forests each year.

The sharp revision surprised Forest Service officials who had been touting national forests as the leading federal provider of recreation, claiming that forests annually draw more than three times as many people as live in the United States. They quietly have removed the earlier, higher count from web sites and publications.

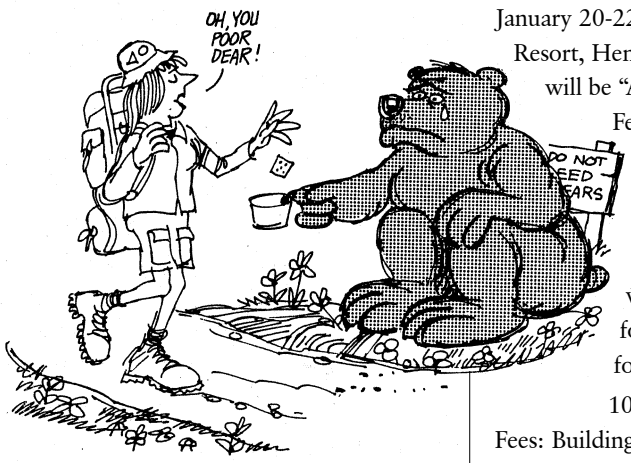
The same visitors, for instance, were counted as new visitors each time they stopped at a different campground, visitor center or boat ramp. Different national forests used different means to estimate users — some employing traffic counters, others counting people visually and others depending on formulas.

Millions of people speeding through national forests on interstate highways were counted as visitors, even if they never set foot in the forest. The new numbers indicate that national parks, with 286 million visitors in 2000, actually record more visitors than national forests do.

NORTHWEST FOREST PASS – DON'T BUY IT!
541-385-5261 www.wildwilderness.org

SMOKEY THE BEAR and FEE-DEMO behind closed doors

Off and Away on the Trail



Backpacking, One Step at a Time —HARVEY MANNING, VINTAGE BOOKS, 1986

Each January the Wreckreation Industry meets with its hired hands among the feds. "Partners Outdoors," they call themselves. Barbecue No. XI will be held January 20-22, 2002, at Green Valley Ranch Resort, Henderson, Nevada. The theme will be "Achieving a Quantum Leap in Federal Recreation." The meetings will be strictly private, no public permitted (there are laws barring the feds from attending such, but what the heck). However, the following typical agenda item for No. XI speaks volumes:

10:00 am - Federal Recreation Fees: Building a Consensus on Next Steps, brainstorming session for public and private sector representatives seeking to chart a course beyond the Fee Demo program.

To review the wealth of information Wild Wilderness has obtained by various means on what has transpired at past meetings, please go to the following web address on the Wild Wilderness website - http://www.wildwilderness.org/docs/po.htm

Here are a few headliners appearing at this year's show: The Honorable J. Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Richard Nunis, Recreation Roundtable, Walt Disney Corp. Derrick Crandall, American Recreation Coalition Fran Mainella, National Park Service Kym Murphy, The Walt Disney Company Sally Collins, Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Forest Service Marcus Peacock, Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget Dick Ring, Associate Director for Park Operations, National Park Service Next time Smokey the Bear pleads with you to buy a Northwest Forest Pass because times are tough, ask what Fran and Sally and Dick and all are up to.

Beware the frightened rattlesnake

On November 18 the Forest Service announced that through the end of the year, the Northwest Forest Pass will be sold at a discount in Oregon and Washington — at a low low $25, a terrific $5 reduction from the normal price. WHAT A DEAL! But . . . Scott Silver points out "the more passes the Forest Service can sell between now and the time Congress takes up this issue in the spring of 2002, the greater the chances it will permanently authorize recreation user fees next year. . . . Fee-Demo is nothing more than the 'vector' for spreading the recreation industry's commercialization/ privatization disease. It's not the bite that will make you sick, it is the disease."

(ssilver@wildwilderness.org)

Check the fine print

The Interior Appropriations Bill HR 2217 contains a real zinger in its accompanying conference report, namely, explicit instructions that the fee-demo program is to be implemented by the agencies (such as Forest Service) "working closely with local communities and the recreational industry. . . ."

"The recreation industry" obviously refers to the American Recreation Coalition. "Local communities" equally obviously refers to the National Association of Gateway Communities, a newly formed tourism/business-oriented special interest group that has extremely close ties to the ARC and the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

On November 15 Federal District Judge Paul Friedman dismissed a challenge to six new national monuments created by President Clinton. Included in the six are the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and the Cascade-Siskiyous of southern Oregon.

The plaintiff was the Mountain States Legal Defense Fund (remember Secretary of the Interior Watt? This was his idea, providing legal assistance to poverty-stricken free enterprisers hounded by wealthy environmentalists). Current secretary of the Interior what's-her-name got her basic training there under Mentor Watt.

The Watt bunch was joined in challenging the constitutionality of the Antiquities Act and the presidency of a Democrat by the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

The co-plaintiffs will appeal.

* * *

Cascade Checkerboard News reports in its September 2001 issue that the Washington Department of Transportation is designing an expansion of I-90 from Hyak to Lake Easton. As part of the project it is looking at extra-long bridges that would allow wildlife to pass under the freeway and perhaps even an overpass designed especially for wildlife. Two likely locations would be at Gold Creek and near Swamp Lake. The Draft EIS has been postponed to April 2003.

* * *

Historically, grizzly bears lived throughout the 9,565 acres now designated as the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. The summer of 2001 University of Washington zoologist Sam Wasser led grizzly searches in the North Cascades National Park, the Pasayten Wilderness, and along the White River in Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest. The search was inspired by bear scat found near Mazama that was identified by DNA analysis as from a grizzly. Wasser currently is analyzing 250 scat samples.

* * *

Says the November 21 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer,* 'HUGE LAND SWAP OK'D (But Bitter Feelings Linger Among Those Who Opposed Huckleberry Exchange.)"

Federal District Judge Thomas Zilly (father of that other Zilly) cleared the way for Weyerhaeuser to trade 30,000 acres of stumps from Index to Mount Rainier for an "equals value" of national forest mature timber. The Forest Service and Sierra Club argue that elk, salmon, spotted owls, and other wildlife will benefit. The Western Land Exchange Project disagrees, but the "multibillion dollar corporation sued the little non-profit," and the technique honed by former Secretary of the Interior James Watt succeeded. The Muckleshoot people were bought off. The Pilchuck Audubon Society persevered and is bargaining. The exchange was cited in a July 2000 report by the investigative arm of Congress, the General Accounting Office, as having "serious, substantive, and continuing problems."

Janine Blaelock of Western Land Exchange conceded that "in 200 years it's all going to be green on the map."

The *P-I* article repeated the formulaic justification for the Northern Pacific Land Grant of 1864 "which conveyed huge amounts of federal lands to railroads in exchange for their helping to open the West to settlement." Yes of course, that's exactly what motivated the Robber Barons of the Gilded Age.

