
The Wild Cascades

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

OCTOBER 1993



25 YEARS • NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

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The Wild Cascades

Journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council

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COVER: Cascade Pass — Phil Zalesky photo

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; \$30 - contributing; \$50 - patron; \$1000 - sustaining. A one-time life membership dues payment is \$500.

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Please make your check(s) out to the organization of your choice. The Foundation can be reached through the NCCC mailing address:

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 1993

This summer has been a very productive one for NCCC. We have made progress on all fronts thanks to the efforts of many people. On the legal front, Judge McDonald in the Eastern District Federal Court ruled in favor of NCCC and the National Park Service on the ownership of the Stehekin road. The Growth Management Act Hearings Board in Eastern Washington found the NCCC and Washington Environmental Council arguments compelling in deciding that Chelan County was not in compliance with the Growth Management Act in approving a Bible Camp development in Lake Chelan NRA. The Corps of Army Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency found that bulkhead construction by a property owner in LCNRA was in violation of federal statutes and ordered the removal of the structure.

Barring unforeseen developments, major settlement of the multiple legal actions on the resort and bulkhead suits will be completed. Thanks go to lead attorney Stephan C. Volker, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc., San Francisco, and his assistants Mary Lammert and Perry DiValpine, and to Rod Brown, Morrison and Foerster, Seattle, and finally to Louis Chernak, for their dedicated, dogged and downright brilliant *pro bono* representation of NCCC's interests. NCCC special thanks are due to donors, who prefer to remain anonymous, who have defrayed legal expenses.

NCCC has needed many different kinds of expert help. Hydrological information critical to parts of the case have been obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey, Tacoma, Prof. Bob Curry, the Water Resource Center at Washington State University, Chelan County PUD, and Jon Riedel, NPS. The eventual involvement by Tim Erkel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fletcher Shives, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Jim Anest, Washington Department of Ecology, was critical to carrying out federal and state regulations. NCCC Board Chairman, Patrick D. Goldsworthy also deserves kudos for taking time out from work on very short notice in order to race to SeaTac, pick up an air express package and meet the 5:00 p.m. filing deadline in Olympia. Special Projects Coordinator Kevin Herrick made emergency trips to Stehekin to take photographs and monitor developments.

As a result of all of the litigation, NCCC expects that any Shoreline Management Act permits requested for LCNRA will receive careful scrutiny by Chelan County. It is clear that NCCC intends to uphold the letter and intent of the law. More importantly, the legal wrangling between NCCC and Chelan County has opened the door to a more cooperative interaction in the future. NCCC has developed a grudging respect for people like Lloyd Berry, County Engineer, Ed Loidhammer and Rick Simon, Planning Department, and Tom Green, County Commissioner. Once the politics of the issues are exposed, practical efforts to find common ground and develop a basis for settling disputes quickly lead to consensus. It may take a while to find ways to let the lawyers find the wording for the settlement but the "can do" spirit of Chelan County government deserves NCCC respect.

David Fluharty

NEWS UPDATE

Stehekin waterfront lots for sale

NOTED WITH TREPIDATION AND MISGIVINGS:
In *Lake Chelan Vacation Guide*: **For Sale: Stehekin Waterfront Lots** — Four Lots from \$125,000 to \$300,000. Lots range from 200 ft to 600 ft frontage * Septic tank and water approved * Timbered * Low bank * 2500 ft from Stehekin.

State mining legislation

The State Legislative Committee on Mining, which includes members of the House Natural Resources and Parks Committee and the Senate Natural Resources Committee, is working on regulatory reform recommendations for the coming session. Environmental representatives on the Citizens Task Force Advisory Committee spent the summer sparring with representatives from mining companies, eastside counties, including Chelan County, the Department of Ecology and Department of Natural Resources, all of whom continue to blithely claim that present regulatory measures adequately protect the environment. Letters to your state legislators and Governor Lowry are needed now. Ask them to push for hard rock open pit mining reform in this session. (Note: State mining regulations affect federal lands too.)

Federal mining legislation

This fall Congress will finally give serious attention to reforming the outdated 1872 mining law which allows companies to purchase federal lands at 1872 prices and then mine them with very few environmental controls. This law puts many areas of the Cascades at risk. **Support is needed for the Rahal Bill.** This is the only proposal that will stop the plundering of our public lands. Please write President Clinton, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and your congressional representatives and ask them to support the Rahal Bill — H.R. 322.

Lake Chelan NRA

Intensive legal wrangling over the summer has resulted in substantial progress on several important issues in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA). As reported in *The Wild*

Cascades in June, the summer looked like it would be taken up in litigation over reconstruction of the Stehekin road washout at 8-Mile and over the bulkhead and resort development by Mr. Sherer. After lots of legal analysis and discussion among parties, NCCC proposed to craft an out-of-court settlement. At this time, final settlement discussions are nearing completion.

With respect to the Stehekin Road, the NPS is nearing completion of an E.A. process. We expect that it will choose to maintain the present location of the road at the washout site but make its repairs in a more environmentally sensitive manner than the simple dumping of riprap rock (from federal lands) that Chelan County crews last year. The NPS proposes to barge in large angular rocks to form current deflectors and to use bioengineering (use of live vegetation rather than static structures) techniques to stabilize the banks.

On the Sherer developments there is agreement, in principle, to remove the bulkhead and to use bioengineering techniques and plans developed by the Washington Department of Ecology to stabilize the bank. Some of the bulkhead may remain in place as part of the toe of structural measures and to tie down the bioengineering measures. Chelan County will contribute work crews and equipment to assist in the removal of the bulkhead and will provide funding for implementation of the biological engineering measures. NCCC's goal is to obtain settlement of the legal actions in time to allow Mr. Sherer and the county to complete work on the bulkhead this year.

The resort facilities (Bible Camp) originally proposed for the riverbank area, have been largely removed from the vicinity of the river. The scale of the resort has been considerably reduced and agreement appears assured that environmental impacts and visual impacts will also be reduced relative to the original design.

LCNRA EIS due in 1994

Reminder: In March 1994, the NPS will release its Draft General Management Plan and its Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. If you are not on the list to comment, contact NCCC.

Highway 410 clearcut

The Mather Memorial Parkway clearcut is still planned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington State Department of Transportation. On October 30 the amended environmental assessment on road resurfacing to the east entrance of Mt. Rainier National Park will be released. Environmental groups have protested the project because the planned clearcutting of trees near the road will severely degrade the area's scenic and ecologic value.

Government agencies state that no trees will be cut unnecessarily and that the center line of the roadbed will remain in its present location. On-site inspection shows a surveyed center line that in some places veers well into the forest. Construction is not scheduled to start until spring. If the amended E.A. fails to reflect an overwhelming public sentiment against clearcutting, the environmental community will have time to act.

Methow ecosystem threatened with loss of roadless areas

Okanogan National Forest's roadless areas are threatened. With most roaded portions of the forest already heavily logged, the Forest Service is scheduled to enter most of its remaining roadless areas within the next three years. . . This would spell disaster for the Methow watershed. Roads are a threat to ecosystems, a major source of erosion and sedimentation, habitat fragmentation and disrupt wildlife travel corridors. The Forest Service argues that roadless areas must be entered to rectify "forest health" problems. The **Methow Forest Watch** considers using roadless areas as practice areas for forest health management inappropriate. Threatened among others are Long Swamp, Tiffany, Sawtooth and Hungry Ridge roadless areas. - From *Methow Forest Watch*. Box 473, Twisp, WA 98856

Early Winters agreement

Twenty years of conflict over the Early Winters resort property in the Methow Valley has been resolved between resort property developers and two environmental groups.

The R.D. Merrill Company of Seattle, owner of the 1,200-acre property, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Methow Valley Citizens' Council and the Seattle-based Friends of the Methow.

Recreation at the new resort will not include downhill skiing. A provision calls for creation of

an environmental institute "to assure that future development in the Methow Valley maintains a level of environmental sensitivity unprecedented in Washington State."

Today's agreement follows years of controversy between would-be developers and environmentalists. The Forest Service issued permits to previous owners to develop alpine skiing on 6,076-foot Sandy Butte adjoining the property. MVCC challenged the environmental impact statements and won in a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1989.

(Methow Valley Citizens' Council publishes *The Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 889, Twisp, WA 98856)

How your senators voted on grazing —

Grazing fees: by a vote of 59 for and 40 against, the Senate killed a modest administration plan to more than double livestock-grazing fees on public land in the West. The vote retained the existing system in which some 23,600 ranchers pay \$1.86 per Animal Unit month (AUM) to graze their livestock on Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service land.

Voting yes: Slade Gorton.

Voting no: Patty Murray.

Seattle Times, September 19, 1993

What does this mean for the Pasayten Wilderness on an allotment with 800 sheep use for 3 months of the prime recreation season? The fee can be calculated as follows: 5 sheep equal 1 cow and calf (1 AUM). Thus, 800 sheep = 160 AUMS. 160 times \$1.86 = \$297.60 for 1 month, and \$892.80 for three months. For less than \$1,000 in fees the American public loses prime recreation plus loss of plants and soil from high mountain meadows. When are we going to wise up? [Senator Gorton is up for reelection in 1996.]

Interested in working for a national park?

If interested in Resource Assistant Program Volunteer positions for 1994 now is the time to write the SCA Resource Assistant Program, P.O. Box 550, Charlestown, NH 03603 for catalog listing positions in 1994. A small stipend is available for positions.

Alpine Lakes wilderness permit system proposed but delayed

The Forest Service has temporarily postponed implementing the proposed permit system in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness due to recreationist protest ranging from the thoughtlessly mindless to the thoughtfully profound.

Grizzly bear

Contrary to popular opinion, grizzlies do exist in the North Cascades. Scientists have determined that the North Cascades provide sufficient habitat to continue supporting a grizzly population. Government agencies are concerned about protecting grizzly habitat to ensure that the Cascades will not lose one of its most impressive native inhabitants.

The draft plan for protection of the North Cascades grizzly bear population will be released in late November. After a 90-day public review period, the plan will be finalized and sent on to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Task Force. The North Cascades plan will become part of the western states grizzly bear protection strategy.

ALERT! — Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie

National Forest lists proposals

Over 111 proposals for action in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest have been received, and though most proposed actions are ongoing maintenance work needed in any national forest. Some are questionable at best, and others could be considered ominous.

