

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948

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Fisher to Return to Olympic Forests

by Tim McNulty

This fall, Olympic National Park took a major step toward restoring its forest ecosystem: restoring fishers to the lowland forest. If public response is any indication, the proposal is already a success.

In a draft reintroduction plan and environmental assessment (EA) released in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in September, the two agencies propose to release up to 100 fishers into park forests. The animals would be captured in British Columbia, where healthy populations still exist, and released over a three-year period into lowland forest areas from the Elwha to the Quinault. The animals would be closely monitored to evaluate the reintroduction. (For background, see *Return of the Fisher* in the winter, 2006, *Voice*).

Fishers (*Martes pennanti*) are sleek, cat-size hunters of the lowland forest. They were once common in Olympic forests but they were wiped out by commercial trapping and logging in the early decades of the last century. Only a few isolated populations remain on the West Coast. The fisher is listed as endangered by Washington State and is a candidate for federal listing.

Comment period closed for the EA in October, but the park received just under 200 responses to the proposal – a large number for an EA. The overwhelming majority expressed enthusiastic support. A final decision is due in November.

This reintroduction would restore a key predator to one of the most spectacular forest ecosystems in the U.S., with ecological benefits that would reverberate through the forest wildlife community.

Fishers are reclusive, prefer remote forests, and would not pose a threat to humans or livestock. A 2004 WDFW feasibility study found that Olympic Park forests provide the best opportunity to restore fishers in Washington



Photo from Massachusetts Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

State. Fishers have been reintroduced successfully in Oregon, Idaho and Montana, so chances for success here are high. Partial funding has been promised by USGS and private organizations.

There was some concern on the peninsula about restrictions on industrial forestlands. But even if the animal becomes federally listed, it will not impose undue economic costs on timber lands. The EA points out that Washington State and several logging companies already have habitat conservation plans in place, which cover fisher habitat. Known den sites would be off limits to logging activity only during active denning. The vast majority of suitable fisher habitat, 85 percent, is on national park and national forest lands. Less than one percent is on private forest lands. *Continued on P. 3, Fisher*

OPA Board Meetings

Next: November 14

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Kingston Community Center

Please join us. OPA members are always welcome at Board meetings.

The regular OPA Board meetings are in the Kingston Community Center on the 4th Wednesday of odd-numbered months, except for Thanksgiving, and no meeting in July.

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OPA Supports Appeal of Elwha Mining

by John Woolley

Roaring gravel trucks and the thunder of rock blasting are now part of the visitors' experience as they drive the Elwha River road into Olympic National Park. Wildlife and hikers, as well as local residents, endure noisy distractions in a place where one has expected serenity.

Puget Sound Surfacers, Inc. has secured a permit to access their 40-acre site under the Forest Practices Act, which permits "exploration". By keeping mining operations to less than 3 acres, Puget Sound Surfacers are using DNR's forest practices permit to avoid mining regulation jurisdiction by either the DNR or Clallam County.

Though logging is not the intent of this operation, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) claims that they have issued the permit properly.

Clallam County does have jurisdiction because the site is considered a critical area – land that is environmentally sensitive because of wetlands, aquatic habitats, rivers, and

landslide hazard areas. The quarry site, on Olympic Hot Springs Road, falls into this category because it has been designated a landscape hazard area. Its slopes exceed the critical 65 percent; indeed, the site has slopes up to 120 percent grade.

Toby Thaler, lawyer for the local citizen group, Upper Elwha Conservation Committee says it appears that "they are evading county jurisdiction over this messy operation."

The marbled murrelet, an endangered species, nests in the area, so blasting was prohibited from April 1 to August 31. Protesters attempted to block blasting operations that were performed March 30 and 31. Blasting has been permitted since Sept 1.

OPA has decided to support the Elwha citizens in their effort to see that "state laws are properly implemented, and public resources appropriately conserved." DNR is allowing mining with little or no mitigation. Mining neglects the needs of salmon, which need no more silt in their waters. Noise and visual pollution at a major entrance to Olympic National Park is just not acceptable.

A hearing before the Forest Practices Appeal Board, scheduled for April 28, 2008, in Port Angeles, will determine whether the quarry is operating legally under the law.

**For more information,
see <http://web.mac.com/savetheupperelwha>**

Fisher, continued from P. 1.

