

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

October 1960



The resources of the earth do not exist just to be spent
for the comfort, pleasure, or convenience
of the generation or two who first learn how to use them.
Some of the resources exist for saving
and what diminishes them diminishes all mankind.—DAVID BROWER

In the foreword to *This Is the American Earth*

The Uneasy Chair

The North Cascades Wilderness —Almost Half Safe

The Glacier Peak Wilderness Area has now been officially declared—458,505 acres of the North Cascades have been given protection under the U-1 Regulations of the U.S. Forest Service. Roads are forbidden, other than for access to privately owned property and for mining; commercial timber cutting and other kinds of commercialization are excluded.

The declaration of this area by the Secretary of Agriculture is an important first step toward protection of part of the scenic climax in the Cascades. Although this first step has been two decades in the coming, it does represent a genuine achievement for conservation. Many dedicated people have given their time and energies without hope of reward other than the knowledge that destruction of the nation's heritage within these irregular boundaries has for a time been stopped. They can take some satisfaction in the thought that the struggle has not been useless.

Hearing Statements Strong for Preservation

The Forest Service tabulated 112 statements at the public hearings on the Glacier Peak proposal; 858 letters and telegrams came in too. Most were for conservation, even though the hearing sites, Bellingham and Wenatchee, were places where the local timber interest, not the national recreational interest, were centered.

It is safe to say that, since the earlier Forest Service proposal was much worse than what has now ensued, these statements and the other efforts made by conservationists have had an effect.

The most notable improvement gained is the protection of the Agnes Valley. Part of Phelps Creek Valley and Schaefer Lake have been added to the protected area. The Forest Service has not withdrawn its restoration of the area about Lyman Lake, which at one time was excised from the planned wilderness area. These are real gains for the public interest.

But Wilderness May be Eliminated Without a Hearing

There must be no illusions, however, about what has and has not been won. Protection for the White Chuck Valley has been denied and logging decreed as the future of this approach to the base of Glacier Peak. Although the Forest Service has included the upper Suittale Valley within the lines upon its Wilderness Area map, this concession to the public is unfortunately nullified by the statement in the announcement that "if roads are constructed to mining claims or private lands, the portions of the area affected may be eliminated from the wilderness area without further hearing." The Bear Creek Mining Company has claims and property near Image Lake, part of the classic view of Glacier Peak; it plans roads to these. In the statement quoted the Forest Service has indicated its refusal to temper its own discretion in redrawing the wilderness boundaries. Thus no part of the Suittale Valley can be regarded as protected against destruction. The personal taste and whim of Region 6 of the Forest Service are now the arbiters of this vital area. The public has no further role.

Forbidding as this prospect is, the general statement about the country north of the new Wilderness Area is even worse, for the following are among the places excluded from protection: Trapper Lake, Cascade Pass, Park Creek Pass, Thunder Creek, Flat Creek, Bridge Creek, the setting of Lake Chelan and the Stehekin River, Rainbow Lakes, Lake Ann, Granite Creek, Early Winter Creek—in short, the country in which most of the film, "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin," was photographed. This area, much of which was included in the original proposal for a genuine Glacier Peak Wilderness Area

in 1939, as Robert Marshall and Chief Forester F. A. Silcox envisioned it, holds the very best of the Cascades. From time to time in the last five years conservationists have discussed this area with Forest Service personnel and have been told that once the smaller Glacier Peak Wilderness Area was determined on, the northern area would be considered for protection. Although such an approach violated the principle of regarding the North Cascades Wilderness as the natural unit that it is, conservationists took these statements as meaningful. Now the Forest Service states:

"Forest Service policy for this area, referred to as the Cascade Pass—Ruby Creek Area, will be to manage it primarily for recreational use and the preservation of the scenic values. Roads, campgrounds, winter sports developments, and resorts may be authorized to make the area available to people who are interested in other kinds of outdoor recreation or are unable to undertake wilderness travel. Other uses will be permitted to the extent that they can be properly integrated with recreation and the protection of the scenic attractions."

It Deserves a Better Fate

If there were any policy other than unrestricted official discretion for what constitutes recreation and its proper encouragement, this might be tolerable. As it stands, however, and in the light of maps for timber-access roads in the area, it would be naive to assume that the statement is other than a declaration of intent to open the area to logging.

One of the world's scenic climaxes deserves a better fate than this. The failure of Forest Service policy—or lack of policy—is evident. This may be the best the Forest Service can do, but this is not enough. The next step is an objective study of the park potential in the total area. Conservationists must redouble their efforts.