* * *

Battle Mountain Gold/ Newmont Throws in the Towel

Crown Resources proposes to attempt underground mine

Buckhorn Bulletin, November 2001 No. 30 Nineteen months after the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) rejected Battle Mountain Gold Company's (BMG) proposed large-scale open-pit cyanide-leach gold mine, the company called it quits. BMG is now a fully owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Company. BMG announced on July 23, 2001 that they would no longer pursue an open-pit on Buckhorn Mountain and dropped their challenge of the PCHB decision. Crown Resources has stated that they will try to develop an underground mine since BMG's open-pit alternative failed. However, bankruptcy court may slow them down a bit.

Wild Skykomish Update

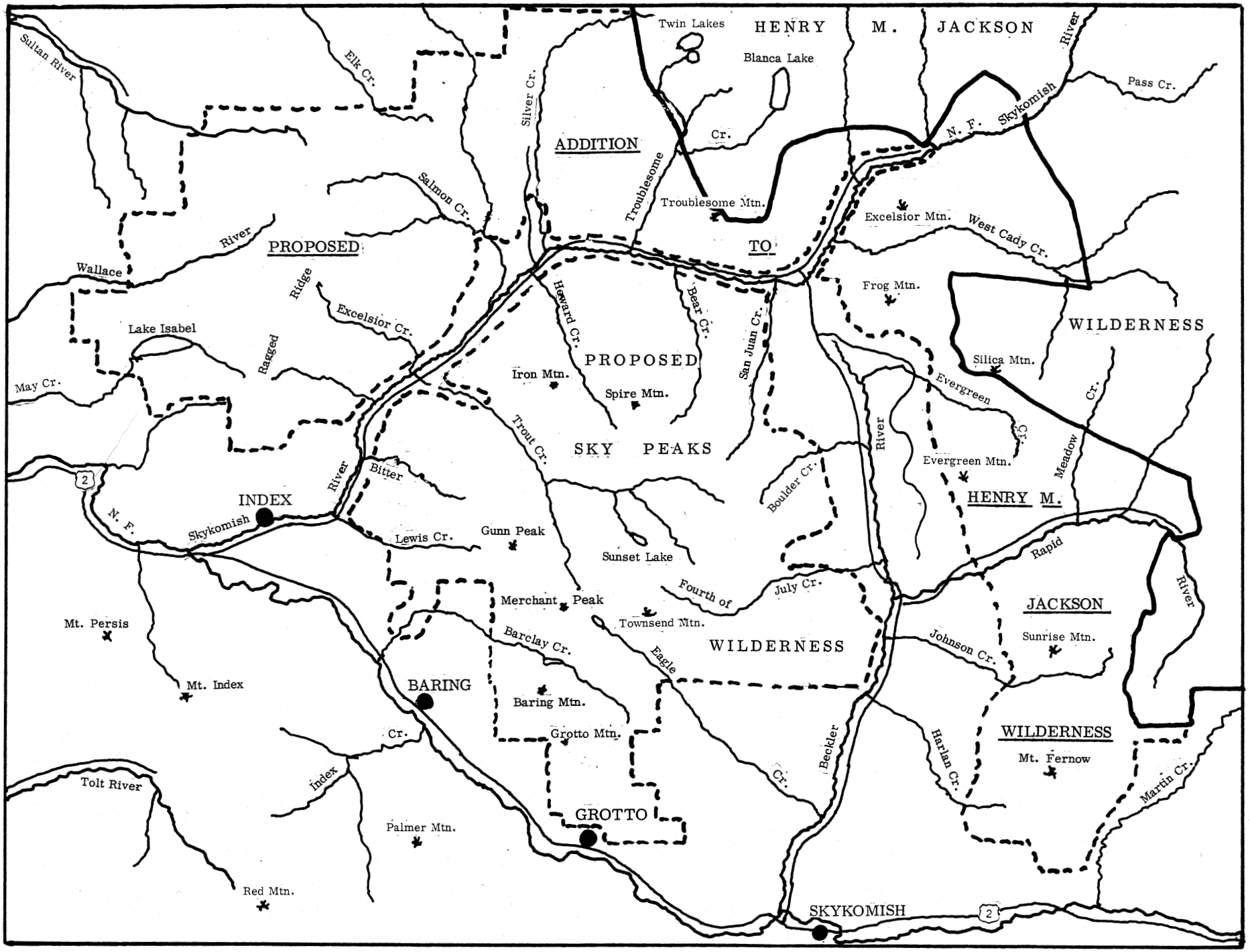
Rick McGuire

Most of the business of the U.S. Congress has recently taken a back seat to measures dealing with war in Afghanistan, anthrax attacks, tax relief for the rich and other dreary features of the New Millennium. But amidst all this, Senator Patty Murray has indicated her continuing commitment to establish new Wilderness in the Skykomish area. As TWC goes to press, Senator Murray says she plans to introduce legislation early in 2002.

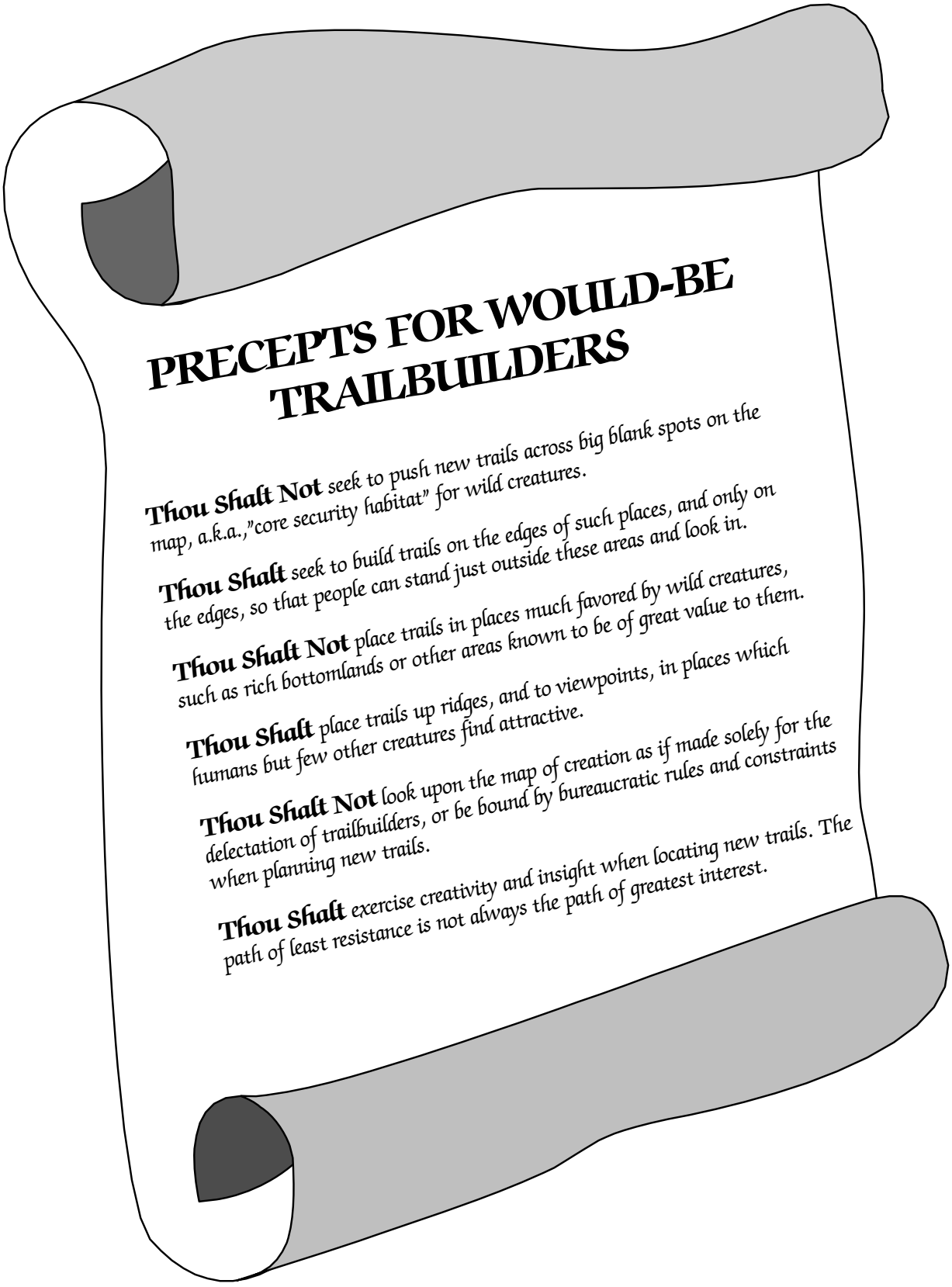
The last issue of TWC detailed the Skykomish Wilderness Proposal. Since then, proponents have continued to research and fine-tune their proposal, and build support. One notable twist of late has been the actions of Barbara Busse, the U.S. Forest Service Skykomish District ranger, to create "facts on the ground" in a bid to keep areas out of Wilderness.