We desperately need Forest Service Watchers who will follow through, check on, question, protest, and alert fellow conservationists as to proper action. Our present active volunteer staff is already overextended. Offer your services.

[Mt. Baker Ranger District]

Mt. Baker Wilderness - High Divide Trail: Reconstruct, relocate trails in Yellow Aster Butte, Gold Run Pass, High Pass areas. Decision date: February 1994.

Mt. Baker Wilderness Recreation Use. Analyze management options for recreation use and impacts consistent with standards and guidelines for wilderness. Decision date: December 1994. (See article, page 9 this issue for NCCC reaction.)

Hydroelectric Projects: 7 proposed hydro projects in Nooksack River Basin, River, 9 in Skagit River Basin. Usually consists of a small diversion weir and inlet facility, pipeline of lengths varying from 1-5 miles, powerhouse, switchyard and transmission facilities. New road construction proposed.

[Skykomish Ranger District]

Eagle Crest Trail. New trail (15 miles). Decision date: April 1994. (For NCCC position see article, page 9 this issue.)

Mining: Cashman Millsite Operating Plan. Decision Date: Oct. 1993. Bedco Operating Plan. Milling and removing 2500 tons of ore in 1993 and 5,000 tons per year through 1997. Decision date: January 1994.

[North Bend Ranger District]

Hydroelectric projects—Upper South Fork Snoqualmie Hydro project: Construct 10-ft. high concrete diversion dam in South Fork Snoqualmie just below confluence with Commonwealth Creek; install almost 2 miles of pipeline down Denny Creek Road to powerhouse to be situated just below Denny Creek Campground. Decision date: March 1994.

Mining: Purple Hope Claims operating plan amendment. Alpine Lakes Wilderness (previously approved claim). Add 10'x10' building on claim. To be flown into place in spring, flown out in fall. Decision date: February 1994.

[White River Ranger District]

Mather Companion. Highway 410 Corridor. To compliment 10 miles of reconstruction of State Route 410 (Mather Memorial Parkway). Decision date: September 1993.

Former North Cascades Superintendent gets a bigger desk

John Reynolds, superintendent of North Cascades National Park Complex from 1984 to 1988, has been appointed deputy director of the National Park Service.

GAIA

It is bigger than Man
It is bigger even than a Bear
It is the Earth
She is *alive*

Many Waterfalls Camp was called that for the many waters tumbling from the glaciers and snowfields of Goode Ridge. The grass grew so lush and tall that out-of-work Stehekin horses were trailed up there to keep bellies full.

The first lightning cloud exploded over the summit of Logan as we were cooking a supper which never was eaten. Because every couple hours another lightning cloud burst over Logan, 14 continuous hours of dunder und blitzen, so horrific that when a little girl shrieked, "WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!" no adult contradicted her. We felt privileged to be given such a show, no admission price except the kitchen which was flushed down the creek to the Stehekin River. But several days later, hiking downvalley, we came to the edge of what had been a meadow of grass as lush and tall as that of our camp. No grass. No trail. Boulders and gravel to such depth we couldn't see over the top. We were a lengthy scramble finding the far edge of the blowout flood. We thought back to Many Waterfalls Camp. Blowouts come here, blowouts come there, blowouts — over time — come everywhere.

* * *

Since our last visit he had built his new house, on the far side of the floodplain from the cabin beside the river. As we stood admiring his new construction, he explained his choice of location. Since childhood he had been observing and noting the runout of the climax avalanches. Tucked neatly between two of the regular monster torrents, was this spot at the foot of the mountain which never in the memory of man — and more cogently, the memory of the trees — had been endangered. So it was that a man of the mountains found a sublime spot to live, to raise his family, beneath the wall of McGregor Mountain. Of course, there were the large boulders by the house. Ray's eyes followed mine. A shrug, a rueful smile. No need to comment.

* * *

Folks who have lived a long while in a mountain place know *Gaia*, the living earth. If they have lived in the Northwest enough millennia they remember not one volcanic eruption but many. The Osceola Mudflow about 5700 years ago off the flank of Mt. Rainier; Mazama, relocating itself to Saskatchewan and way points. Their racial memory need go back only a century or two to recall when earthquakes triggered waves which sent the waters of Lake Chelan washing far up the mountainside — and up the valleys. If their racial memory goes back to pre-1968, they know from personal experience, or that of friends, about the life of the rivers. Memorial Day of 1948, for example.*

Sadly, those who have arrived since the Valley has come under the management of the Federal Government place too much faith in Engineers. (They trust the Army Engineers to keep the Mississippi in its proper place.) These powers will not protect them from *Gaia*.

* Read *Stehekin, A Valley in Time*, Grant McConnell, The Mountaineers, 1988.



A Reexamination of Stehekin-National Park Service Myths

Chapter Four

Myth: *National Park Service buildings blend in with the natural environment and local architectural style.*

Fact: If you call two-bedroom mobile trailers squatting in the middle of a cleared field in the middle of the valley floor beautiful, you might argue that they fit right in. These employee quarters were temporarily placed in the valley soon after the park was established. They remain as a testament to the National Park Service's inability over the course of more than 20 years to build a few simple and appropriate structures.

Myth: *The National Park Service leaves the land untouched to preserve the ecologic and scenic beauty of the land.*

Fact: See photo below. If you have never seen a gravel pit before, you have now.



NPS gravel pit, LCNRA
— Kevin Herrick photo



NPS housing, Stehekin, LCNRA
— Kevin Herrick photo

The Debate Over New Trails

New trail proposals being churned out of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest are landing on NCCC's desk. The first came last fall proposing constructing a trail across the headwaters of Perry Creek (Mt. Loop Highway area), over Mt. Forgotten and out to the north. The second came last week with a proposal to build a trail from Barclay Lake to Eagle Lake then on to Sims and Sunset Lakes and exiting northward. The chief reasons given for the new trails are to provide alternatives to day hikers thus relieving pressure on the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and other wilderness areas. After decades of eliminating trails by building roads and clearcutting and abandoning trails because of lack of budget, it is a shock to consider building new ones.

These proposals put NCCC and other environmental organizations in a difficult position. We have argued for years that the Forest Service should devote more resources to trail maintenance and construction. Getting people into the woods was the best way to develop a constituency to save the forests. However, now we, as well as the Forest Service need to rethink the trails equation, finding ways to balance interest in outdoor recreation, wildlife needs and still skimpy budgets. Obviously this is a question of priorities.

The priorities should place new construction last — not first. Start by doing a better job educating people about the variety of trails that already exist. Despite the excellent available trail guides many people remain ignorant of hiking possibilities. Better signage to call attention to trailheads would help. The average person doesn't know where to go.

Next, study the nature of recreational trail demand today. Research on who is recreating and why is critical to devising appropriate management measures for trails. Are day hikers seeking solitude or a social experience, or do they merely want exercise? Would people use alternative trails or do they want only the ones they're used to. Does trail condition affect people's use? Third, highly popular trails should be evaluated to protect resources from impact through trail improvements (loop trails, trail hardening), or by other management measures, such as volunteer site wardens, better signage, etc.

A fourth consideration is rationing day and overnight use of trails through permit systems. Such systems can be difficult to develop and are likely to be unpopular. They reduce spontaneity and the feeling of freedom in use of public lands. However, they could be an allocation device that maintains quality of recreation and resource protection.

Fifth, if trails are to be built, we all have candidates for reconstruction of abandoned and poorly maintained trails should be placed before new trails. Some old trails may have outlived their original purposes, such as fire lookout access, but the value for recreation may remain. New trail construction should be examined for impacts on ecosystems as well as on cost effectiveness and recreation objectives. It might be better to develop more trails as one-way loop trails than to invest in traditional back-and-forth trails. New trail construction is probably the most expensive way of meeting present recreational needs. A new strategy must be developed. *Back to the drawing boards!*

The Next Step: A Cascades International Park

David L. Fluharty

Canada and the United States have an opportunity to develop a new special area management for the Cascades. At this stage of the discussions and planning, no maps outline the boundaries. As the concept emerges, however, it is clearly more than a park — it is an experiment in developing a sustainable approach to managing an ecosystem for all of its tangible and intangible benefits. The focus is on creating cooperative management of the area among public and private land managers and developing management measures that restore and maintain ecosystem integrity at the regional landscape level.

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With this in mind, the last issue of *The Wild Cascades* (June 1993) urged readers to visit the Canadian portion of the proposed park to gain an understanding of the qualities of the areas that might be included. Several readers wrote questioning the wisdom of NCCC for supporting the idea of an international park in an area already so ravaged by timber harvests. (See letter on International Park, page 28 of this issue). NCCC is aware that this park proposal is too late for many significant areas, yet finds there is considerable advantage to working with Canadian groups to save what is left and to restore and better manage other areas. This approach is not without precedent. Parts of the then recently logged Thornton and Damnation Creek areas were included in Ross Lake National Recreation Area in 1968. The wisdom of including these areas is being borne out. The clearcuts are regenerating. Much restoration work remains to be done to stabilize road “blowouts”.

The highest population growth rates in the Pacific Northwest are in areas proximate to the Cascades. This implies increased demand for recreation in natural settings. On a landscape level, the biggest gap in protection of wildlife habitat in the Cascade range is in the area between the Canada/U.S. border and the Fraser River. How significant this is from an ecosystem perspective remains to be seen, however, intuitively such a gap appears appallingly large. Immediate measures are needed to reestablish the linkages and corridors.

An Impossible Dream?

Is a special management area an impossible dream? *The answer is yes*, if we continue to ignore the lessons of experience and research about how to better manage temperate forest ecosystems. ***The answer is a resounding no***, if we utilize our understanding of these ecosystems and give professional land managers the goal of managing within ecosystem constraints. This is not going to be easy to do. However, it must be done. Otherwise parks become islands of biodiversity gradually eroding as they are isolated by the rising tide of clearcuts. Management must recognize that some areas should be **preserved** and other areas **conserved**. The conservation management standard should be an *optimum yield* relative to the multiple values the area provides for people and wildlife, **not the maximum sustainable yield** for a single resource.