The EA also clearly points out the National Park Service's obligation to restore extirpated wildlife. Olympic National Park was established in part to protect native wildlife. The NPS Management Policies (2006) states that the Park Service will strive to restore the biological and physical components of natural systems in parks, including restoring plants and animals. The same management policies recognize designated wilderness as "a composite resource with interrelated parts," and that indigenous species are central components of wilderness and the wilderness experience.

As climate change and an increasing population threaten natural areas, it is critical that complete ecosystems be restored and preserved as the best means for natural systems to cope with dramatic change. Fishers are an important part of the restoration of the Olympic peninsula's forests.

OPA looks forward to the reestablishment of this missing species at Olympic National

Park. As we wrote in OPA's comment letter on the EA, "We commend the Park Service for producing an outstanding plan. It should serve as a model for future species reintroductions in Olympic and elsewhere."

Fisher kits, courtesy of Mass. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.



**The Fisher Reintroduction Plan / EA is available on the park planning web site:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov:80document.cfm?parkId=329&projectId=10586&documentID=20405>.**

For more information, go to olympicparkassociates.org

Biologist-Divers Complete 42-mile Snorkel Survey of Elwha River

by Barb Maynes, Olympic National Park

In one of the longest snorkel surveys ever completed in North America, fisheries biologists recently swam the length of the Elwha River – from its headwaters to its mouth – with a goal of establishing a baseline of the river’s fish population before dam removal begins.

The forty-two mile underwater trip began at an elevation of 2,250 feet, just above Chicago Camp in the upper Elwha Valley, and ended at sea level where the river enters the Strait of Juan de Fuca, west of Port Angeles.

Twenty-one biologists from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Peninsula College, and the Wild Salmon Center participated in the snorkel survey. The study was primarily funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“We are very grateful to our many partners who provided staff, expertise and support for this landmark study,” said Olympic National Park Superintendent

Bill Laitner. “As we continue to move closer to removing the two Elwha River dams, it’s vitally important that we have an understanding of the ecosystem as it is today.”

“Establishing a baseline of fish populations before dam removal will help us better understand and measure the success of dam removal and restoration,” Laitner continued.

Biologists found the greatest diversity of fish below the two dams, an expected result since the dams have blocked fish access since they were constructed in the early 1900s. Excellent fish habitat exists above the dams however, where the river is protected within Olympic National Park.

In the five river miles below the dams, divers observed Chinook, pink, and coho salmon, along with sculpin, bull trout, threespine sticklebacks, starry flounder, and freshwater mussels.

Above the dams, snorkelers encountered only rainbow trout and bull trout, species that have been physically isolated from their counterparts below the dams for over 90 years. Rainbow trout, bull trout and one non-native brook trout were found between the two dams.

In total, divers observed 7,300 rainbow trout, 215 bull trout, 539 adult Chinook salmon, and 26 pink salmon. The bull trout and Chinook salmon found in the Elwha River are both listed as threatened on the federal endangered species list.

“Perhaps the most riveting aspect of the headwaters to ocean survey was the reality that Pacific salmonids will be rewarded with exceptionally high quality spawning gravels in remote sections of Olympic National Park following dam removal,” said Sam Brenkman, fisheries biologist at Olympic National Park.

The Elwha River was once one of the most productive salmon streams in the Pacific Northwest, home to all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as other fish species. The Elwha and Giles Canyon dams have blocked fish from all but the lowest five miles of the river since the early 1900s. Removal of the two dams will restore the Elwha to its natural, free-flowing state and will once again allow fish access to over 70 river miles of habitat now protected within Olympic National Park. Dam removal will begin after water quality protection facilities are complete.



Above, a biologist/snorkeler records baseline data on Elwha River.

Below, a rainbow trout in the upper Elwha.

Photos courtesy of National Park Service.



Ed Tisch

October 28, 1937- September 6, 2007

OPA has lost a long-time and much-loved trustee, Ed Tisch. Ed was a friend, botanist, teacher, poet, and a devotee of Robert Frost and John Burroughs. He brought valuable knowledge and wisdom to OPA discussions of Olympic ecology, and wrote many fascinating botanical articles for the *Voice* over the years.

Ed grew up Catskill Mountains, and earned a master's degree in wildlife biology at the University of Montana. He spent two years as one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in Chile and remained in touch with the families he met there.