Chicago, Illinois
September 30, 1960

GRANT MCCONNELL

Rainbow—and More—Still in Great Danger

People concerned about protecting the National Park System from serious threats are writing us in numbers about the confusion caused by a recent article in *Science* by Angus Woodbury, who argues that protection of Rainbow Bridge National Monument would do more harm than good. (Several years ago the same author troubled conservationists by a seemingly objective advocacy of the building of Echo Park dam in Dinosaur National Monument.)

Dr. William R. Halliday, in rebuttal, shows that Woodbury exaggerated the damage that would result from building one of the proposed counterdams. Moreover, Woodbury all but ignored the nondamaging proposal—a counterdam at so-called Site C—which conservationists have agreed upon! *The Sierra Club advocates that the Secretary of the Interior should operate Glen Canyon dam so as to keep Site C unflooded until protection of Rainbow Bridge has been provided—as promised and required by law.*

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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New Glacier Peak Wilderness Brings Both

Commendation and Criticism

CONVERSION of the former Glacier Peak Limited Area to more permanent status as the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area was accomplished in early September by stroke of an administrative pen. The new unit of the Forest Service wilderness system is a Wilderness Area some 36,000 acres greater than that proposed by the Forest Service in 1959. It is a Wilderness Area some 340,000 acres smaller than that proposed two decades ago by Robert Marshall and F. A. Silcox.

The prime question at this point—one that President Pat Goldsworthy of the North Cascades Conservation Council has asked—is, "What do conservationists do now?" Should they be thankful that two corridors have been put back into the wilderness? Or should they be critical of Forest Service officials for excluding the White Chuck Wilderness and the Cascade Pass-Ruby Pass area to the north?

Ever since the February 16, 1959, announcement of the starfish-shaped boundaries for the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, one feature of the Forest Service plan which has received much comment has been that the boundary of the area was deeply indented in several places to allow "corridors" extending toward the center of the wilderness. These corridors were intended, according to the Forest Service, "to accommodate public recreation use through the development of access roads, campgrounds, picnic sites, and resorts which would serve the general public as well as provide hikers and wilderness travelers easier access to the area." Additional commodity utilization, including timber harvesting, also would have been permitted in these corridors.

In general, the consensus was that the excluded corridors were too numerous and too deep. Prominently mentioned in this

regard—particularly at the October 1959 Bellingham and Wenatchee, Washington, hearings—were the Suiattle, Agnes Creek, Phelps Creek, White Chuck, and White River corridors, which crept into the proposed wilderness for 5 to 9 miles. Because of this sentiment, the Forest Service has decided that the proposed Suiattle, Agnes, and Phelps corridors and the area around Schaefer Lake and its environs will be included in the wilderness. Thus the final Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundaries enclose some 458,505 acres of wild country.

In explaining these decisions favorable to the cause of wilderness preservation, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Peterson states that:

The Suiattle corridor is judged to be more valuable for wilderness than for other purposes because it is so closely associated with Glacier Peak. Timber harvesting under normal silvicultural methods in the upper Suiattle Valley would detract materially from the wilderness environment in the vicinity of Glacier Peak and would seriously impair the view of Glacier Peak from such important vista points as Image Lake and Miners Ridge. The Suiattle, being a

glacial stream, has low value for fishing and public camping or picnicking, and the wilderness value of this valley far exceeds its value for roadside recreation developments. Adequate opportunities for roadside recreation are available outside the Wilderness boundaries.

The entire Agnes corridor is placed in the Wilderness because the natural beauty of the low valley floor is an integral part of the Wilderness and forms a beautiful approach to the high country beyond. The timber volumes involved are proportionately small in relation to the total operable commercial timber available. The area is so remote from market and so difficult of access that timber values are low for commercial purposes. The roadside recreation requirements can easily be provided in the nearby Stehekin Valley.

In an attempt to explain the continued deletion of the White Chuck corridor and the even more significant omission of all of the wilderness from Cascade Pass to the North Cascade Primitive area, Secretary Peterson stated:

Boundaries in Railroad Creek and White River are approved as proposed in the notice, because these valleys are already occupied by



Now In—→

The wilderness watershed of the Suiattle River is protected until mining roads deem otherwise.

Photo by Philip Hyde.



Tom Miller

roads and other developments; hence are not suitable for wilderness. The boundary in the White Chuck is approved because timber and roadside recreation values exceed the wilderness value and it is believed that resource development and utilization will not detract materially from the adjoining wilderness . . .