The park “core area” would recognize those intact areas of the ecosystem that meet the scenic, biological or physical attributes that have been used traditionally in Canada and the U.S. when designing parks. Areas surrounding the park would form a special management area where managers would restore ecosystem function and supply outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. Managers could permit commodity uses on a long-term sustainable basis for renewable resources and on an environmentally sensitive basis for non-renewable resources. Human communities could continue to exist within the

area and be based on extractive resource use, manufacturing, and recreation, as today, but also on restoration and ecosystem protection.

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In the meantime, massive logging north and south of the border meant that favorite areas for climbing, hiking and just driving for pleasure were being decimated at the same time recreational demand for such areas was increasing and broad changes were occurring in society. While the precise issues motivating change and the process for change to occur are different in Canada and the U.S., in both countries, political, social and economic changes have made conditions vastly more favorable for cooperative efforts to preserve and manage transboundary lands in 1993 than just a few years previous.

The history of efforts to protect the transboundary Cascade region is significant. NCCC saw no way to combine protection proposals north and south of the border in the early 1960s. In the early 1970s two significant issues kept the international management question alive for NCCC. Already the question of raising Ross Dam and flooding Big Beaver Creek and Ross Lake NRA was a hot one on the NCCC agenda. In 1971 Canada dedicated a tiny Sapper Provincial Park just north of the border in the vicinity of Chilliwack Lake and the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society was pushing Cathedral Lakes as a Class "A" Provincial Park. (See *The Wild Cascades*, February-March 1972.) These issues, especially the High Ross Dam, brought Canadian and U.S. environmental groups together. The advantages of cooperation and of playing national governments and public sentiments off against each other became apparent.

NCCC fought High Ross up to the U.S. Supreme Court but it was the fledgling Canadian groups who delivered the decisive blow by forcing an international treaty to settle the issue. In the Canada/U.S. Boundary Waters Ross Dam Treaty (1983) there was a provision for the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) to continue to investigate ways to link North Cascades National Park with E.C. Manning Provincial Park "forming an International Park." . . . NCCC focused on additions to wilderness areas within and surrounding the park and with implementing park policies. NCCC proposed additions to the national park in the late 1980s.

What is Underway?

As Dale Crane, N.W. Regional Representative of the National Parks and Conservation Association, expresses it, "The Cascades International Park train is leaving the station. Either you are on it or you are not." Many are climbing aboard even though the route has yet to be built.

Cascades International Alliance

The Cascades International Alliance of which NCCC is part, is on its way toward completing the task of securing preservation management for wildlands on both sides of the border. We have been meeting with a core group of environmental organizations from Canada and the U.S. to develop the information base, find funding and develop a strategy for obtaining special area management status for this area. The issues are considerably more complex than those we dealt with in the fight for the North Cascades National Park. This time we are dealing across an international boundary. We must deal with multiple federal, state, provincial and private concerns. Together we must create consensus about what is to be done and communicate that vision to those who must make the administrative and legislative decisions. Then we must convince national governments to agree to treaty language and ratify it. Finally, we need to oversee implementation. All this before we see results on the ground.

NCCC prepared a background document on the history of the international park proposal and is developing public interest in the plans. The Greater Ecosystem Alliance is developing a base map and a video on the international park and ecological reserve idea. National Parks and Conservation Association is taking the lead on planning a conference for early 1994 to bring together all interested parties.

Canadian groups have already obtained prime-time TV coverage of the international park concept. The Bellingham Mountaineers hosted a panel discussion.

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Other Players

The **Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission** was created by the Canada/U.S. treaty settling the High Ross controversy. It is charged with spending the revenue from endowed funds for environmental projects in the Skagit River drainage. It is also charged with exploring the possibility of an international park linking North Cascades National Park Complex with Canadian parklands. In the first ten years of its existence, SEEC has spent most of its funds on campground "improvements" with some research and environmental education on the side. On the urgent request of NCCC, SEEC played a critical role in protecting the Skagit ecosystem by purchase of a mineral claim in the Granite/Ruby Creek drainage. That action prevented logging of the site. (Later this land was sold to the U.S. Forest Service.) Other issues have taken precedence on the SEEC agenda than work on an international park. However, SEEC has provided a forum for Canadian/U.S. discussions on the North Cascades and can play a key role in developing a proposal for the international park. SEEC has agreed to fund part of a major conference on that topic to be held in early 1994.

Native North Americans on both sides of the border potentially have much to gain or lose from the types of management policies adopted. Traditional access to fish, game, and cultural heritage sites are part of tribal/band livelihood and lifestyle. Already in the Seattle City light, Skagit Project Settlement and international fisheries treaties, U.S. and Canadian tribes have demonstrated a willingness and capability to forge compromise among competing uses in the context of protecting their unique interests. A similar approach is desired in the case of a special management area.

The final player is embodied in the loosely defined **Cascadia Corridor Commission**. Essentially an effort to call attention to the economic interdependencies among communities in the Fraser, Puget Sound and Willamette lowlands, the Commission seems to want to maintain a "green tinge." Whether or not that tinge extends to the Cascade highland "fringe" is a subject for discussion. The obvious linkage is for the Commission to encourage environmental measures to link the salmon fisheries from the sea to the summits. By promoting policies that protect habitat all along the route, the commission could play an important role. If the commission could find ways to restrict the spread of people and intensive economic activity into the Cascade foothills, that might prove to be its most important contribution.

Need for New Management Approach

Some positive steps can be taken on the ground before treaties are signed. Already, major changes in management approach are being attempted on both sides of the border. Most significant is the realization that agencies can better coordinate actions even under existing laws — if they have the will. There is a high degree of uncertainty about management at this time. Environmental organizations are excited about new management approaches being touted in agencies, yet remain highly suspicious about the end results and about what their roles can be.

The Cascades International Park and surrounding special management areas depends on a new generation of corporate executives, like Weyerhaeuser, to be part of the solution. It also depends on the people who earn their living in the woods to consider long-term sustainability of their actions and to join in developing balanced politics that serve their interests in stable employment and a quality environment.

A good example of this uncertainty is visible in the U.S. Skagit River corridor. Just downstream from Ross Lake NRA on the Skagit River is an area of high ecological significance for fisheries, bald eagles, elk and other lowland species dependent on riparian habitats. The river areas are totally surrounded by federal forests — much in wilderness designation. Efforts by private entities like The Nature Conservancy and the Rivers Network coupled with corresponding work by the Washington Departments of Natural Resources, State Parks, and Wildlife, plus Seattle City Light and the U.S. Forest Service (manager of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River) have resulted in permanent protective management designations. However, the U.S. Forest Service in its deliberations on the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan has left the critical unroaded watersheds in the Bacon Creek to Rockport section and large parts of the critical Illabot watershed in the “matrix” area where continued timber harvests would be directed. Logging in this unique area would negate all of the cooperative efforts hitherto underway.

Another example of the need for altered management approach exists on the Canadian side of the border where long-term timber contracts have been signed with Weyerhaeuser and the Fletcher-Challenge Co. for cutting rights in the Merritt Timber Supply Area which occupies a major part of the Canadian Cascades. Will anything be left? Past performance is dismal at protecting fisheries and wildlife habitats on “Timber” Supply Area lands. George Weyerhaeuser Jr. is the new corporate manager of Canadian operations. He is described by a recent *Seattle Times* (9/12/93) article as an agent for change in corporate and public policies. Weyerhaeuser is quoted as saying “It is fairly late in the game in Washington to preserve (economic and ecological) systems. Whereas in BC, we’re just in time.” We hope he is right. The Cascades International Park and surrounding special management areas depends on a new generation of corporate executives, like Weyerhaeuser, to be part of the solution. It also depends on the people who earn their living in the woods to consider long-term sustainability of their actions and to join in developing balanced politics that serve their interests in stable employment and a quality environment.

In summary, there is no question that parts of the Canadian Cascades merit inclusion in the provincial park system and steps are being taken to cause that to happen. The contiguous nature of park and wilderness areas in Canada and the U.S. begs for cooperative international management. The success of even the best management of park areas is dependent upon cooperation with other adjacent land management agencies. Significant opportunities exist for this to happen in the Cascades.

The train is leaving the station. Are **you** on board?



Miners Ridge — Glacier Peak Wilderness Area



Grant McConnell

1993

In Memoriam

"We were all damn fools. . ."

**I doubt he knew on Saturday
as issues talked of meeting Board
and his November plans:
how fanned he embers Wild Cascades;
how his journey waited bright.**

**Grant thought a call from me today
— instead came one for me.**

**I didn't know the war-wracked sailor
— the one Stehekin restored —
still, I saw that nurture,
benign return,
to people and the earth.**

**Landscapes endure to moment.
Boston, Booker, Buckner,
Park, Agnes, Bridge,
Rainbow, Company, Devore
Tsill-anne! — Stehekin! — Sahale!
Images sustain.**

**Footprints slalom glacier
Cobalt blues a sky
Fog that flows the river
Impressions turning lives.**

**He took the person measure
deeds counting words not lot;
a heart,
right of purpose,
— a friend
not forgot.**

DLF 9/93

A line Grant McConnell planned to use in his 25th Anniversary banquet remarks to describe NCCC when it started to push for North Cascades National Park. Let's keep NCCC worthy of the compliment!

"Tsill-anne": Deep water; "Stehekin": The way through; "Sahale": Away up high

Grant McConnell

There was a time and there wasn't a time —
so runs the folk tale beginning. It's proper here, for there was a time, the
end of World War II, and there wasn't a time, just the American past. But
there was a place — one unique and beautiful as perhaps most of the places
of the earth once were, but known to only a few.

And there was a man, Grant McConnell. As of September 27, 1993, there isn't. No,
not so. That time, and that place, and that man are the American past. The past that
lives on — or rather, *will* live on if we so vow.

The human community of Stehekin changed. Its older members died
and some of the others moved out. . . A handful of others remained. .
. There were newcomers as before. Some made downlake demands
and left in disillusion. But there were others who caught the notes of
awe and laughter that were the valley's own. And for all who would
see or hear, there remained those older presences, McGregor and the
river, with all they had to tell.

These are the opening and closing passages of *Stehekin: A Valley in Time*, Grant's
memoir of nearly 60 Valley years as visiting climber, as postwar property owner, fulltime
resident for several years and for much of each and every year in the decades to and
beyond the North Cascades National Park. The McConnell cabin by the river at the
foot of Si Si Ridge has been since the 1950s the Jerusalem, the vatican, the Mecca of we
believers. From across America have come pilgrims to absorb the essence of the Valley,
to be spiritually refreshed and invigorated and instructed.