Several old roads have been included in the area proposed for Wilderness, to protect biologically productive low country and to make logical boundaries. Busse has recently sent in heavy equipment to work on these particular roads, and no others. These roads had seen no maintenance in years, and were returning to nature. They suddenly seemed to need a lot of work once Busse had a map of the proposed Wilderness area. With a $63 million road maintenance backlog on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, one can't help but wonder if this politically motivated roadwork is really the best use of taxpayers' money.

This harkens back to the days when the Forest Service would commonly punch roads through miles of uncut forests to preclude areas from consideration for Park or Wilderness status. While nothing compared to a Suiattle or Whitechuck road, Busse's actions are an interesting echo from that era. Mike Dombeck is gone, the Roadless Initiative is largely dismembered and the "New Forest Service" is fast becoming a dim memory. All of which adds to the urgent need for Congress to act and designate new Wilderness both here and in other parts of the Cascades.



MAP: Wild Skykomish Wilderness Boundaries Proposal — Patrick D. Goldsworthy



PRECEPTS FOR WOULD-BE TRAILBUILDERS

Thou Shalt Not seek to push new trails across big blank spots on the map, a.k.a.,"core security habitat" for wild creatures.

Thou Shalt seek to build trails on the edges of such places, and only on the edges, so that people can stand just outside these areas and look in.

Thou Shalt Not place trails in places much favored by wild creatures, such as rich bottomlands or other areas known to be of great value to them.

Thou Shalt place trails up ridges, and to viewpoints, in places which humans but few other creatures find attractive.

Thou Shalt Not look upon the map of creation as if made solely for the delectation of trailbuilders, or be bound by bureaucratic rules and constraints when planning new trails.

Thou Shalt exercise creativity and insight when locating new trails. The path of least resistance is not always the path of greatest interest.

The Conservation Trails Initiative:

GREENBONDING YES! DE-WILDING NO!

Informal discussions have begun among representatives of several groups (North Cascades Conservation Council, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, Wilderness Watch, Alpine Lakes Protection Society and Washington Trails Association) to address the question, "How can we protect core habitat for wildlife while meeting the growing demand for trail-based recreation in the Cascades near Seattle?"

Hundreds of square miles of mountains lie within a 90-minute drive of Seattle, but not much more trail space than when there was a tenth or twentieth as many trail users as today. To take a hike nowadays, especially on summer weekends, means to go with a mob, and that is not where one is most likely to gain "the peace that surpasseth understanding." We'd all like to have more chances for that peace, and that means more choices of hikes. Furthermore, those who experience the beauty of our public lands will support their preservation and protection. "Greenbonding," as Ira Spring calls it, is what makes trail advocates. We need more of them.

Decades of road-building, chainsawing, and other development have "civilized" large expanses of the Cascades. Most low-elevation valleys have been roaded and logged; some even have been subdivided for resorts. The map has few "blank spots," places with no roads, trails, or other development. These blank spots, also known as "core security habitats," must be protected as undisturbed wildlife refuges. Low and middle elevations are particularly needed to increase chances for recovery of grizzly bears and wolves. Undisturbed fall, winter and spring habitat is the critical link for these and many other species. The Endangered Species Act cannot be properly implemented without this linkage.

The situation calls for a mountain version of "smart growth." Blank spots can be preserved by concentrating new trail development in and near areas that are already partly developed. Many miles of new trails could be built to very attractive destinations — "peripheral" trails, on the edges of trail-free areas, or, as Harvey Manning puts it, "just outside, looking in."

Close to Seattle (within, say, a 90-minute drive) the desperate shortage is trails suitable for day hikes. Longer hikes, where a number of days and nights will be spent on the trails, can afford longer drives. Day hikes, however, need to be reasonably close to home. Following is our preliminary list of suggestions for new trails in the Skykomish and Middle Fork Snoqualmie valleys. Most are fairly short walks to viewpoints or other attractive destinations and the adverse impacts (any new trail has some) would be comparatively few.

These are only suggestions, and the list is preliminary. We welcome any and all comments about them, and solicit further suggestions.

We can have our cake and eat it too, better recreation opportunities (more trails) and better habitat for endangered species (especially the space — demanding, human-intolerant variety). These two goals sometimes have been in conflict, the reason being that our present road and trail networks are accidents of history, not created with the coexistence of recreation and habitat protection in mind. When new trails are built, we can do better.

To participate in this effort, or for more information, please contact one of the following:

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Joe Scott ..... jscott@ecosystem.org

Thom Peters .... onthehouse@aol.com FF

Rick McGuire rmcguire@alpinelakes.org

Kevin Geraghty ..... kgeraght@oz.net

New Trail Opportunities in the Skykomish Ranger District

Rick McGuire

Lake Isabel

A spectacular large lake not far above Gold Bar, a very attractive hiking destination. Old logging roads reach closely below it and could be converted to trail. Mixed ownerships present problems in locating a trailhead but could be resolved. One possibility might be to use the Wallace Falls trailhead. Approximately 1800-foot elevation gain.