The following are excerpts from a memorial article written by Ed Schriener and Diane Doss, friends and former students of Ed Tisch.

It is with great sadness we must report the passing of Ed Tisch. Ed was a botanist and teacher extraordinaire, spending 41 years teaching biology and botany in Port Angeles, Washington at Peninsula College.... Ed was a friend and mentor to many.... His boundless enthusiasm for the natural world, particularly plants, was contagious. During his teaching career he taught on the order of 9,000 students....

People who did not know Ed have no idea of the magnitude of his contribution to botany.... Ed Tisch initiated... a renewed interest in the unique flora of the Olympic Peninsula.

Ed Tisch arrived on the Olympic Peninsula in 1966; the first of his more than 100 specimens in the ONP herbarium is dated 31 August, 1966. Up to that point there were approximately 2,200 vascular plant specimens in the park herbarium; today there are nearly 8,000 specimens. Of these, more than half are attributable to Ed, his students, and friends.

In addition to encouraging botanical exploration of the Peninsula, Ed discovered two previously undescribed taxa: *Saxifraga tischii* Skelly and *Corallorhiza maculata* Raf. var. *ozettensis* E.L. Tisch.

The collaboration of Ed [with two former students] led to publication of *Vascular Plants of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington: A Catalog* and later, a list of 100 or so native plants not previously known to occur on the Olympic Peninsula.

Ed Tisch was a man of many talents.... In 1974 he co-founded the Foothills Poetry Series (now the Foothills Writers Series) along with Peninsula College English professor Jack Estes and local poets Tim McNulty and Mike O'Connor. Ed continued to write poetry, publishing several in a special book, *At the Open End of a Flower*....

Celebrations of Ed Tisch's life were held by Peninsula College and by family and friends in Port Angeles.

Ed's family is establishing an Ed Tisch scholarship fund at Peninsula College for the study of the natural environment on the North Olympic Peninsula.

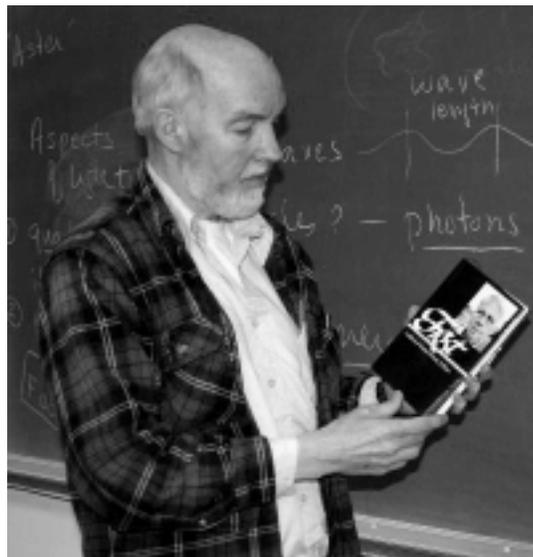


Photo by Lynn Edgington, from Peninsula College *Buccaneer*, June 13, 2007.

Resurrection

by Ed Tisch

Small alder stump
four inches at the crown...
twelve summers it grew,
donning moss socks,
reaching for light,
trespassing on a road.

Then someone in charge of space
nipped it two feet high,
pridefully *put it down*.

Today the saw-cut darkens;
death seems imminent.
But half-way down
six dormant buds awaken,
nudge bark aside,
begin the re-ascent.

Port Angeles, Washington
April 23, 2003

New Park Fees Flop, But Help Is On the Way

A Park Service proposal to increase entrance fees from \$15 to \$25 dollars has flopped in the marketplace. Individual (foot and bicyclist) fee would more than double from \$5 to \$12. Seasonal passes would jump from \$30 to \$50.

The proposed increase was met with a resounding groan.

Local communities and tourist-based industries fear the extra expense would limit park visitation, particularly when coupled with rising gas prices. Others fear it will make Olympic and other high-fee

parks the exclusive domain of the wealthy – and elderly. Lifetime passes for seniors (a powerful lobby) would remain at \$10.

Olympic initiated entrance fees in the 1980s. Currently the park raises \$1.5 million annually from fees. Eighty percent of this remains in the park, where it pays for amenities such as picnic tables, bear-proof food lockers, vault toilets, and updated visitor centers. A park spokesman told the *Seattle Times* the new fee increases would bring in an additional \$400,000 each year.