Old friends and comrades will be picking up the book to read it again in order to
remember and honor the man and to rededicate themselves to the cause he pursued,
never flagging, before merging at last into the past upon whose firm foundation we
build.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE

by

David L. Fluharty, President,
North Cascades Conservation Council



Looking toward Sentinel and Old Guard, LeConte Glacier in foreground — Harvey Manning photo

The North Cascades National Park Complex turns 25 years old this year. Consisting of North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, the complex is a blend of high mountains and low valleys. Many steadfast members of NCCC remember the fight for the park culminating in passage of Public Law 90-544 establishing the complex in 1968.

In the intervening years, issues of *The Wild Cascades* are replete with NCCC efforts to keep the Park and NRAs as well as other wildlands in the Cascades managed appropriately.

We have been active in federal, state and local forums to protect the area. We have commented on countless management plans. We have attended and spoken up at meetings. We have advised, cajoled, researched, and written in response to poor management decisions. Where all of these efforts have failed, we have gone to court. ***And we have won battle after battle.*** There will **NOT** be cable tramways in North Cascades wilderness. There will **NOT** be a road up the east side of Ross Lake. Ross Dam will **NOT** be raised to flood Big Beaver Valley. Wilderness is designated within and around the National Park administered areas. (All this is documented in Harvey Manning's *Conservation and Conflict: The U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service in the North Cascades 1892-1992*, in preparation.)

Over the years activists came together to protect the wilderness alps of the North Cascades, and in so doing formed the North Cascades Conservation Council to effect the changes that would achieve that goal. David Brower, Phil Zalesky, Pat Goldsworthy, Grant McConnell, Polly Dyer were on the front line. But there were many many more activists. As Grant McConnell notes, in a letter, "... What put the Park Act over was a massive outpouring of public sentiment. We (NCCC) merely touched off the explosion. A huge number of people did bits that added up."

We have advised, cajoled, researched, and written in response to poor management decisions. Where all of these efforts have failed, we have gone to court. *And we have won battle after battle.* There will NOT be cable tramways in North Cascades wilderness. There will NOT be a road up the east side of Ross Lake. Ross Dam will NOT be raised to flood Big Beaver Valley.

Much remains to be done to protect the Cascades. New and old members must join together and help NCCC continue to work on preservation issues in the Cascades. —The next 25 years are critical. We must find ways to protect areas not already damaged. We must support efforts to restore areas where damage has been done. Even more importantly we must develop land management ethics and techniques for all areas with a greater understanding and regard for all values.

THE VISION

In the coming years:

—There will be a new Cascades International Park and surrounding ecological management areas linking the Cascades to the sea and to the Columbia plateau.

—There will be special management protection for the rest of the federal lands on Lake Chelan and a quality tourism and development approach to the sensitive state and private lands in Chelan County forming the eastern gateway to the American Alps.

—A small, vibrant community will exist on private lands in the Stehekin Valley with some of the old faces and some new ones. Cooperation, not conflict, will characterize relations with the National Park Service.

—The western gateways to the American Alps, such as Darrington, Marblemount and other “towns-in-transition,” will have a scaled-back forest products industry and a much expanded leisure- and retirement-based economies.

—Maybe in 25 years we’ll know what the timber summit means for protection of ancient forests.

—There are bound to be lots more people enjoying the North Cascades. Maybe there will be a few more salmon, grizzly bears, wolves, and spotted owls. Maybe there will be a few less cattle and sheep, a few less rogue mineral claims and motorcycles on trails.

—There will be **NO MORE** low altitude military overflights.

—NCCC will have lots more members.

THE REALITY

Some of these predictions may be realized because of trends in world, national and sub-national politics. Still other world trends could disrupt this desired scenario entirely. Global nuclear holocaust may be receding as a possibility but the growth orientation of our economies and populations may produce the same end over a longer time. Sharp changes in supply of oil could bring demands for full utilization of hydroelectric generating capacity in parks and wilderness areas. Greater cultural diversity in our society may alter support for land and wildlife preservation if the values of protection is not understood or if it seems irrelevant. Finally, our whole approach to land may have to change. Past land protection has drawn boundaries round pristine areas to keep out destructive tendencies of human development. Our future strategy may require us to draw lines around human development to keep the destructive tendencies in.

“Think globally, act locally,” is not such a bad admonition in our efforts to protect the North Cascades. What is protected here is of increasing international significance. Unaltered ecosystems are more and more scarce. New techniques for restoring and managing lands and other resources sustainably must be developed and applied here if we can hope to influence other countries and peoples to manage their lands sustainably. We in North America present the best and worst examples — and you can be sure others are watching. Let’s not disappoint them or ourselves.

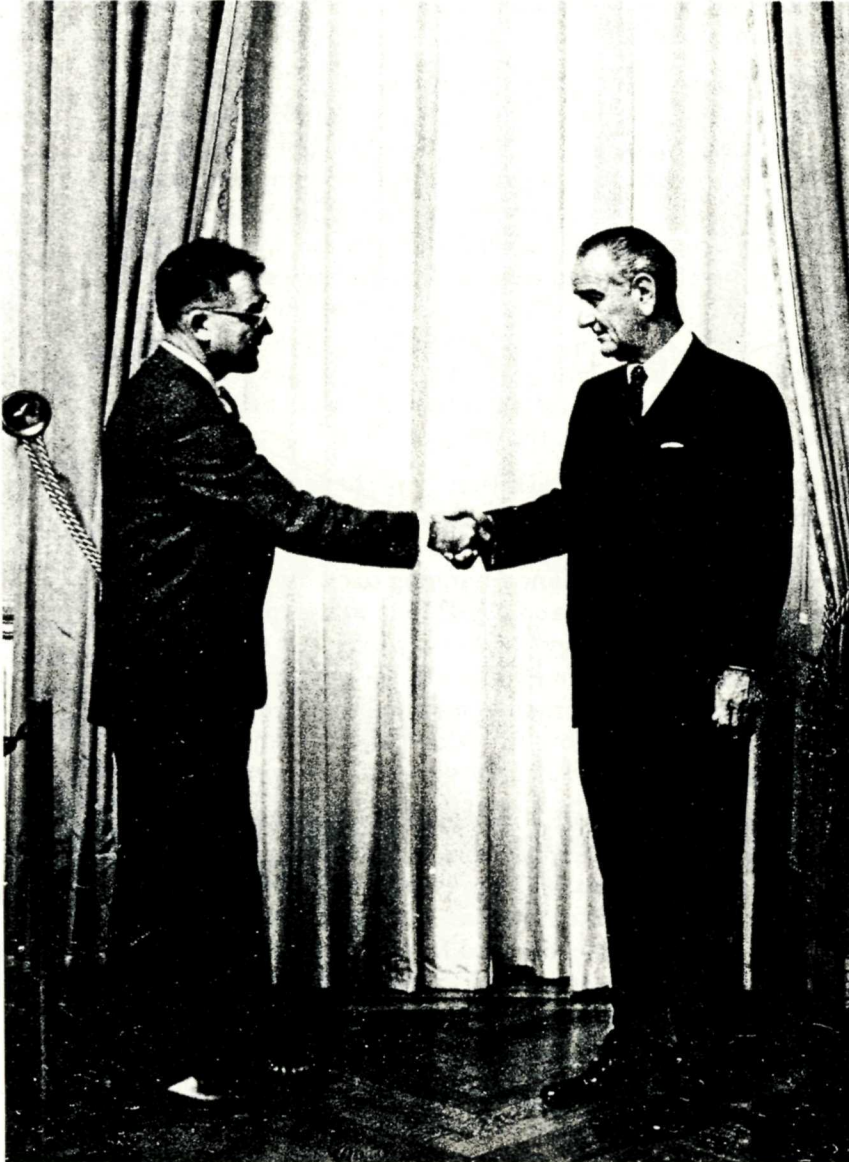
Are you ready to work? Write letters? Monitor agency actions? Donate time and money? If you are ready to work — we are ready for the Next Step . . .working for an International Park.

The North Cascades

“It is an awesome sight. As far as can be seen there is no end to the succession of ice-hung peaks. Those close by are more menacing, but they are so only because they are close; those far off are as sharp, as icy and as forbidding. It is a land in still and silent tumult. There is no pattern, no order, no serried ranks of ranges. The lines lead in no direction; they are not parallel, concentric, radial or any other designs which might be conceived. This is the sea of peaks which so many travelers spontaneously have discovered on first looking out upon it from a height, a sea lashed by some cosmic storm, a sea heaving its surface into a multitude of curling, twisted, white-crested points.” Thus wrote Grant McConnell in *The Mountaineer*, 1958, about the North Cascade Range.

THE WILD CASCADES

August - September 1968



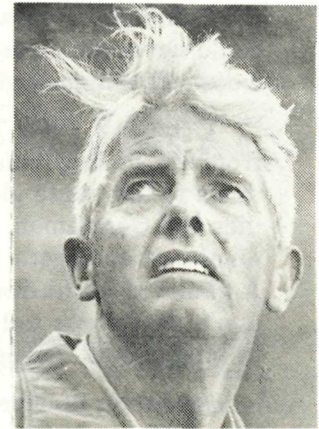
*President Lyndon Johnson congratulating
Patrick Goldsworthy, 1968*



Jane and Grant McConnell



Laura and Phill Zalesky



Dave Brower



Polly Dyer and Emily Haig

Looking Back

In *The Mountaineer* Grant McConnell summarized the years to the Park:

First perception: The Park was inevitable. Nobody who has ever seen the area, or even who has seen just a few pictures of it could believe otherwise. . . .

Second perception: The Park was an impossibility. This was Forest Service domain, and that Service never surrenders. It has the most massive political system in the United States, and the most determined leadership. It has the loggers, the grazers, the miners, the local officialdoms, the "sportsmen" — men who count among the petty and the big elite of America — all lined up to echo the official line. In July and September, 1968, there were the Grangers, the cattlemen, the miners, the county commissioners of all the counties involved, the mayors of Chelan, Brewster, Pateros and all the other places known only to locals, and their congressmen, behind the Forest Service and against the Park. And Boise Cascade, Georgia Pacific, the big mill owners, the corporations and the little mills too. And always, paid by public money, the propagandists of the fully alerted, fully politicized Forest Service constantly at work. You can't win; we're too strong, too big. . . .