Mineral Butte

A gentle, 5245-foot summit northwest of Galena, west of Silver Creek, on the North Fork Sky / Sultan River divide. A logging road climbs from a bridge across the North Fork Skykomish to the 4200-foot level. Only the lower mile or so is passable to 4WD vehicles. The logging road could be converted to trail, with new foot trail constructed beyond the road-end. The proposed trail would traverse scenic heather meadows and mountain hemlock parkland to the summit, which offers excellent 360-degree views of the North Fork Sky and Monte Cristo areas. Easy gradients make this a good snowshoe ascent in winter. 4100-foot elevation gain, base to summit.

Silver Creek

A large tributary of the North Fork Skykomish 8 miles northeast of Skykomish. An old road extends about 3-1/2 miles beyond a huge slide which blocks all vehicles. This old road could be converted to trail, providing a trail connection from the Skykomish valley to the Monte Cristo area. 4 - 5 miles, 2900-foot gain to Poodle Dog Pass. Lower Silver Creek flows through a scenic gorge, and a trail would traverse areas of old growth and mountain views. An old road on the lower east side of Silver Creek could offer a bypass of the titanic slide.

Troublesome Ledge Viewpoint

A south-facing cliff band at about the 3500-foot level on Troublesome Mountain, about 3 miles east of the mouth of Troublesome Creek, above the North Fork Skykomish road. Southern exposure leads to early melt-out here, and nearly flat, open ledges above the cliffbands offer good views of the North Fork valley and surrounding peaks. 1900-foot elevation gain.

Middle North Fork Skykomish

A 2-1/2 mile stretch of the North Fork Skykomish extends from the Jack's Pass road bridge upstream to Goblin Creek and Deer Falls. A magnificent old growth forest grows along the river, with hundreds of giant trees. Anadromous fish reach this part of the river, and osprey and kingfishers are often seen. A trail on the east side of the river here would be one of the premier old-growth walks in the Cascades. 600-foot elevation gain.

Frog Mountain

A 4872-foot summit a mile directly east of Jack's Pass. An old logging road climbs to approximately the 3500-foot level, could be converted to trail, and new foot trail constructed beyond. The proposed trail would climb largely through huckleberries to the summit, which has good views of the upper Beckler and North Fork country. 2300-foot elevation gain, trailhead to summit.

Evergreen Mountain, south side

This trail would largely follow the route of the original Evergreen Mountain trail from near the mouth of the Rapid River to the summit. It would provide a base-to-summit trail with early melt-out due to southern exposure, and access to the restored lookout cabin on the summit. Excellent summit views in all directions. 3900-foot elevation gain, base to summit.

Eagle Lake

A small, interesting lake not far about the very popular Barclay Lake. An unofficial, boot-beaten trail whicg climbs from Barclay Lake could be improved and converted to an official trail. A spur trail could possibly be built above it to the divide above Trout Creek. 1500-foot elevation gain.

Beckler Peak / Alpine Baldy

These summits provide outstanding viewpoints of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness to the south, as well as the entire South Fork Skykomish / Tye River / Stevens Pass area. A reasonably good road climbs to 3000 feet on the south side. From here trails would ascend through old-growth forest and meadows to the summits. A possible spur could go to Jake's Lake. Planning and surveying for trail building was done here by the Forest Service in 1994-95 before grizzly bear recovery rules halted work. 2000-foot elevation gain, road-end to summit.

Kelly Creek

This well-constructed but semi-abandoned trail ascends through middle and upper elevation forest to scenic high meadows and a connection with the Scorpion Mountain trail. Volunteers have

done maintenance in recent years but it needs to be officially reinstated and maintained. 2100-foot gain.

Philadelphia Mountain

A 4258-foot summit northeast of Mt. Index, directly above Lake Serene, which lies between Philadelphia Mountain and Mt. Index. Spectacular views of the north face of Mt. Index, and of other neighboring peaks. A trail to the summit of Philadelphia would be a logical extension of the reconstructed Lake Serene trail, offering a base to summit hiking opportunity. 3000-foot gain from base, 1700-foot gain from Lake Serene.

Temple Mountain

A 3400-foot summit south of lower Money Creek offers views of Baring, Malachite and Lennox Peaks, and the South Fork Skykomish and Miller River valleys. An old logging road climbs the northwest side and could be converted to trail. 2400-foot elevation gain.

West Fork Miller River

An old mining road runs 4 miles up the scenic West Fork Miller River valley through old-growth forest. It could be converted to trail, offering easy, low gradient access into this attractive valley, with numerous approaches to the river. 800-foot elevation gain.

Skykomish Big Trees

Very impressive, very tall, old-growth Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock grow on a nearly flat bench-immediately southwest of and above the town of Skykomish. This forest grows on a productive site and would meet anyone's definition of a real "cathedral forest." An overgrown logging road leaves the old Cascade Highway about 3/4 of a mile west of Skykomish and skirts just below the area. This could-be converted to trail, with an extension to the old-growth forest, and a possible spur to an overlook of the Skykomish town area close above. 900-foot elevation gain.

Wilderness conference coming

NORTH AMERICAN WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

MAY 3-5, 2002

Seattle, Washington

Check conference website:

http://www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc

New Trails Proposed in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley

Rick McGuire

Oxbow Lake and Reach

The Oxbow reach of the Middle Fork valley downstream of the Pratt confluence is one of the most remarkable features of the valley. Extensive sloughs and wetlands provide productive wildlife habitat. There are significant areas of mature bottomland forest. An old loop road could be converted to a trail here, also providing access to river bars. One mile, little or no elevation gain.

Bessemer Mountain

Bessemer Mountain rises high above the lower Middle Fork valley, and was heavily logged in the 60's and 70's. A trailhead could be developed on a big landing just above the Middle Fork road, giving access to the extensive system of old roads which could be converted to trails. The highest road reaches the 5028-foot south summit, offering 360-wdegree views of the surrounding mountains and the whole Puget Sound basin to the west. 4100-foot elevation gain, base to summit.

Middle Fork Big Trees

Near the north end of the old CCC road (presently planned for conversion to trail), an impressive old-growth forest grows just below the road, between the CCC road and main Middle Fork road. A spur or loop trail could be built off the CCC trail providing access to these groves, possibly with interpretive signage. Minimal elevation gain.

Taylor Lookout

An old, engineered Forest Service trail climbs the lower east slope of Quartz Mountain above the site of the planned Middle Fork campground. It apparently led to a temporary Forest Service lookout on clifftops about 400 feet above the valley floor. Reopening this could provide an excellent short trail to views over the valley, easily accessible from the campground.

Mount Garfield ledges, Middle Fork Snoqualmie — KARL FORSGAARD PHOTO

Quartz Creek - Rooster Mountain

The old Quartz Creek road climbs from the lower Taylor River into a hanging valley. It could be converted to trail, with new trail built up to the summit of "Rooster Mountain," on the Middle - North Fork divide, offering excellent views. 4300-foot gain base to summit.

Garfield Ledges Viewpoint

This is an outstanding viewpoint at the 2000-foot level on the southwest flank of Garfield mountain. An approximate 60x120-foot flat area above a gently sloping rock face offers expansive views over and up the Middle Fork valley. Gently sloping forested ramps would allow straightforward trail construction. 1000-foot gain from Taylor River.