The park superintendent has not yet recommended a fee increase to the Washington D.C. office.

OPA has long urged strong Congressional support for our national parks, and help may be on the way.

Recently, Congressman Norm Dicks, chair of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, has stepped up and passed a House budget bill that includes an

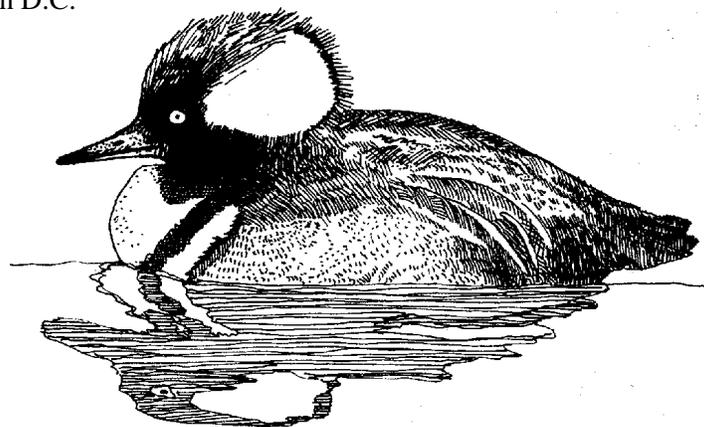
increase of \$199 million for the parks, as well as \$85 million for critical repair and maintenance and \$50 million for the Centennial Challenge Program, which will fund projects of national significance within the parks.

Dicks also guided through the House a \$65 million appropriation for national forest road repair and decommissioning, a \$56 million increase for national wildlife refuge management, and a \$70 million boost in the Land & Water Conservation Fund to purchase critical additions to national parks, preserves, and recreation areas.

At press time, all this has moved over to the Senate for consideration.

It is a pleasure to see a Democratic Congress give well-deserved priority to natural resource issues.

**“It is a pleasure to see a
Democratic Congress
give well-deserved priority
to natural resource issues.”**



Thanks to Congressman Norm Dicks

As Chair of House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, he is championing:

- ◆ \$199 million for national parks
- ◆ \$85 million for critical repair and maintenance
- ◆ \$65 million for national forest road repair and decommissioning
- ◆ \$56 million for national wildlife refuge management
- ◆ \$50 million for Centennial Challenge Program for park projects of national significance
- ◆ \$70 million increase in Land & Water Conservation Fund to purchase critical areas

Dosewallips Road Report Delayed

by Tim McNulty

As fall rains swell the Dosewallips River, the elk hunker down, and salmon and steelhead begin their upriver migrations. But the multi-agency report on the fate of the Dosewallips Road has once more experienced delay.

Apparently, there is no easy way to present three bad choices for road management while refusing to consider the only one that makes sense: convert the road beyond the washout to a trail.

The Forest Service, National Park Service, and federal highway administrators have already announced that the environmental impact statement (EIS) on repairing the Dosewallips Road will not look at the option of trail conversion (see *New Park Service Study to Reconstruct Dosewallips Road* in the Summer, 2007 *Voice*). The rock and the hard-place options the agencies have left are reconstructing the road through critical spawning habitat in the river or building a bypass road up an excessively steep side hill and through a spectacular grove of ancient forest.

Both options would access two primitive campgrounds (that are well-used now by hikers and bicyclists), and two trail heads.

Neither option makes much sense.

But both reflect a Bush administration obsession with motorized access coupled with an utter disregard for the environment, wild-land protections, or federally listed species. Threatened chinook salmon, steelhead, northern spotted owls and marbled murrelet all come into play in this decision.

Unfortunately, what won't come into play in the EIS is a sustainable solution for the Dosewallips Valley, one that would involve a new trail head, parking area, and planning for a downstream campground. A similar solution for the Carbon River Valley at Mount Rainier received strong support from park users and local communities.

The Dosewallips Road EIS is now expected in December. OPA, Olympic Forest Coalition and other organizations are committed to a sensible and sustainable solution for this stunning wild river valley.

Look for announcements in a forthcoming issue of *Voice of the Wild Olympics*, in special mailings, or on OPA's web site at olympicparkassociates.org.