Which? Either or neither, who knew? The Park won — perhaps because there was something categorical in its necessity; not to have won would have been defeat in an absolute sense; not to have won would have been the failure of a moral order. But it was all so tenuous, so much a matter of chance, hanging so on those few of the things that were tried that worked. Who would be on hand? Who would come through with those last few dollars, that last bit of energy? And at the very last stage it was in the hands of the gods and Wayne Aspinall. Would he settle for anything less than the Columbia River water dumped into the Colorado, something that Scoop Jackson could never give? And would there be time before the 90th Congress adjourned? It was a cliffhanger right down to the last. But . . .

October 2, 1968. The East Room, the White House. Band playing as you walk in from the Pennsylvania Avenue portico. Military aides in dress uniforms complete down to the white gloves. Buzzing and smiles of Congressmen and Senators. "Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States." A stooped tired man with an almost apologetic smile. This was one of the few good things that had happened. A glance upward from the prepared speech and a nod to the Congressmen. "Why don't you fellows tell folks about this, and not some of those other things they are talking about?" (Laughter.)

And then President Johnson sat down and signed the bill.

[Excerpted from the book, *Conservation and Conflict: The U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service in the North Cascades 1892-1992*, by Harvey Manning.

Phil Zalesky —

When asked to prepare this essay for *The Wild Cascades* for the 25th Anniversary of the North Cascades National Park, a flood of memories came back. Which of these many streams of memories should I relate? Should it be the night I made a slide presentation to the Snohomish County Young Democrats? The Prosecuting Attorney, Lloyd Meeds, came up afterwards and said that if I helped him and he was elected to Congress, he would commit himself to a national park in the North Cascades. His commitment was steadfast thereafter. At another time, the congressman called from Washington City testing for someone how I would feel about eliminating the Stehekin watershed from a proposal, and I demonstrated decided irritation. Or should it be the many summer days, week after week, and year after year, that Laura and I backpacked, explored and scoped out the extraordinary mountain scenery of our Cascades? Or should it be the two times on backpacks that Laura and I first introduced Patrick and Jane Goldsworthy and then Polly Dyer to the very scenery that enthralled us? . . . These were the people who were to be major players in this conservation effort. With Polly we made a forced camp on the snow on Miners Ridge short of Image Lake. Following that we went down Agnes Creek. Polly and Laura, after some complaining, and after five days of backpacking, conspired to have me bath both body and shirt in the stream. Could I really have been that stinking? Ending up at Stehekin Landing prepared to catch the *Lady of the Lake* boat, we caught sight of Rick Mack. Knowing Polly was chair of The Mountaineers' Conservation Committee, Rick rushed over to introduce her to Jane McConnell. Thus was formed a conservation link between The Mountaineers, Stehekin, and the Sierra Club.

. . . Another recollection concerns a time even closer to passage of the Act. The North Cascades Conservation Council called a meeting to be held in Stehekin at Grant and Jane McConnell's cabin with employees of the National Park Service. Polly, Laura, and I decided to go there on foot. We wanted to examine country new to us that would be in a national park. We hiked and backpacked from Diablo Lake, up Thunder Creek to Easy Pass, walked and investigated a North Cross State Highway under construction, and down Bridge Creek to the Stehekin River. It sounded simple, except that we lost the Easy Pass trail and went crosscountry, making our last day 26 miles to Stehekin. Laura and I pushed Polly and we finally refused to permit her to take off her shoes at every one-hour rest. About a half-mile short of the Stehekin, a horse packer took Polly's pack. . . . That night Polly didn't sleep. She spent most of the night soaking her aching, swollen legs in the Stehekin River.

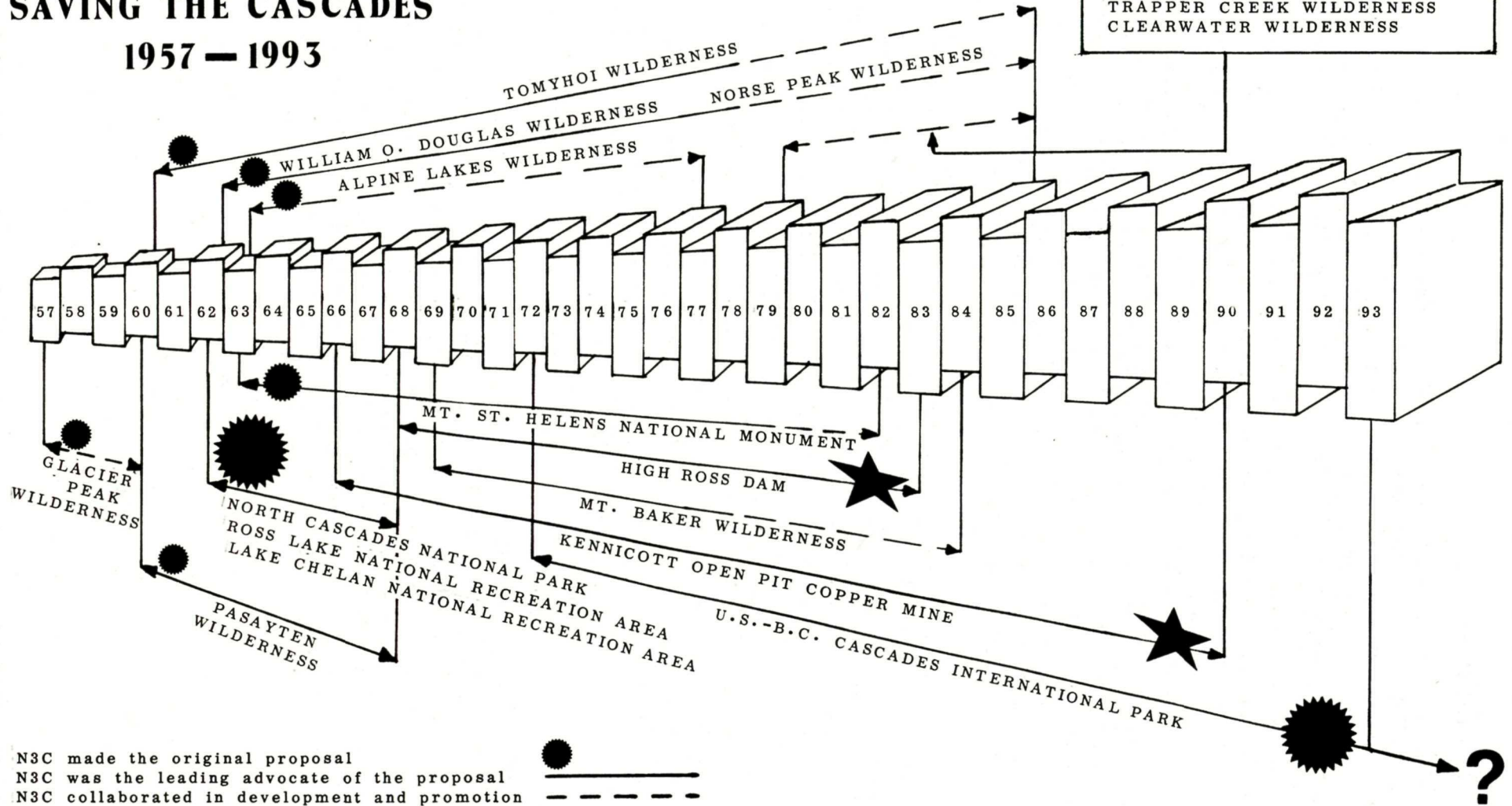
The meeting the next morning with Neal Butterfield and other Park Service employees covered management plans for the park. To my surprise it was not *if* the park was to be established. When we inquired *when*, we were told that their inside congressional informants said it would be in four to six weeks. I was ecstatic!

Patrick Goldsworthy —

I felt both honored and thrilled to be present as President Lynden Johnson signed the North Cascades National Park bill and as he said, "We are preserving for the people, one of the most beautiful areas on God's earth." Breathing a sigh of relief, I watched his pen conclude a decade of effort by the North Cascades Conservation Council to finally create a North Cascades National Park. As I was shaking the President's hand it was clear to me that next we needed to redirect our efforts toward preventing High Ross Dam from making the Big Beaver Valley Seattle's Hetch Hetchy of the North.

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SAVING THE CASCADES
1957 — 1993



NCCC Action Timeline — 1957 - 1993

(See above graph)

1957 — North Cascades Conservation Council established with its purpose, ". . . to protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values."

1957 — NCCC push for Glacier Peak Wilderness starts.

1960 — USFS administratively designated small Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

1962 - 1968 — NCCC shifted effort toward **North Cascades National Park. North Cascades National Park Complex a reality (1968).**

1972 — Began working with Canadian groups toward **international park** to protect Canadian Cascades. Today's top priority.

1964 — Congress passed **Wilderness Act. Glacier Peak Wilderness** designated. Significant additions and some deletions from wilderness have taken place over the time period. (Not discussed here)

1960 - 1968 — **Pasayten**. In 1960 NCCC proposed to the USFS the northeastern portion of the Cascades be protected as wilderness. North Cascades Park Act in 1968 included designation of a Pasayten Wilderness.

1984 — **Tomyhoi** - Transboundary area. Part of Pasayten proposal of 1960 but left out in 1968. Finally designated in Washington Wilderness Act of 1984

1962 - 1984 — **W.O. Douglas and Norse Peak Wildernesses**. (Proposed originally as Cougar Lakes Wilderness in 1962.) Designated in Washington Wilderness Act of 1984.

1976 — **Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area** designated by Congress based on 1963 proposal and work by many organizations.

1984 — **Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan**. Not included in 1968 legislation; major portions received protection in Washington Wilderness Act of 1984. By the late 1970s many different groups were promoting important roadless areas for wilderness. Of special note is the Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, protecting area north of Lake Chelan. The work continues.

1982 — **Mt. St. Helens National Monument**. Not until it erupted and created its own lobby for protection did the USFS and Congress move to designate it as a national monument. NCCC proposed this in **1963**.

Mining

1966 — **Kennecott Copper Co.** announced plans to develop an open pit copper mine near Image Lake in Glacier Peak Wilderness with a concentrator plan in the upper Suiattle Valley. NCCC spearheaded opposition. NCCC protests coupled with copper price decline conspired to cancel this project. In 1990 Kennecott sold its claims on Plummer Mountain to Chelan County PUD.