Middle Fork Road-to-Trail

Conservation groups have long proposed that the upper Middle Fork road be converted to multi-use trail when the lower road is paved to Taylor River. This miserable road would be an excellent trail, providing low-elevation, year-round river-bottom hiking, biking and horse riding. Minimal elevation gain.

Stegosaurus Butte Viewpoint

A "hogback" standing just over a thousand feet above and directly south of the Taylor - Middle Fork junction. There is one easy way up on the northwest side which should be feasible for trailbuilding. There is no single 360-degree viewpoint, but a series of openings offer excellent views into the Rainy Creek valley, over to the cliffs of Garfield, and up the Middle Fork valley.

Rainy Lake Trail

An engineered Forest Service trail depicted on the 1963 Snoqualmie National Forest map. Since construction of the Gateway bridge, it has begun to be used again after several decades of no maintenance. Rehabilitating it would provide an attractive hike to a lake, with a possible extension to an excellent viewpoint atop the 4526 summit west of the lake (West Preacher Mountain.). 2700-foot gain to Rainy Lake, 3500-foot gain to West Preacher summit.

Greenway Trails Forum

Karl Forsgaard

The Mountains to Sound Greenway sponsored a Trails Information Forum on October 29, 2001. Land management agencies and nonprofits presented information on ongoing or future trail efforts along the I-90 corridor from Cougar Mountain to Snoqualmie Pass. About 40 people attended, including NCCC Board members Rick McGuire, Karl Forsgaard and Thom Peters.

The projects underway include the following:

—The U.S. Forest Service is implementing federal NRTP grants for bridges in the Middle Fork Valley and for work on the CCC road/trail to extend it to the Taylor River area. The Forest Service is also considering a connecting trail to the Pratt River valley, and renovation/relocation of the Mason Lake/Bandera Mountain trail.

—State Parks is implementing a State NOVA grant to identify appropriate bicycle trail opportunities in the South Fork Snoqualmie area.

—State DNR received an $85,000 State NOVA grant to complete a trails assessment and inventory of trails in the Greenway corridor to determine maintenance needs and priorities for future volunteer efforts. The inventory will include trails on lands managed by DNR as well as other agencies, such as King County Parks, State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service. DNR is also planning to reroute portions of the cross-Rattlesnake Mountain trail away from roads and into forest settings.

—The Greenway received a $50,000 federal NRTP grant to fund trail maintenance and materials throughout the Greenway, plus a Spring Trails Trust grant for work done this year on the Middle Fork Trail. The Greenway also continues to facilitate land acquisitions to close gaps in the connected trail system from Seattle to the John Wayne Trail.

—Other nonprofit volunteer organizations like Washington Trails Association continue to do a large portion of the annual maintenance required for trails on public lands in the area. WTA logged over 50,000 hours of volunteer labor this year, and has conducted over 250,000 hours since its trail maintenance program began in 1993.

NCCC told the Forum of its concerns for protection of wildlife habitat during all of this trail planning and work. In the months ahead, NCCC will communicate with these and other trail planners to convey the principles of the Conservationist Trail Initiative.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

The June 17 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* published an "opinion" headlined "Reform the 1872 Mining Law," filling nearly a third of the editorial page, and that is a very strong opinion. A sidebar by Stephen D'Esposito, president of the Minerals Policy Center, summarized:

"What's needed are three common-sense reforms: the right or the public to say no when mining isn't the best use of public lands; a requirement that mining companies pay to clean up their messes as a cost of doing business; and a provision that mining companies pay taxpayers a fair price for mining on public lands."

On October 25 Secretary of the Interior Norton proposed some Bushy revisions of the 1872 law. These were characterized by Roger Flynn of the Western Mining Action Project as "meaningless gestures." Those who believe the administration is sincere about reform also (we guess) believe Rutherford B. Hays didn't steal the election from Samuel Tilden.

* * *

A bill has been drafted ("Rediscovery America Act of 2001") to establish a National Travel and Tourism Promotion Bureau funded by $60,000,000 a year. The proposal was first made by Walt Disney Attractions to President Clinton in 1993, shuffled off by him, then taken up by Derrick Crandall, president of the American Recreation Coalition, the high flier in the Republican party - famed for inventing Fee-Demo. A companion bill by the National Association of Gateway Communities would give more local control over national parks and other public lands to commercial interests in, say, West Yellowstone, Mariposa, Chelan, and Darrington.

The PASAYTEN

IS THE PASAYTEN BEING POUNDED?

Groups cite misuse by Pasayten outfitters

(Excerpted from article by Brad Stracener, The Mountaineer*, July, 2001, Seattle, Washington)*

Overuse and degradation of the Pasayten Wilderness Area continues to flourish as the result of inaction on the part of the U.S. Forest Service, according to groups which include former and current public employees.

. . . The news release issued by Wilderness Watch, Washington PEER (Public Employees of Environmental Responsibility) and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, cites several conditions which reflect a failure on the part of the USFS to "adequately regulate" the Pasayten. The list of conditions includes:

- Destruction of wetlands and hummock-bogs that support inky gentian and other plants;
- Improper disposal of human wastes and refuse in or near waterways;
- Grazing of stock animals in areas where it is prohibited;
- Illegal use of pesticides and poison bait station;
- Illegal cutting of trees and destruction of vegetation in and around stock camps;
- Excessive trampling of soil in wetlands, and along streams and riparian areas;
- Overuse of popular destinations, such as certain lake basins;
- Harassment towards citizens who raise concerns about the problems;
- Other practices that violate (USFS) standards and the Wilderness Act.

Much of the cited conditions have been documented by researchers over recent years, according to Marc Bardsley, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council. Indeed two women researchers funded by NCCC were sued by the Washington Outfitters Guide Association. An Okanogan court subsequently filed an injunction [preventing the two women approaching the horse packers' camps in] the Pasayten, according to Bardsley.

Much of the damage claimed in the news release has been attributed to outfitters. "The (Forest Service) has allowed outfitters to take in as many as 18 horses and additional people. We've seen several groups camped in one location and we have pictures of places where structures have been built," noted Bardsley. The news release cites "large groups of commercial outfitters who operate under special use permits."

Bardsley said the district in Okanogan seems reluctant to use the permit system "to clean up their act. There are dozens and dozens of clear violations," including the use of rat poison, which he said is documented.

. . . [That] persons who complain about the Pasayten's
battered conditions are "at the mercy of a good ol' boy system over there."

Wilderness Proposals of the KETTLE RANGE CONSERVATION GROUP

On the web: www.kettlerange.org
www.wildwashington.org
To join and receive HIGHLANDS NEWS send $25 (or more) or $15 (student/senior) to
Kettle Range Conservation Group
P.O. Box 150
Republic, WA 99166

*** Pressing for creation of the Kettle Range Wilderness, proposed in the 1984 Washington Wilderness Bill but omitted by Congress.

*** The Washington Selkirks: Save the South Fork Mountain Roadless Area, part of a Recovery Zone for mountain cariboo (reindeer) and grizzly bears, home also of lynx, wolves, and bull trout.