During the hearing spokesmen of several groups proposed that the general area between Cascade Pass and the North Cascade Primitive Area—referred to as the Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area—be added to the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness or be given some other protective status. This rough mountainous area has great scenic attraction and highly important recreation values. It also has other important resource value, and it is probable that a trans-mountain highway will traverse it in the near future. It is believed that the 458,505-acre Glacier Peak Wilderness and the 801,000-acre North Cascade Primitive Area [Editor's Note: *This area is also being considered for reclassification and possible shrinking.*] will provide adequately for the wilderness needs in the national forests of northern Washington. Therefore, the policy will be to manage the Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area primarily for preservation of scenic values and to open up and develop it for the use and enjoyment of the large numbers of people who desire other kinds of outdoor recreation and those who are unable to engage in wilderness travel. Recreation uses, such as camping, picnicking, skiing, hunting, fishing, and enjoyment of scenery, will be given primary consideration. Roads, vistas, resorts, ski lifts and other developments needed by the public will be planned. Timber harvesting and other resource utilization will be permitted to the extent that they can be properly integrated and harmonized with the recreation and the protection of the outstanding scenic attractions.

← Still Out →

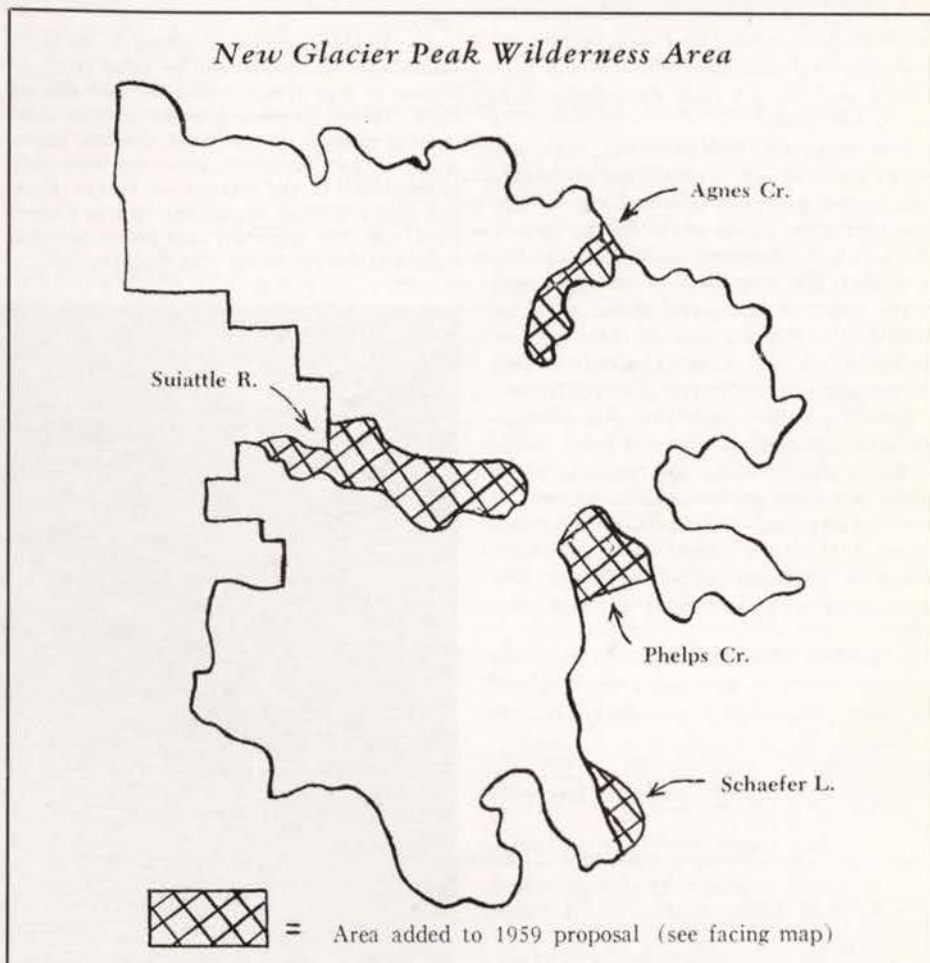
Cascade Pass and the Triplets, at left, and the wilderness forest of the White Chuck River, at right, are not included in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area established by the Secretary of Agriculture on September 6, 1960. It was determined by the Forest Service that timber harvesting in the Suiattle Valley "would detract materially from the wilderness environment," but that the same procedure in the White Chuck "would not detract materially from the adjoining wilderness." In addition it was felt that "timber and roadside recreation values exceed the wilderness value."