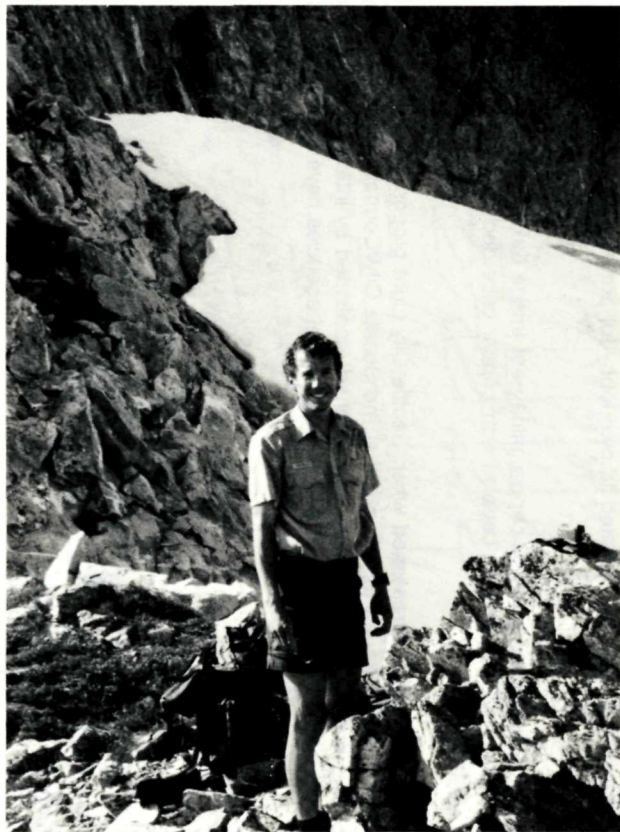
Energy

1968—1984—present — **High Ross Dam. Big Beaver Valley threatened** when Seattle City Light proposed to raise Ross Dam on the Skagit River 125 feet in its application for FERC relicensing the Skagit Project. NCCC fought this proposal at the Seattle City Council, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and almost to the Supreme Court. Canadians joined in opposing the dam. Compromise was reached, confirmed by international treaty in early 1980s that prevented raising the dam. In 1993 the FERC license still is not granted but NCCC, tribes, and state and federal agencies have developed a strong mitigation package for on-going impacts of the dam projects.

A Backcountry Ranger's Log — North Cascades National Park

by Jeff Miller

I am the Whatcom Pass (North Cascades) ranger and am responsible for the Beaver River valleys, Whatcom Pass high country, Brush Creek, and parts of the Chilliwack River valley. My camp is situated above Whatcom Pass in the Middle Lakes cross-country zone. Depending on the route chosen, it is between 18 and 29 miles to my camp from trailheads. What follows is a narrative of a "typical" 10-day patrol.



Jeff Miller, backcountry ranger, NCNP

ready sloppy handwriting becomes almost illegible in the field. This time I have pledged to do as much as possible in the field to avoid repeating an office day.

There was some excitement today. A group of climbers needed helicopter evacuation from Mt. Terror in the Pickets. Two climbers had taken separate falls and sustained nonlife-threatening injuries. The climbers radioed for help; fortunately they had a doctor in their party. Helicopter use in the park is fairly high due to high cost and logistical nightmare of ground evacuation. The pilot and spotter landed on Sourdough Mountain in hope that the clouds would part long enough to allow access to the Pickets. A window opened and the climbers were picked up only to be forced into a landing when the fog rolled back in. They eventually made a safe exit.

There is much debate about whether lives should be risked to rescue those who are not in life-threatening danger. The issue of taxpayers financing rescues of people choosing such high-risk activities remains a thorny one. Since the time of this patrol, the Park Service has announced that some type of insurance scheme will be tested next year at Denali and Mt. Rainier.

8/13/93 — Wilderness rangers generate a lot of paperwork. I have decided to take a day in the frontcountry to complete paperwork from my last patrol and prepare for the present one. It's also a good chance to recuperate from my first search operation of the year.

Two nights ago during my days off, the climbing supervisor and a climbing ranger arrived at my door at 11 p.m. A woman and her son had hiked out from Fisher Basin earlier that night to report her 14-year-old son had become separated from the rest of the family and was missing. At 5 a.m. the next morning Bruce Carter and I left Marblemount to initiate a search. We hightailed it up to Easy Pass and Bruce continued down into the basin. Fisher Basin is a "radio hole" so I was to be the radio link between Bruce and Marblemount (500). Bruce arrived to a sleeping camp and a safe son. The boy had simply wandered past the camp and had been found shortly after the mother and son hiked out for help. Despite being in good shape from a summer of hiking, the quick pace and lack of sleep has left me tired.

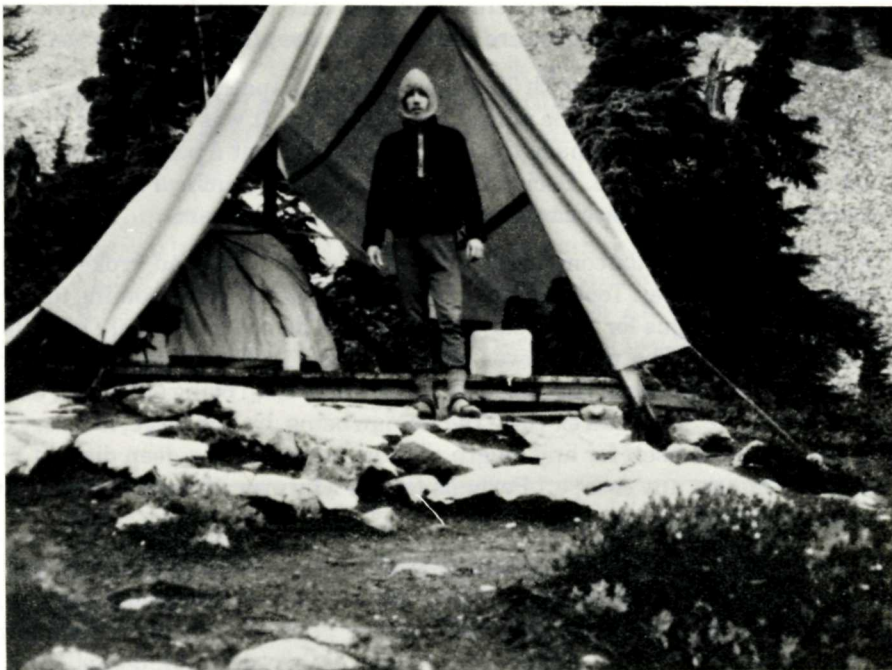
The paperwork I am working on today includes patrol reports, limits of acceptable change (LAC) sheets, backcountry impact forms, and campsite inventory forms. We are in the process of inventorying and mapping all backcountry sites to determine which camps meet wilderness management plan standards. Most paperwork can be completed in the field but my al-

8/14/93 — Left this morning at 10 a.m. for a boat shuttle up Ross lake to Little Beaver trailhead. This is the least strenuous route to Whatcom Pass I've used. It is the same distance as Hannegan Pass (18 miles) but Hannegan Pass does not have to be climbed. Entering from Chilliwack Lake in Canada may be a few miles shorter but transportation is difficult.

On my last patrol I left my tent, sleeping bag, pots, thermarest, etc. at camp to cut down on weight when hiking in. The downside is that I have to hike all the way in one day. I began to bemoan my decision when it started to rain after 7 miles and especially around 7 p.m. with 5 miles to go and 3000 feet elevation to gain. It dawned on me that limiting my options so was not particularly safe.

On the way mapped, inventoried and cleaned up Perry Creek Camp. A particularly glamorous duty of a ranger is to pick out all the tiny scraps of paper, food, and tinfoil left in firepits, then broadcast the ashes in the surrounding forest. I usually rebuild the firepits smaller in the hope of encouraging smaller fires. I am

constantly amazed at how much work people go to have campfires and build bigger fire rings. While recognizing the pleasure and tradition of campfires, most rangers soon become staunch stove advocates. Picking tiny bits of aluminum out of ashes while black flies attack is not fun. If you do have a fire do not burn materials in it. I cannot think of any packaging that I carry that is burnable. It either contains plastic or a thin foil liner. Any paper or cardboard is discarded before I hit the trail.



Jeff Miller at ranger camp, Whatcom Pass area

Only met one party today, four men from California. One of them had knee problems so the group wanted to separate for a couple of days. This necessitated a permit change which I facilitated through 500. Also

removed some small trees from the trail and ran into a couple of black bears. One ran like hell and the other bolted and then stopped and looked at me. I got the feeling that it was embarrassed that it ran. It soon moseyed away. Finally rolled into a foggy camp at 9:45 p.m. and mightily enjoyed a Lipton tomato-herb dinner with a precious can of chicken thrown in. Rain beating on my tarp accompanied me to sleep.

8/15/93 — As I write, Challenger is emerging for the first time today. Rain and fog continued from last night throughout the day. The weather has been miserable this year; it rained every day of my last 10-day patrol. I spent today converting field notes into maps and repairing some minor wind damage to my camp.

The romantic notion of being a ranger that many people entertain is largely a myth. However, my camp fits the fantasy. It has to be one of the most beautiful and dramatic places in Washington. It is a rare opportunity to be stationed at Whatcom Pass and I consider myself very lucky. The camp consists of a 12 x 15 ft. wooden platform with an A-frame to throw a tarp over. I have set up my little two-person tent to allow more room on the platform. The site is a bench at 5800 ft. overlooking the head of Little Beaver Valley. Challenger and Whatcom are immediately across the valley. Several times a day a rifle crack fills the air followed by a rolling thunder sound. A chunk of ice from Challenger Glacier crashes down to the lower glacier. A tarn behind camp is my water supply. Middle and Tapto Lakes are about 15 minutes away. A scramble up the mountain behind the tarn reveals the northern and least visited area of the park. There is a box toilet with a bucket that must be occasionally carried to the composteer at Whatcom Camp, the steep descent of a mile carrying a bucket of human waste quickly dispels any romantic notions.