Polly Dyer, Bonnie Phillips, and Tim McNulty visit site of proposed Dosewallips bypass road. Photo by Jim Scarborough

Plan for Jackson Timber Sale Improves

From OFCO News

by Jim Scarborough

The U.S. Forest Service has published a 231-page environmental assessment (EA) for the “Jackson Thinning” timber sale between Quilcene and Brinnon. The Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) has been monitoring this controversial proposal since its roll-out in March, 2005, at which time it landed with a distinct thud. With the sale’s original iteration including logging on the recreational mecca of Mount Walker and the lovely slope of Mount Turner above Hood Canal, public condemnation was swift. A Forest Service-sponsored field trip in ’05 was attended by 28 skeptical folks made up of local residents, conservation organizations, and government agencies. The Forest Service received a petition from 144 individuals opposing the sale.

The public ire directed at the Jackson sale proposal had much to do with its highly visible and visited location along Highway 101, as well as the presence of many neighbors who value the unbroken expanse of green rising above their back doors. The area’s popularity and accessibility contributed to its designation as “scenic” in Olympic National Forest’s 1990 Land and Resource Management Plan. Also tripping the alarms, however, was Jackson’s focus on logging much older forest than had been seen in any Olympic National Forest timber sale since the bitterly contested “salvage rider” old-growth logging of the mid-1990s. Extensive swaths of naturally regenerated forest dating from fires in the late 1800s blanket the area, particularly on Mounts Walker and Turner. The latter peak also sports remnant legacy trees over three hundred years of age.

The Forest Service packages each timber sale these days in the guise of “accelerating” the development of old-growth conditions. Relying primarily on Oregon-based research in dryer, warmer forests, the supposition that thinning somehow improves maturing (i.e., greater than 50 years of age) second-growth forests has been hotly debated. But in the case of the Jackson sale, it was clear that this stated justification was mostly window dressing. The forest of Mounts Walker and Turner is wholly natural and just a few decades away from achieving genuine old-growth status all on its

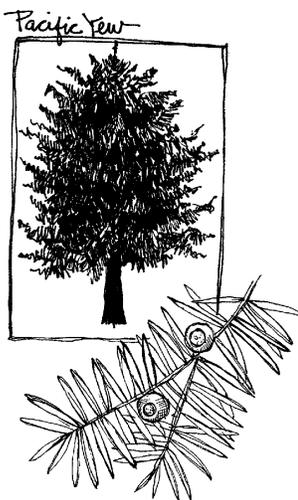
own. Like generations of trees before, much of this forest has sprung up nicely from a stand-replacement fire, an infrequent but typical disturbance phenomenon in this unique, maritime-influenced part of the Olympic rainshadow.

As Teddy Roosevelt once said about another special place: “Keep this great wonder as it is. You cannot improve it. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it.” We believe the winds, rain and sun should continue to have their way on the deep forest cloaking Mount Walker and Mount Turner. The elements there need no help from us.

Consequently, we were mostly pleased to receive the Jackson EA in late August, which eliminates the proposed logging units in Mount Turner’s ample marbled murrelet habitat, and appears to also be backing away from cutting on Mount Walker. Our sense is the local community will simply not allow Walker to be subjected to the chainsaw – a view District Ranger Dean Yoshina appears to share in his introductory letter to the EA, where he states his preference for a “modified” Alternative B, which includes no Walker units.

On the downside, though, Mr. Yoshina desires to keep “Unit 6” near Rocky Brook Falls in the sale. Unit 6 is in a Late Successional Reserve, where the forest is ostensibly managed for the maintenance and/or development of old-growth characteristics, with no silvicultural activity allowed in forest over 80 years of age. The Forest Service views Unit 6 as younger than this age limit, but field visits by OFCO have in fact revealed three age classes of trees intermixed there – two of which are well over 80 years. Given that the Jackson sale’s stated purpose and need revolves around moving targeted stands toward older forest conditions (putting aside for a moment the improbability of logging achieving anything of the sort), it makes little sense to retain Unit 6, which already features abundant older-forest attributes. Even without Unit 6, Alternative B would still log 1,606 acres.