Without any hearing on the area whatever, the 340,000-acre Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area to the north of the Wilderness Area will be opened up and developed "for use and enjoyment of the large numbers of people who desire other kinds of outdoor recreation" and "timber harvesting will be permitted."

The cross-hatching found on the sketch map below indicates the 36,000 acres restored to the white 1959 wilderness starfish shown in the large map on the facing page.



Philip Hyde





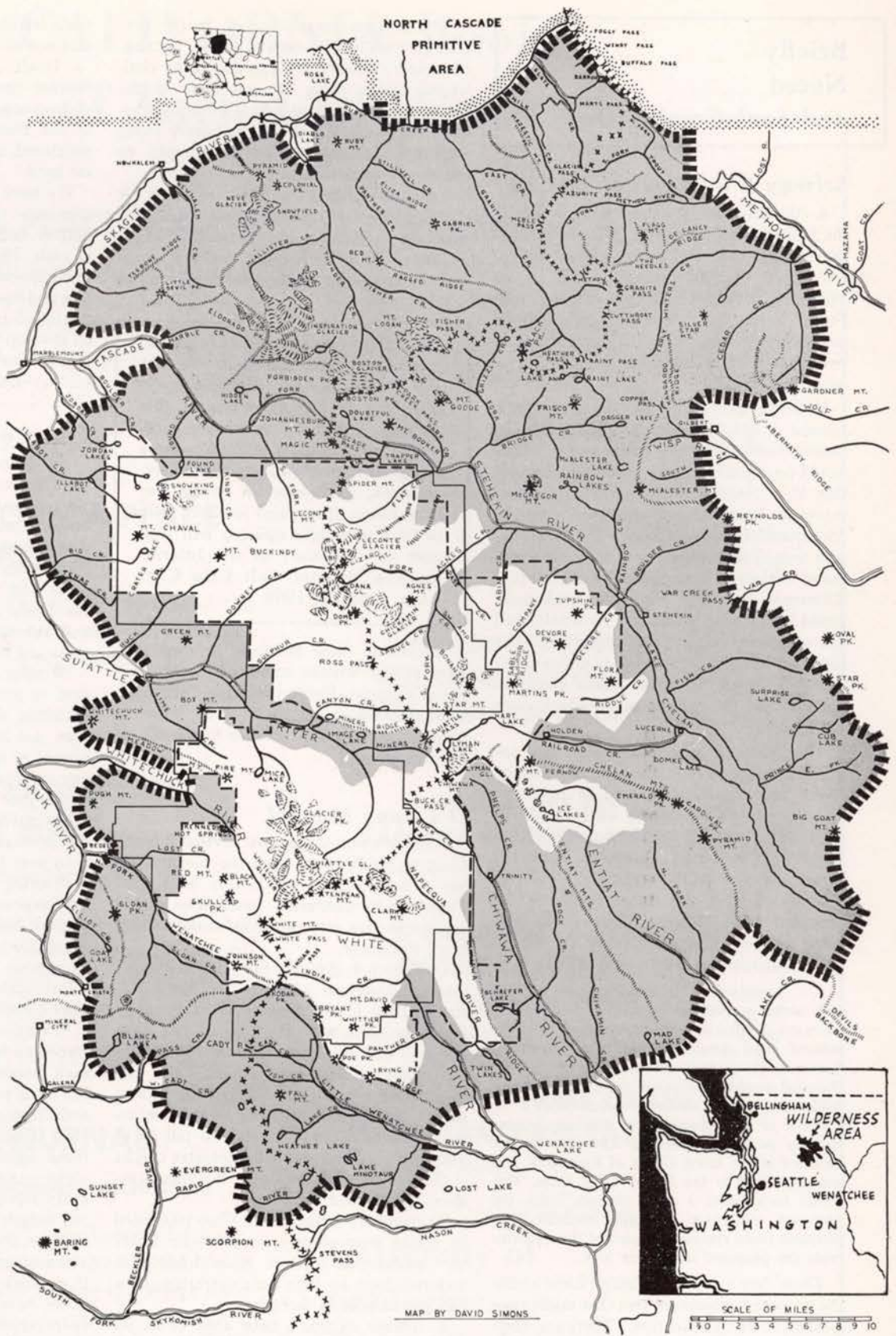
Two decades ago forester Robert Marshall urged that the Forest Service give wilderness protection to the entire unshaded area.