*** Preserve the Quartzite Roadless Area, the closest such to Spokane. Change name to "The Cedar Cathedral."

*** Continue to discover and inventory roadless forests on the Okanogan National Forest, including Mt. Bonaparte area just west of Republic, Hungry Ridge and Black Canyon Roadless Areas just south of Twisp, etc.

*** Draft proposals for new Wildernesses. Prominent among these, one in the Canyon Creek and Golden Horn Roadless Area (FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDIES TO DATE, SEE FALL 2001 HIGHLANDS NEWS.)

ARE YOU LISTENING, OKANOGAN?

Court victory for High Sierra wilderness

Federal Judge Issues Injunction to Reduce Commercial Uses in Two High Sierra Wildernesses

George Nickas
<gnickas@wildernesswatch.org>

On November 1, a federal judge in the Northern District of California ordered a 20 percent reduction in recreational use by commercial pack stations within portions of California's High Sierra.

The federal injunction applies to the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses, where the U.S. Forest Service has identified problem areas where "current use is affecting resource quality." The federal injunction came as a result of an earlier June 5 ruling by the same judge, Elizabeth LaPorte, that the Forest Service had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by issuing "special use permits" to commercial pack outfits without first completing an analysis of the environmental impacts. Both rulings were issued in response to a lawsuit filed by the High Sierra Hikers Association, Wilderness Watch, and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

LaPorte also ordered the Forest Service to evaluate, for the first time, the cumulative environmental impacts associated with the many pack stations operating in the two wildernesses. The agency will have until 2005 to analyze the impacts of the numbers of stock animals used by commercial outfits, limits on group size, trail suitability for various types of use, and other factors that the Forest Service has not previously evaluated in an open process with full public participation.

"The requirement to conduct the cumulative effects analysis is highly significant," said Peter Browning, president of High Sierra Hikers Association. "It opens the door to a number of changes in commercial uses that we have been advocating for a long time. At last, we will get a full analysis and disclosure of the impacts associated with allowing excessive numbers of stock animals in fragile alpine meadows and lake basins, and on erodible trails that were never designed or constructed to withstand heavy stock use."

LaPorte's ruling found "disturbing evidence of environmental degradation from stock usage". . .. In the past, the Forest Service in California has applied trailhead quotas to use by the general public, but not to most commercial outfitters. And the agency has also allowed packers to write their own wilderness permits, to travel essentially wherever and whenever they please.

"This injunction is a wake-up call to the Forest Service," stated Bob Dale, field director for Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. "In many ways, it merely serves to remind the agency of its legal obligations. Now the real work begins.

The court's ruling can be viewed at: http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/

(Go to: Recent Orders > LaPorte > High Sierra Hikers Ass'n, et al. v. Powell et al., Case # C-00-1239-EDL. The file format is PDF.)

AGAIN THE BLACK HATS

The horror of December 7, 1941 struck mainland America by radio, as had the terror of Orson Welles' Martians and the historical reconstructions by Edward R. Murrow's "You Are There" series. On the September 11 "day of infamy" we were, via television, veritably there as the second airliner magically vanished into the second tower, as more Americans were killed by military action within the borders of the United States than had been since the Confederate Rebellion.

A thought that came to some of us even as bodies were flying out the windows to escape incineration was (and may we be forgiven for our seeming heartlessness)"Well, there goes the environmental ball game."

The term "evil-doers" has been much heard from the White House, as "evil empire" was a few years earlier. At the conclusion of his weekly shoot-em-up between the White Hats and the Black Hats in the Sunday funnies, Tom Mix used to look us kids in the eye and deliver the moral lesson, "Evil-doers always lose. Straight shooters always win. It pays to shoot straight."

Americans are confident that President Mix truly loves freedom and hates evil, and take it on faith that though his shooting may be doing "collateral damage" to the wives and babies of Black Hats, we will remain unscathed. (Except maybe a little bruising of our civil liberties, but there are those who would say that if you use email you got that coming.)

However, our faith in the President does not extend to all members of his posse. It is felt that certain of the White Hats might take advantage of the waving of the flag and the whining of the bagpipes and the general shouting and weeping. Watt never died, they just hid him behind the curtain. When Kate Smith is singing, "God bless America," who's to notice bulldozers carving company logos in the permafrost? After all, when the Wahhabi holy men topple the sybarite Saudi princes (as they certainly will do eventually and maybe a lot sooner) and turn off the flow of Arabian oil, the Arctic will mean (so we are told) life or death for our SUVs.

A recent column by Joel Connelly in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer made the point. He argued (in his own words, not these) that to defend and preserve the American way of life we must defend and preserve the natural glories for which Old Glory is the symbol. We must guard against those White Hats riding with President Mix who on the pretext of saving the nation would destroy it.

The DNR: NOW COMING, 20 LEAN YEARS?

The first 20 years of the Department of Natural Resources under State Land Commissioners Brian Boyle and Jennifer Belcher could properly be called, on balance, overall, quite fat years — very fat compared to those of their predecessor, Ol' King Cole. What will come after, under Commissioner Doug Sutherland? Too soon to tell, though tales are told of familiar specters walking abroad in Olympia's Public Lands building.

In August, Sutherland proposed to decrease environmental protection for wildlife in state forests. His "Spotted Owls Habitat Conservation Plan" is a habitat destruction plan. Jennifer Belcher had placed spotted owl sites off-limits to some (not all) logging for a time. Sutherland wants to reopen the sites, step up the logging. Such a proposal being made at this time is the tip-off. The spotted owl has been a symbol. Going at it head-on during his first half-year in office is like taking a chainsaw to the flagpole, dumping Old Glory in the slash pile.

* * *

A study by the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance released in July 2001 establishes that the Department of Natural Resources leases out acreage for cattle grazing at as little as 14 cents a cow-acre a year. Mitch Friedman, executive director of the Alliance, points out that taking into account damage done by cows to forests and waters, taxpayers are losing money on the deal.

DNR Land Steward Bruce Mackey says many of the nearly 873,000 acres in grazing leases are worth little for anything except cattle grazing. "If we could make more money doing something else we would. Are you going to have some income, or zero?"

Is this the voice of "stewardship"?

* * *

In the memory of the NCCC is the time when we, The Mountaineers Conservation Division, and the Sierra Club were noodling the notion of a state lands wilderness system. Chopaka Mountain, adjoining the (then) brand-new Pasayten Wilderness, struck us as a good place to start. Joining (in fact, inspiring) us was a group of Okanogan ranchers who grazed cattle — but not on Chopaka because a clique of big cattlemen "ownedö Ol' King Cole. Our local allies recounted their complaint to the DNR area manager that he was allowing the leaseholders to graze the ground bare. The manager's defense was that he only let the cows eat half the grass each year. Retorted our friends, "Yes, the half that's above ground."