It would be remiss not to discuss human waste management which comprises a large part of our duties, including planning, debate, and expense. In alpine and subalpine areas a pit toilet does not suffice. It is necessary to use composting systems in an effort to reduce the quantity and virulence of the waste. There are three types of composters: direct deposit, vault, and bucket. Direct deposit is the cutting edge of composting and a ranger's best friend. It is self-descriptive and no waste transfer is required, needing only an occasional stir. Vault toilets and buckets both require the unpleasant task of transferring waste from receptacle to composter. We are all lobbying for more direct-deposit toilets and a steady supply of rubber gloves. I constantly am thankful that this park has relatively low visitation.

8/16/93 — This morning paid a visit to Whatcom Camp. Emptied the bucket into the composter for the first time this year. The bucket is my only evidence that this camp is used, as I've seen no one. I then mapped and inventoried the site. Mapping consists of taking compass readings and pacing distances to form a rough schematic which is then translated into a scale map at the office. The inventory helps determine whether camps meet standard. We measure tent pad and toilet distance from water, note whether branches are available for hanging food, hazard trees, etc. In the afternoon traversed over to Tapto Lakes. Deserted.

8/17/93 — On checking in with 500 this morning, dispatch informed me a permit had been issued for a party of seven for Tapto Lakes. The permit limit is for six; it was suggested I divert them to Whatcom Camp. I felt that since the party had made the effort to stop and get a permit they had fulfilled their part of the bargain and should not be moved. Decided to contact the party, inform them of the rule, and impress upon them the importance of low-impact camping in the fragile lakes basin.

Dropped down to Whatcom Camp, picked up some litter and broke up an illegal fire ring buried in rocks overlooked yesterday. Took my time, hoping to meet the party coming up Brush Creek trail. Back at the pass sketched some signs for next year so that people do not mistakenly hike up Whatcom Arm when looking for Whatcom Camp. The party never showed. Last night read an essay titled "On Being Tentbound," by Jon Krakauer. He comments that the only thing worse than being stuck in a tent with an annoying person is to be stuck alone. He quotes an ex-con, "the human being, by and large, is a very bad companion for himself; where he has to face himself for any length of time, he acquires a deep disgust and restless anxiety which makes him seek almost any escape." Perhaps that is why even though I love my job, the end of a 10-day patrol can be sweet indeed.

8/18/93 — Today was one of the best days of the year. Woke at 6:45 a.m. and poked my head out to find a pool of clouds filling the valley and nothing but blue above. Decided to patrol the approach route to Mt. Challenger which flanks the east side of Whatcom Peak. Expecting no company on this remote route I was surprised to find bootprints. Climbers, whether deserved or not, do not have the best reputation in the park. Therefore I was mentally preparing to come across a tent city in the heather. Rounding a bend, was happy to see a single tent located in a snowfield, the best possible location for leaving no trace. Closer to the tent found a rock smeared with human waste facing the sun, and no toilet paper laying around. These people were doing an excellent job of following no-impact principles. It turned out that the group was part of a 30-day National Outdoor Leadership School mountaineering course.

The going was fairly straightforward but the creaking of the East Whatcom Glacier convinced me to turn back, as the glacier above me could break loose at any time in the hot sun. Watched the NOLS group rope up and traverse on the glacier instead of below it, probably a smarter tact.

Instead of traversing back to Whatcom Pass scrambled up onto Whatcom Arm and headed toward Whatcom Peak, turning around just short of the summit. On my way down met two men who happened to be part of the group of seven who were improperly permitted. They had never made it to Tapto Lakes and camped about 5 miles down Brush Creek. Called 500 to change their permit for tonight. They found their kids could not quite make a 13-mile day to Tapto Lakes. Many people overestimate the number of miles they can cover in a day. There are often permits out for Whatcom Camp and the lakes but no people show up.

Shortly after arriving back at camp, a lightning storm passed through. Feeling uncomfortable sitting next to a metal ranger box and three propane tanks, donned my raingear and sat on a ledge near camp, watching and eating chocolate. Luckily brief, it was followed by dual rainbows over the Little Beaver Valley and an incredible purple-orange sky which cast a vibrant glow on Challenger Glacier: the myth lives.

8/19/93 — Worked hard today and accomplished much, despite never leaving my camp. Over the last decade a pile of junk had grown behind camp. It seems there is always money to fly things in but not out. The nice weather today allowed me to sort things into "stay" piles and "fly out" piles for next spring when the supply

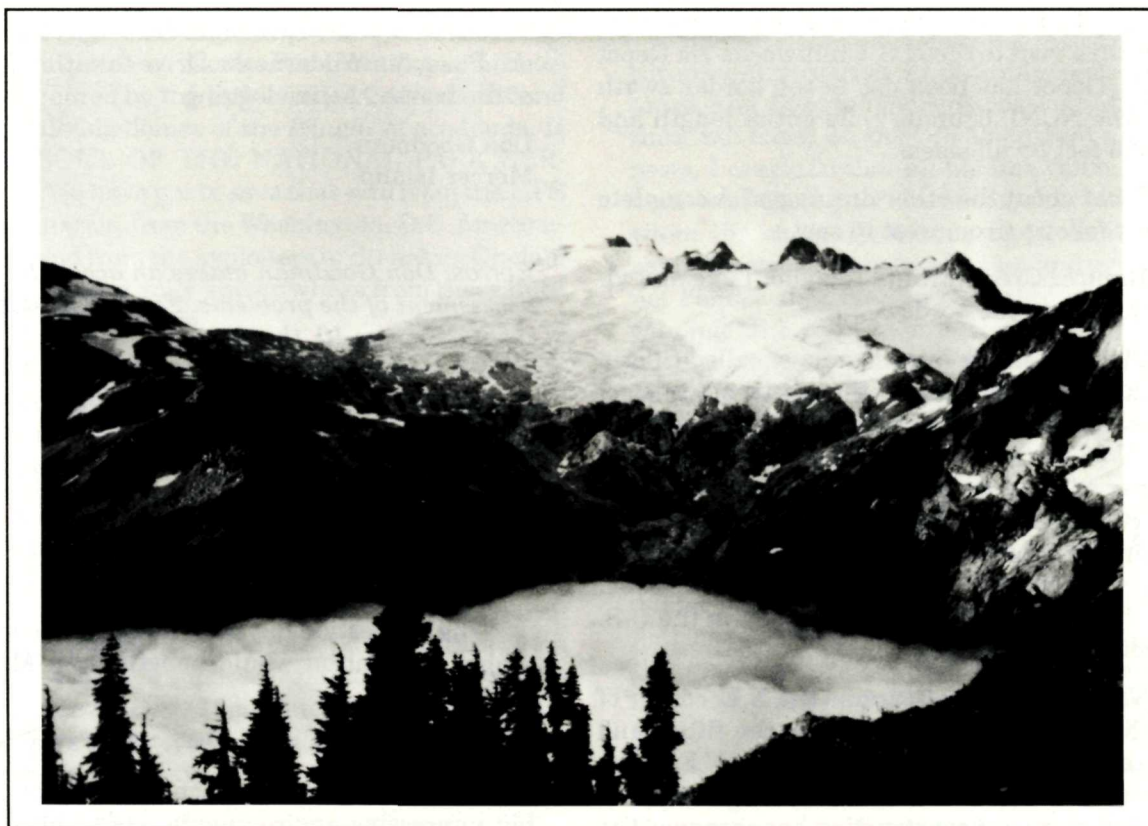
plane comes in. It seems like a minor accomplishment but I feel good about reversing a decade-long trend and creating a minimalist camp. Afterward took my first swim of the year in lower Middle Lake. It felt good and after six days in the backcountry the swim left me feeling somewhat clean.

8/20/93 — Today patrolled Pale Face and Red Face mountains and the Tupto Lakes basin. A 360-degree panorama afforded views of Chilliwack Lake, Redoubt, Spickard, the Pickets, Shuksan, Baker, etc. On the descent followed the access trail from Tupto Lakes down to its junction with the Middle Lakes path. There is a “no feet” sign at its start and am debating whether or not to leave it. If enough people have been up here to create a trail, should we force them to create a new trail or concentrate the impact on the existing trail? Tomorrow I begin my hike out.

8/21/93 — Stopped at an old camp on Brush Creek which was never properly put to rest. On my next patrol I will spend a day here. Also stopped at Graybeal Camp to map and inventory it and found several hazard trees. Radioed observations in to 500 recommending site be closed until hazards removed.

Have seen few people on this patrol but today met a number on their way to the Whatcom area. One group of six planned to camp at Tupto for four nights. I asked them to camp on rock or snow, and if not possible to camp on grass rather than heather. Other low-impact advice suggested urinating on rock rather than vegetation because animals will dig up soil, killing vegetation in search of salt. Camped at Copper Creek Camp, making another contact with a group on their way up to the Whatcom high country.

8/22/93 — Got up early today and mapped, inventoried, and cleaned up Copper Creek horse and hiker camps and then rushed to meet my ride at Hannegan trailhead by 2 p.m. Amazing how many people I ran into today. Seems that the Hannegan area gets a lot of day use and most of the overnight visitors head up to Copper Ridge rather than the Whatcom area. It's a good thing we have a person on the ridge. After a 2-1/2 hour drive back to Marblemount finished up my patrol report, turned in my radio batteries, and updated the trail board and book.



Mt. Challenger and fog — Jeff Miller photo

Letters

The Border an International Park?

Editor, The Wild Cascades

(It's) too late for International Park. The article, "The Proposed International Park — Visit the Borderlands this Summer" (*The Wild Cascades*, June 1993) has prompted me to write.

Although laudable, it is too late to consider the concept of an ecological international park as defined by the article. And to those who suggest visiting the borderlands this summer I must ask — **have you visited the borderlands?!?!?**

Outside of the already established conservation areas (i.e., Chilliwack and Skagit Valleys, Manning and Cathedral Lakes Parks) all of the northern drainages of the Cascades have been absolutely devastated by Canadian forest practices.

My first experience with the Canadian disregard for the border area came in the early seventies with a visit to the U.S. Chilliwacks via Depot Creek. Depot has been cut to the border swath (also the NCNP boundary) its entire length and to 4000 feet on all sides.

What about the other drainages? A complete review follows (from west to east.)

Tamithi Creek (drains Tomyhoi Lake and vicinity). Cut to the border.

Slesse Creek (a huge drainage called Silesia Creek in the U.S., drains the western border of N.C.N.P.): Heavily logged in the fifties and sixties. Now the site of renewed road building and logging on very steep unstable slopes. New road has cut the Slesse Mtn. Trail with logging to within one mile of the border. Site of a many hundred acre Canadian Armed Forces practice area. (Yes. they set off bombs in this valley, in the U.S. we consider it a park.)