As feared, haul road construction still plagues this sale, too – a perennial issue the Forest Service is either unable or unwilling to face despite degraded watersheds, depressed salmon stocks, and vast public monies being expended to help an ailing Puget Sound. Five



Please send
comments to:

Forest Supervisor Dale Hom,
c/o Yewah Lau, Hood Canal Ranger District
P.O. Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376,

or email to: comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic-hoodcanal@fs.fed.us.

Continued on P. 9, Jackson

Book Review:**Day Hiking, Olympic Peninsula**

by Craig Romano, The Mountaineers Books, 360 pages, \$18.95

Reviewed by Tim McNulty

As one who first broke-in his old, leather hiking boots under the influence of Bob Wood's 1968 classic, *Trail Country, Olympic National Park*, I've been uneasy with the string of Olympic hiking guides that have followed.

Wood's trail guide was updated, expanded and reissued by The Mountaineers in 1984 as the definitive *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide, National Park and National Forest* (now in its 3rd edition, \$18.95 from The Mountaineers Books). Wood's guide offers more than accurate route descriptions: it shares an intimacy with the back country won over a lifetime of passionate exploration. Wood remarked knowledgeably on the Olympics' geology, natural history, human history (of which he was an expert), as well as the conservation issues that swirl over the area like storm clouds.

Having written about topics previously covered by Bob Wood, I know he is a tough act to follow. Nevertheless, a gaggle of Olympic hiking guides have risen to the occasion. My rough count, including Harvey Manning and Ira Spring's *100 Hikes in the South Cascades and Olympics* is a half dozen. The newest, Craig Romano's *Day Hiking: Olympic Peninsula* is easily the best of the lot.

Romano covers not only national park and forest hikes, but lowland rambles from the Columbia River (a new range extension for the Olympic Peninsula) to Bainbridge Island. Included are lowland hikes around Olympia and Aberdeen as well as popular hikes in the park. The book is arranged geographically and features a handy matrix listing distance, difficulty, kid friendliness, and such for each hike. Descriptions include excellent area maps showing roads, trails and topographic

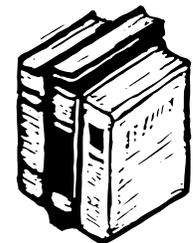
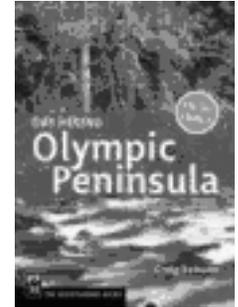
features, and diagrams of elevations and mileages. Black and white photos are sprinkled throughout.

The book is compact, easy to use and comprehensive. Still, Romano manages to miss a few. You won't find the beautiful, all-season West Elwha Trail described here (though it's mentioned as an "obscure trail"). And the stunning old-growth forest along the short Shady Lane Trail at Skokomish (one of Bob Wood's favorites) gets no mention at all.

But these are small points to be sure. A more serious disagreement with the author is over the Dosewallips Road.

In an extended sidebar, Romano favors reconstructing the road, even though it could mean "losing some old-growth trees and possibly increasing sedimentation in the river." He gives extensive coverage to the arguments for reopening the road, including the discredited charge that "local businesses have been hard hit" by the closure. He equates motorized access with public access, a strange position for the author of hiking guide: "If the tax-paying public can't access their lands, will they continue to vote to support them?" The Arctic Refuge has once again provided the answer to that tiresome rhetorical question: Americans everywhere will vote for them.

The late Robert Wood and Harvey Manning were committed wilderness activists first, who shared their passion for wildlands in their guidebooks. Both served on OPA's board. Romano supports wilderness designation for national forest roadless areas, and has written a book on preserving the Columbia highlands. But he fosters the impression that day-hiking enthusiasts today seem more committed to ease of access than to the wild areas they promote.



Jackson, continued from P. 8

and a half miles of new road construction on both virgin alignments and old, vegetated grades would occur even with Alternative B, which is unacceptable. Much of this would occur in a Late Successional Reserve, where the Northwest Forest Plan makes clear that road construction "generally is not recommended." Helpfully, though, the Forest Service does include an Alternative C in the Jackson EA that would entail less than a mile of new road

construction, but which includes logging on Mount Walker with helicopters (a certain no-go).