Our efforts of the 1960s were abandoned. Then, in the 20 fat years, the legislature passed a bill for Natural Resource Conservation Areas that in essence were identical to the National Wildernesses. One of the first nominations was a Chopaka NRCA. It was shot down. The same cattlemen who owned the Ol' King defeated even Boyle-Belcher. We expect they're making out pretty well under Sutherland.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

SOAPBOX:

Washington State Parks Are Going Commercial

Eleanor A. Godwin

—From *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, July 14, 2001

The controversy over day-use fees has obscured a disturbing trend in the parks system. The state parks department plans to introduce private enterprise into state parks to generate revenue. Plans for public-private enterprise are under way at Deception Pass State Park, the state's most visited park.

Deception Pass is merely the first park slated to generate revenue through public-private partnerships. The state parks department is developing a new policy of "enterprise." The policy will be presented for final approval at the parks commission meeting on Sept. 20. One request for proposals has already been issued. The planners call the concept "opportunities for enterprise." We call it commercialization. Some call it "Disneyfication."

At their March 22 meeting, parks commissioners said they had received more letters about commercializing Deception Pass State Park than they had ever received about a single park. However they still approved the concept to introduce such "opportunities for enterprise" at multiple concession stands, rental cabins and a sightseeing ferry into idyllic Bowman Bay - all to be privately contracted. The tour would cross the Cascadia Marine Trail and discharge passengers on an existing fishing dock, which would be reclassified for commercial utilization.

Gone is any concept of conservation. Several items require reclassification of land to permit heavier utilization. Last January, the plan's architect wrote that the increased utilization caused by some components of an earlier plan (which remain in the current plan) would have the greatest environmental impact of any alternative under consideration.

In contradiction, the final plan says that an environmental review is not necessary and contains a determination of non-significance. Please contact your legislators today. More information is available at evergreenislands.org

* * *

Among the first actions by Bush fils as faux-president was to put on hold the implementation of Clinton's proclamation of roadlessness of 58, 500,000 acres of the national forests. He explained by saying it "needed more local comment." From whom? The measure had been more thoroughly subjected to public scrutiny than any other lands measure in history. A poll of citizens in Washington and Oregon found 75% in favor of restricting the cutting of old-growth forests. Even in timber towns, 67% were in favor. Congressman Jay Inslee stated the obvious, "We think public sentiment has been made clear."

* * *

MOUNT HOOD WILDERNESS PLAN

The Oregonian reported in August 2001 that the Mount Hood National Forest supervisor has withdrawn his decision for the Mount Hood/Salmon-Huckleberry/ Hatfield Wilderness Plan. It appears that his boss, the Region Six Chief Forester, gave the supervisor the choice of doing so or being overturned on the basis of the August 2000 appeal by Wilderness Watch (headquartered in Missoula, Montana) to the Mount Hood National Forest Environmental Assessment.

The Mount Hood Plan was intended as the pilot project for the Forest Service's new Wilderness Recreation Strategy, which would reverse a 35-year "non-degradation" policy by opting to manage some parts of Wilderness for high-use recreation rather than to preserve their wilderness character. For more about this new strategy, see:

http:www.wildernesswatch.org/ ww_library.html

Says George Nickas, Executive Director of Wilderness Watch. "We are not out of the woods by a long shot. There is likely to be quite a hue and cry from the recreation groups that supported the Mount Hood plan. There may also be an attempt at congressional intervention (as happened regarding the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Plan a few years ago). Moreover, withdrawing the decision alone does not solve the real on-the-ground challenges faced at Mount Hood and other heavily used and/or abused Wildernesses across the country, but it is a hopeful sign, and it opens the door to more dialogue that might find a solution that protects and preserves Wilderness for the long haul.

"No doubt there will be much more to come on this issue in the future. For now, a toast to a Wilderness victory is in order!"

ANOTHER SUBSTITUTE FOR FEET?

WASHINGTON - An ultra-secret invention that has kept the high-tech world abuzz for nearly a year is a self-balancing motorized scooter . . . the machine - code-named "IT" and "Ginger" but officially known as the Segway - needs less energy and creates less pollution than cars. The Segway "will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy," Inventor Kaman told Time. . . . The two-wheeled device, which looks like a cross between an old rotary lawn mower and a modern scooter, uses a complex array of gyroscopes and computers to mimic the human body's sense of balance. The Segway can handle ice, snow and stair/. . . with a range of roughly 17 miles and a top speed of 17 mph. . . .

Company officials have met with city planners and federal safety regulators to ensure that Segways will be allowed to share sidewalks with pedestrians. The U.S. Postal Service, General Electric and National Park Service will be the first buyers, purchasing 80-pound heavy-duty models for $8,000 apiece.

INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF THE NCCC BOARD

(This concludes the NCCC board member introductions. See the Spring 2001 The Wild Cascades for other biographies.)

TOM BRUCKER

During my first summer in the Northwest, 1960, I, a refugee from the east coast, was taken on a climb of Mount Shuksan. I was blown away by the might and majesty of the North Cascades — the snowcapped peaks sparkling in the sun, the glorious valleys with their huge firs, the rushing streams and multihued flowers, all made a deep impression on me. I simply did not know that something as beautiful and dramatic existed. I also fell in with like-minded individuals and we spent significant time climbing and hiking in the mountains. One of those fellow believers was a young lawyer, Brock Evens, and through him I learned some of the basics of political land-use decisions as practiced by federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Forest Service. It seemed to us that values we believed in — recreational, aesthetic, educational, wildlife for example — were given little weight in land-use decisions by these federal and state agencies.

The 1960s and 70s were times of great environmental awakening in this country, and I was fortunate to be able to contribute to and participate in this movement. It was one such effort that led me to the North Cascades Conservation Council and its great leader, Patrick Goldsworthy, and that was the effort to make a national park in the North Cascades, the area that I now knew and loved even more. So then I joined the NCCC and became a board member in 1964.

We now have a park, but these battles never cease. There are always those who want to "develop" an area, or who want to "prevent the land from being locked up for the hearty few", or who see "my private property rights" as paramount, but who never seem to recognize any civic responsibilities as members of a community of people, or who see only resource values in federal and state lands, and while willing to concede the rocks and ice to "those extreme preservationists," insist on their right to mine or harvest or build as they wish.

So there will always be a need for the NCCC and its supporters, which I believe represent the instincts and values that will insure a viable North Cascades for the present and for a sustainable future.

CHARLES EHLERT

I began to go wrong as a kid in Illinois, where I was born in 1937, scrambling on and in the limestone bluffs and caves along the Mississippi River, a couple of miles from where Lewis and Clark started west. A couple of teenage disorderly conduct arrests for rock climbing on cliffs along the river where once there was a large reproduction of an Indian pictograph mentioned by Marquette in his journal (now dynamited for a train track) had little rehabilitative effect. Wayward conduct only got worse - with backpacks, ice axes, ropes and canoes - in the White Mountains, Colorado Rockies, Wind Rivers, Tetons, Beartooths, Great Basin ranges and deserts, Escalante, Cascades and Olympics and various western rivers, including the Missouri, Columbia, Green and Colorado and Rio Grande. The skipper of a schooner I sailed at age 21 (unencumbered by a passport) from Mexico to the Marquesas (nearly as wild then as in Melville's time) and Tahiti turned out to not exactly have title to the boat, leading to some awkwardness with French authorities, not to mention getting chased by locals off the island of Nuku Hiva for a midnight swim to the boat at anchor offshore. Wanted posters mentioning me - for hardcore sleeping out under the stars in alpine meadows, still unrehabilitated - may still hang in various western post offices beside those of bank robbers.