Nesakwatch Creek (drains the N.E. corner of N.C.N.P.): Also logged heavily in the fifties and sixties. Gave Beckey great access to the N.E. Ridge of Slesse. Washed out completely for many years. Last fall new road construction has reopened the old roadbed. My suspicion is that the many trees left further up the valley (south of the Mt. Rexford

access and close to the N.C.N.P. boundary) will soon be cut.

Centre Creek (between Nesakwatch and Chilliwack Lake): Not a tree left in the valley. Road now washed out by erosion from clearcutting.

Chilliwack River (road to within 1 mile of the border): Although the lake shore is protected this area is far from what I would call a *park*.

Depot Creek (described above)

Maselpanik Creek (principal north drainage between the Chilliwack and the Skagit): I counted them, three trees left in the drainage. The most heavily roaded valley I have ever seen. A park! Perhaps in 1000 years.

Skagit (drive past the border at Ross Lake): A pleasant place but the Winnebagos clash with my concept of *wilderness*.

Lightning and Castle Creeks (Manning Park, western Pasayten Wilderness): Somewhat protected by Manning Park (though Castle Creek has been logged.)

Pasayten River (principal drainage of the central Pasayten Wilderness): Drive to within 1 mile of the border. Active logging.

Ashnola River (principal drainage of the eastern Pasayten Wilderness): Drive to within 2 miles of the border. Active logging.

Don Goodman
Mercer Island

EDITOR: Don Goodman makes an accurate assessment of the problems. For NCCC statement, see page 10, this issue.

Stehekin Is Vital to Environmentalists

Dear Wild Cascades

The suggestion has been made that your estimable publication would benefit from Member Letters.

I'm a Member, since 1957. Here's my Letter.

I have heard the sentiment expressed by great big impressive environmentalists so bloated by Conference experience they think they know it all *about* it all: "Stehekin is *boring*. It's such a *little* valley. The North Cascades are large. Ex-

tend into Canada. And what about the Oregon Cascades? Why put so much of our effort into this piddling little piece of property inhabited by so few piddling little people?"

The Stehekin Valley is a little valley. Right. About the same dimensions as the Yosemite Valley.

The whole environmentalist world knows what has happened to Yosemite. When we saw Stehekin going the same way, and we resolved to stand and fight, the Environmentalist Establishment begged off. They had Conferences to attend, the Press to entertain, Foundations to brown-nose. Our People embarrassed them by asking: "WOULD YOU RATHER SETTLE THIS AFFAIR IN STEHEKIN OR IN ALASKA?" (The "affair," of course, being the saving of the soul of the National Park Service.)

The Reagan-Bush Administration handed Alaska over to the Alaskans. The Park Service wilted, but didn't die. Not yet. The life of the National Park Service aside, there still is a question to be resolved about its soul. In order to save and revive the soul of the National Park Service in Alaska (and Yosemite), we first have to preserve it in Stehekin.

Our Stehekin concerns are for a little but magnificent patch of Earth. Far more basic, and totally ignored by the littleminded Conferences and the little-big domes of the fringes of academia, is THE SOUL OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. We have got to save that soul from the NPS pensionaries, from the Washington, D.C. functionaries, and from the exploiters in Stehekin, Chelan, Olympia, and golly knows where from these hungry mouths swarm.

If we lose Stehekin, we can forget the blue-sky dreams of the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem and Earth National Park, visions which have gained such fond (and merited) attention.

I, myself, have been accused of promoting a certain amount of blue sky in my time. But unless it has roots in the dirty Earth, it is no more real politically than the verses of Kahlil Gibran are real poetry. Read Gibran, pluck guitars when you're a college sophomore. Later, after you finish Annie Dillard (15 minutes max) join the N3C and work to save Stehekin. Then we can move on to the big blue sky.

Harvey Manning

Hikers don't need grizzlies

July 20, 1993

Letter-to-the-Editor:

The "exchange" of letters between Kevin Herrick and Harvey Manning about grizzly bears in the June issue ignored whether there should be a governmental policy to reintroduce grizzlies into the Cascades. Reintroduction involves liability for the taxpayer, morally and financially. A mauling by a grizzly that has never been moved by man would probably be regarded by the courts as an "act of God," whereas injury or death by a bear that had been moved into the area would be the responsibility of the agency that moved the bear, and ultimately, all citizens. Substantive discussion of this issue would have been more helpful than the adolescent taunt about being "chicken" if you don't want to live with a grizzly.

Manning's attack on those of us who believe that man is at the top of the hierarchy of living things (anthropocentrism) as Goretex-clad yuppies, religious fanatics who are simply "fraidy cats," is offensive, coming from an individual who has earned more than a few dollars from books that promote the use of the wilderness.

However, the issue Manning raised about anthropocentric values is of fundamental importance, and deserved more discussion. After a lifetime, not based on the Old Testament as he suggests, I conclude that all life has value, but that man is at the top of the hierarchy, particularly when life or death is concerned, as it is with chance encounters between man and grizzly. I do not believe that man has an absolute right; for example, the right to a particular occupation or business is only relative. I oppose cutting any more old growth forests, which are far more important to mankind than the preservation of one species, or a logging job.

Manning does not specify his underlying beliefs that permit a devaluation of man's position in the hierarchy of plants and animals. Why are wilderness and biodiversity (the new buzz word for biologists) more important than mankind? Are these new gods? (For the record, I believe that mankind will benefit from protecting wilderness, and to a lesser extent, biodiversity, but these do not deserve an absolute priority.) In any case, opposing man's place at the top of the hierarchy is an unlikely strategy for success for the conservation movement; do radical conservationists expect a majority of voters to support operations where man becomes the victim?

Some arguments by these radicals suggest that man is their enemy, and the more we do to keep him out of the wilderness, the better, whether the instrument is closing access roads and neglecting trails, or reintroducing grizzlies. (What next? Rattlesnakes on the west side of the mountains?). This "lock it up and keep 'em out" philosophy will predictably alienate many conservationists who currently use the wilderness.

To me, a very desirable feature of the Washington Cascades is the absence of truly dangerous animals. It is a delight to go to sleep at night in these mountains without worrying about what's outside my bivvy bag or tent. I am happy to expose myself to the risks of climbing during the day—and an occasional evening—as I have done for 30 years, but I will do everything I can to prevent reintroduction of grizzlies here to satisfy someone's ideology.

Warren Guntheroth M.D.
13201 42nd NE
Seattle, WA 98125

EDITOR: The question is moot. Grizzly bear do not need to be reintroduced in the North Cascades. They have always been here. We do need to ensure enough habitat for native creatures to coexist, including humankind.

Stehekin but one of many issues facing environmentalists

August 18, 1993
Dear *Wild Cascades*:

. . . I want to amplify a point raised at the (August Board) meet(ing). Over the years there has been concern that the N3C Board spends too great a percentage of its time on Stehekin issues. I am in full agreement and I am a Stehekin activist. This is an exciting period for the conservation movement in the Cascades. Important and pressing issues, including restoration, grazing, grizzlies, forests, mining, endangered species, ecosystem protection, enlargement of the park and creation of an international one to say nothing of philosophical issues of wildness and appropriate human wilderness activity, abound. But it is not myopic on the part of the Board, or part of the Board, to devote energy to scale back a proposed resort in the Stehekin Valley.

The N3C has always to my knowledge, operated on a *de facto* committee system basis: those who want to be active in a particular arena do so

with others similarly inclined. That some members of the N3C Board work on Stehekin issues should not mean other areas of concern are omitted. If more effort was expended on problems unrelated or peripherally pertinent to Stehekin, the overall percentage of time spent on things immediately Stehekin would assume a more reasonable level. An activist stance towards Stehekin does not demand abandonment of the rest of a very large mountain range.

It is time for all of us to be more active. There are many issues to be addressed and there remains the prospect of a political atmosphere friendlier now than in the recent past. Let us exert ourselves in areas beyond the Stehekin Valley. Perhaps recreation of formal committees to focus on specific issues would enhance our efforts; I endorse anything that works. And perhaps that's the point — let's all get to work.

Happy trails,
Jim McConnell

EDITOR: Jim McConnell is vice president of the NCCC.

Every Letter Counts

Write:

President Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Secretary of the Interior
Bruce Babbitt
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Governor Mike Lowry
Olympia, WA 98504

Your State Senator or Representative
Olympia, WA 98504

Your U.S. Senator
Washington D.C. 20510

Your U.S. Representative
Washington D.C. 20510

**DON'T JUST SIT THERE—
Hit the streets — hit the trails — and
RECRUIT!**

The Stehekin Valley is not yet secure. Lake Chelan is entirely at risk.
The North Cascades International Park is a vision
which must be given bones and flesh.
The valley, the Lake and the Park-to-Be
look to **YOU**.

BUT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH OF YOU.

So clone yourself.

The quick and simple way is to give a friend -- an acquaintance -- a neighbor -- a relative -- a hiking companion -- a public official -- a stranger met on the trail -- a membership in the North Cascades Conservation Council, which carries with it a subscription to *The Wild Cascades*.



Yes, I hereby give a gift membership to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Enclosed is a check for \$20 for individual membership: _____
(or other)

Yes, I hereby give a second gift membership to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Enclosed is a check for \$20 for individual membership: _____
(If you clone yourself crazy, use a separate sheet of paper!) (or other)

[Each recipient will receive a gift note in time for the holidays]

Please send your gift list to: Laura Zalesky, Membership Chair, NCCC,
2433 Del Campo Road, Everett, WA. 98210



**The North Cascades Conservation Council
Invites You to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of
The North Cascades National Park Complex**

Now more than ever the North Cascades needs the NCCC to protect it from the "civilizing" forces that threaten to take the Wild out of the Cascades

Join NCCC members and invited guests at this fundraiser-banquet to commemorate past accomplishments and to renew our commitment to the future of a wild North Cascades

Keynote Speaker: Dave Brower

November 6, 1993

The Mountaineers Building - 300 Third Avenue West in Seattle

6:00 Cocktail Hour

7:00 Banquet

For tickets and information call The North Cascades Conservation Council
(206) 343-2312
before October 27, 1993

There will be no tickets sold at the door

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