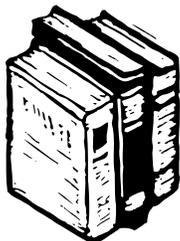
OFCO will be submitting formal comments to the Forest Service on the Jackson sale and encourages you to do the same. We would be willing to accept a "hybrid" sale design, joining Alternative B's elimination of the Mount Walker units (and minus the "modified" B's Unit 6) with Alternative C's scaling back of harmful road construction.

Book Review and Wilderness Philosophy:

Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades

by Harvey Manning with the North Cascades Conservation Council. Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham Washington. Copyright 2007 by North Cascades Conservation Council, PO Box 95980, University Station, Seattle, Washington 98145.

Reviewed by
Philip H. Zalesky



This book, *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades*, was written and edited by the participants in the events to be discussed in this review. Most of the copy has been written by Harvey Manning. Ken Wilcox, together with some North Cascades Conservation Council board members, who took over the editing of the book, rewrote portions of it and added sections about some of the events that happened in recent years.

Sally Soest, editor of *Voice of the Wild Olympics*, pushed the book to me, asking me to write a review for the *Voice*. I stalled her in my best procrastination mode. Why? Because I was one of the participants and I could not get a handle on how to go about writing a review.

That changed recently after attending a national Wilderness Society gathering for their Governing Council at Sun Mountain Lodge near Winthrop. The gathering was a prelude to a North Cascades Initiative that the Wilderness Society is working toward. That event gave me a purpose for this book review. This book, I realized after I left the meeting, is a guide book (a cook book, if you will) on how to create a national park and/or a wilderness area on public land.

During dinner on the second evening of the Wilderness Society's gathering, one of the eminent leaders of their Governing Council asked to sit at our table to hear about how the North Cascades Conservation Council helped create a national park. He sat between my wife, Laura, and me as I sketched that story for him. What emerged in 35 minutes of discussion was a troubling contrast in philosophies – the idealists of the classical conservation organizations in the Northwest, versus a newly collaborative philosophy among those who believe in a so-called “new reality”.

“Idealist” Conservation

During dinner I described essentially the history that is recorded in *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades* – how we created North Cascades National Park. I explained that after World War II the Northwest was a dead zone for conservation. The Mountaineers emerged out of its conservation doldrums, and conservation-minded citizens brought wilderness

conferences to Portland and Seattle. Attendees included national leaders in conservation such as Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society, George Marshall (brother of Robert Marshall), David Brower of the Sierra Club, and Fred Packard of National Parks Association.

Out of The Mountaineers, the North Cascades Conservation Council emerged, to take up the special issues of wilderness and public land. This movement was kick-started by Brower and Grant McConnell of Stehekin, Vice-Provost of the University of California at Santa Barbara. It was the first step toward creating a national park in the North Cascades.

We saw the need to build public support from other organizations: local people interested in the hiking and climbing, and the public at large. We visited Senator Scoop Jackson in his office who, told us, “You get up the parade, and I will lead it.” So we did. One result was a film by Brower, *Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin*, with many copies produced. Local organizations always seemed to need a program, and the film *Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin* filled that need. So local people were exposed to the magnificence and beauty of the North Cascades.

In addition, two table-top format books were published, one by The Mountaineers and one by the Sierra Club. Beautiful and enticing photos demonstrated the special character of the Northwest mountains. Both books included literary quality writing by Harvey Manning and others.

Step by step, public interest was building for this parade. Finally two major Northwest media companies entered in. Young KING TV produced a program essentially even-handed, but the ammunition thrown in by the “idealistic” conservationists overwhelmed the special interests. Then came the *Seattle Times* with a series of personal editorials from one of its lead editors, Walt Woodward, promoting a national park. Little by little we built up public support for Scoop's parade.

When Senator Jackson passed a national park bill in the Senate, Wayne Aspinall of the House Committee on Interior was not happy, and scheduled a hearing in Seattle to hear what the locals thought, no doubt from the urging of

Wilderness, continued on P. 11.

Wilderness, continued from P. 10.

Jackson. At the time of this dinner discussion with our Wilderness Society leader, I cited the number who wanted to testify. Afterward I went back to *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict*, I found I had been far, far too low in the estimate. Actually the number asking to testify was between 700 to 800 people. This wave of testimony was due largely to the diligent efforts of one man – Patrick Goldsworthy, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council. (At this point in our dinner discussion with the leader of the Wilderness Society, he turned to some staff people nearby and said, “Now this is what you have to do.”)