Along the way I've practiced law for over thirty years in Washington, my practice including civil liberties, migrant farm workers, consumer protection and environmental cases involving logging (e.g., Noel v. Cole, requiring an EIS for the "Classic U" timber sale on Whidbey Island, and 2.1 Million Acres of Trust Lands v. Bert Cole, resulting in a new EIS for DNR's 120-year forest management plan), land development, shoreline and other issues (Save Lake Washington v. NOAA, stopping NOAA's plan to home-port its ocean fleet at 400' piers in Lake Washington at Sand Point), as well as teaching for 13 years at the UW and a general practice which I do now. I worked in the Thirty Mile Fire basecamp up in the Pasayten last July. I have a daughter who is a lawyer working with migrant farm workers in Oregon and a son who is a photographer in Utah working on, among other things, a documentary film about Glen Canyon Dam and draining Lake Powell.

DAVE FLUHARTY

Being a NBW*, I got interested in conservation as a kid camping with my family. The first camping trip I can remember was at Baker Lake. We met a forest ranger who explained what the stakes we found along the trail foretold — the raising of Baker Lake. I wondered how they could do that to such a beautiful place. As a Boy Scout, I began to wonder why the US Forest Service seemed always to be just one year behind my discoveries of great camping spots on the North Fork of the Snoqualmie. In high school I learned that my junior year civics teacher had done her thesis on the Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy [a long story that is quite relevant to the ANWR discussions today].and discovered I had a real interest in the arcane history and policy of natural resource conservation. At the same time [1962] I learned of an organization that was attempting to protect the Cascade - NCCC - and volunteered to help put The Wild Cascades together and get it mailed out. These experiences locked me in on a career of Wilderness advocacy and research.

College coursework emphasized natural resources in everything I did. As a junior I had the great fortune to have Grant McConnell as a visiting professor in political science - interest-group politics! Graduate studies were interrupted by the draft and a couple of years learning Vietnamese and using it in the field [mostly Cambodia]. When I finally got on to the idea of studying for the PhD, I chose the University of Michigan. Everything I studied was terrestrial but I decided that my interest in common access resources really needed to be developed in the Baltic Sea region. So, I spent a year soaking in a marine environ-

ment. I found it much easier to be objective about research on marine matters so that is where I have stuck professionally.

Returning to Seattle, I immediately linked back up with good friends in NCCC and found plenty of work to do as a Board Member and later President.

*NBW - Native Born Washingtonian

PATRICK D. GOLDSWORTHY

Born April 20, 1919, at Ballymore, County Wexford, Ireland.

Received a PhD. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught and conducted research in biochemistry at the University of Washington. Served in WWII as Captain, Army Air Corps. With co-leader Dave Brower, led Sierra Club High Trips, California Sierra and Washington Cascades.

As charter member and long-time president of the North Cascades Conservation Council, provided leadership in creation of the North Cascades National Park, the Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas, and the Pasayten Wilderness. With cooperation from the "Run Out the Skagit Spoilers" (ROSS) committee of British Columbia, succeeded in stopping Seattle City Light from building High Ross Dam, which would have flooded the Big Beaver Valley in the North Cascades National Park. With the collaborative efforts of other conservation organizations, led in creating the Glacier Peak and Alpine Lakes Wildernesses; in 1984, 19 new Washington Wildernesses, and in 1988. wildernesses in the state's three national parks.

Appointed by the director of the National Park Service as a member of the North Cascades Study Team; appointed by the mayor of Seattle to the US/BC Skagit Environmental Endowment commission; participated in the Skagit, Lake Chelan, and Baker River hydropower FERC relicensing projects.

Served on boards of the national Sierra Club, National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), Pacific NW Chapter, Sierra Club, North Cascades Foundation, Olympic Park Associates, and Cougar Lakes Wilderness Society.

Vice President and Life Member of the Sierra Club and an Honorary Life Member of The Mountaineers.

As Chairman of the North Cascades Conservation Council, continues to work for the protection and preservation of the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife, and wilderness values - from the Columbia River to the Canadian border.

BETTY MANNING

On my very first experience climb I experienced an avalanche, my trusty ice axe attacked me, and they hauled me off the mountain. It was then I knew, after reading *Rumdoodle,* that I never would go high. So I happily found my level way below Camp One on meadow trails in the high country.

After editing *The Mountaineer* (The Mountaineers) for several years back when, I became the editor of *The Wild Cascades* in 1992. It is a soul-satisfying experience, knowing that I am helping protect the high country.

THOM PETERS

My earliest, fondest memories of the natural world are of family camping trips up the Icicle Valley out of Leavenworth. Those were the days (at the risk of starting to sound like an old "phart") when Icicle Valley was accessed by a one-lane earth road full of pot holes, and you could go hiking and fishing and hardly ever see anyone else around. My appreciation for the opportunity of experiencing and enjoying solitude began in that time and place.

I became an activist for protecting the natural world, due to frustration and dismay in seeing the destruction of our national forests. When I wore a younger man's clothes, I became involved with The Mountaineer's Forest Watch. Later, I joined the board of the Washington Trails Association, and served as Vice President. I'm presently a trustee with the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS), as well as chairperson for the North Cascades chapter of Wilderness Watch, which is a national organization that focuses primarily on designated Wilderness areas.

My main interest and concern is about recreational impacts on our natural areas, especially the physical and social degradation occurring in our wilderness areas. I'm pleased to be an NCCC board member and amongst kindred spirits.

Philosophy: Time spent in Wilderness not deducted from life span.

Membership Application

Be part of the North Cascades Conservation Council's Advocacy of the North Cascades. Join the NCCC. Support the North Cascades Foundation. Help us help protect North Cascades wilderness from overuse and development.

NCCC membership dues (one year): $10 low income/student; $20 regular; $25 family; $50 Contributing; $100 patron; $1,000 sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is $500. *The Wild Cascades*, published three times a year, is included with NCCC membership.

Please check the appropriate box(es):

☐ **I wish membership in NCCC**

The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), formed in 1957, works through legislative, legal and public channels to protect the lands, waters, plants and wildlife of the North Cascades ecosystem. Non-tax-deductible, it is supported by dues and donations. A 501(c)4 organization.

☐ **I wish to support NCF**

The North Cascades Foundation (NCF) supports the NCCC's non-political legal and educational efforts. Donations are tax-deductible as a 501(c)3 organization.

This is a ☐ **NCCC Membership** ☐ **NCCC Renewal Membership** ☐ **Gift** **NCCC $ _____**

This is a ☐ **Donation to NCF** **NCF $ _____**

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Membership Chair
L. Zalesky
2433 Del Campo Dr.
Everett, WA 98208

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

The Pickets from Luna Peak, looking north — KARL FORSGAARD PHOTO

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