As Aspinall walked into the hearing room fuming, he was heard saying, “Who are these people anyway!” Representative Morris Udall found another room in the Benjamin Franklin hotel where he and Representative Lloyd Meeds heard additional testimony from people for two days. People were asked to draw straws to testify and others were asked to just submit their paper testimony.

The parade succeeded! The “idealists” won the day! The bill passed, and we had a new national park! The book, *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington’s North Cascades*, is a fine history of the accomplishment of volunteer conservationists.

“Realist” Conservation: Collaborating Our Wilderness Away?

In the next stage of our dinner discussion the Wilderness Society leader espoused a very different philosophy. He said that the world has changed, and old tactics often are not sufficient. In Idaho you had to be “realistic.” “Traditional tactics simply would not work. You have to collaborate with groups and the community to get what you can get.”

So this explains what happened with the Boulder-White Cloud Wilderness bill. The Wilderness Society was just one of the players developing a wilderness proposal. Land conveyance backers, economic interests, and motorized advocacy groups were part of the group.

Although the local Idaho Wilderness Society had worked hard for wilderness, the resulting “collaboration”, in my opinion, is a disaster. It would leave open an existing single-track motorized trail lying between two proposed Wilderness Areas. The proposal would prohibit any federal reservation of water

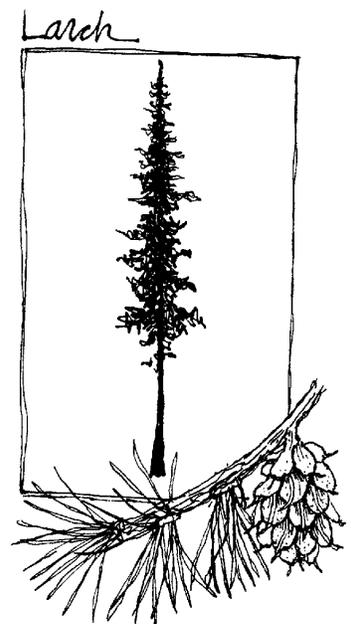
rights in wilderness. The bill hands over about 7,000 acres of federal land to towns in Custer and Blaine counties to be opened for second home development, with the goal of creating a local tax base on currently federal land. Fifty million dollars of private easement money dedicated for scenic land in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area will be given away, including an easement of land funded by donations of \$341,000 to be presented to the town of Stanley. A policy of no net loss of motorized trails, mainly in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, means that if one trail is closed due to environmental damage, equivalent new mileage must be opened up elsewhere. The Boulder-White Cloud Wilderness proposal ended up wrapped into the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation (CIEDRA) Plan, H.R. 222.

Laura, John Edwards, and I peppered our Wilderness Society dinner companion with questions. We said that groups such as our Olympic Park Associates and North Cascades Conservation Council were frightened by the implications of this sort of collaboration. Was this going to be the new public policy of the Wilderness Society? Representative Mike Simpson of Idaho introduced the CIEDRA bill, and a Simpson staff member for public lands was quoted as saying, “We think stand-alone wilderness is done. The trend seems to be towards legislation based on compromise among various interests.” (This staff member formerly worked for Representative Greg Walton of Oregon, who had created the Steens Mountain Wilderness Area, a “collaboration” with the cattle industry.)

This new “realistic” philosophy of collaboration coming from a national environmental leader like The Wilderness Society concerns us deeply. This approach is in stark contrast to the successful campaigns described in the book being reviewed. This is why you should read *Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington’s North Cascades* as a guide-book.

Our philosophy of vigorous grassroots involvement and “idealistic” reluctance to compromise away our treasures has been successful in the past, and should continue to be so. Copies of this “guide” book were given to members of the Wilderness Society’s Governing Council and to a few staff members, with some hope that their North Cascades Initiative develops differently from what happened in Idaho.

“Our philosophy of vigorous grassroots involvement and ‘idealistic’ reluctance to compromise away our treasures has been successful in the past, and should continue to be so.”





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 Sally W. Soest, Editor

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Were it not for alert and watchful groups like Olympic Park Associates and the North Cascades Conservation Council... the parks and forests would be in shambles under commercial control.

Michael Frome, noted conservationist, writer and wilderness advocate.



Tisch's saxifrage. Photo by Malcolm McGregor.