Two years later, with Marshall dead, the Service started to preserve, then stopped, looked, listened—giving "Limited Area" status to the unshaded fragment.



February 16, 1959. The proposal: culmination of thirty years of Forest Service thinking, predominantly about timber.



MAP BY DAVID SIMONS

SCALE OF MILES
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

—— GLACIER PEAK LIMITED AREA - - - - FEB. 7, 1957 FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL ■■■■■ AREA NEEDING PRESERVATIVE ZONING (WILDERNESS AND OTHERWISE)

Forest Service Proposals for the Northern Cascades, A Scenic Resource "Outranking Any Existing National Park"

The shaded area in the large map (minus the cross-hatched patches on the adjacent page 4 map) shows the critically important country that the new Glacier Peak Wilderness Area fails to comprehend.

Briefly Noted and (or) Coming Up

Selway Wilderness to Be Cut

A 700,000-acre cut has been proposed by the United States Forest Service in the nation's largest national forest primitive area. An August 29, 1960 press release from the Missoula, Montana regional office of the Forest Service announces "a proposal to modify the existing Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area and to reclassify most of it as wilderness area."

Under the proposal, 1,163,555 acres of the present 1,875,000-acre primitive area in southwestern Montana and eastern Idaho would be classified under wilderness regulation U-1. Some 549,000 acres in six segments are listed in the Forest Service plan as "not qualifying for inclusion" in the wilderness area. The Service states that, "the proposed wilderness boundaries for the Selway-Bitterroot area will eliminate weaknesses posed by existing roads and by established use of motor vehicles on these roads. For the most part, the changes in boundaries are required because of roads which penetrate parts of the primitive area or which cross it completely."

The Forest Service recommends that another 188,000 acres in the southern Salmon River face section "be held in primitive status pending a joint study with the adjoining forest region of both sides of the Salmon River." (The Idaho Primitive Area lies across the river to the south.)

Some of what the future holds for the proposed 1,163,000-acre wilderness is indicated by several quotes from the Forest Service announcement:

... Twenty-five [irrigation reservoirs] are still under special use permits. ... Reservoir users are entitled to reasonable access. If a permanent road should be needed to service a reservoir, the part of the drainage affected by the road would be removed from the proposed wilderness area by boundary adjustment.

Much of the Selway River drainage is covered by power withdrawals. The only project included in the latest Corps of Engineers' recommendations is the Penny Cliffs Dam. This would back water a short distance inside the proposed wilderness. A simple boundary adjustment could remove this part of the reservoir from the proposed wilderness area.

There "are no known mining claims within the proposed wilderness area that might pose a threat to its classification." There are, however, about 3½ billion board feet of commercial timber included, little of which "can be considered marketable at present" because of long distances to market and expensive logging roads needed for harvest.

The greatest recreation use in the proposed wilderness is said to be elk hunting. Mountain climbers also can find many challenging peaks along the backbone of the Bitterroot Range. And fishing use is increasing, as is the use by those who simply enjoy wilderness atmosphere for photography or other esthetic or educational interests.

Hearings on the boundaries proposed for the wilderness area will be held in Missoula, Montana on March 7 and at Lewiston, Idaho on March 9, 1961. Persons desiring to express their oral or written views may do so

... Public opinion and only public opinion controls the final outcome and determines the degree of permanency of any program in this country. Public opinion is the catalyst to get action out of the Congress or the Executive Branch of the Government. And once an action has been taken, it remains in effect only so long as public opinion will support it.—Secretary of the Interior
FRED A. SEATON, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 20, 1960.

in person at these hearings, or they may submit their written comments to the Regional Forester, Federal Building, Missoula, Montana, before March 27, 1961, with the request that they be included in the official hearing record.

It's Your Money!

Some few months ago we advised through Chapter Publications that the Sierra Club has a new address—P.O. Box 3471, San Francisco 20, California. Perhaps we should explain so that you can help us do our job more efficiently.

On March 4, 1960 the Sierra Club entered into an agreement with Crocker Anglo National Bank. Under the terms of this agreement the bank will, for a small fee, open our mail and deposit any money received to the credit of the Sierra Club. Under this system we never see your checks, money orders, or cash and must rely on the remaining contents of your envelop to tell us of your intent. The bank will photostat checks if there is no other enclosure, but this introduces delays and extra costs.

As members of the Sierra Club interested in seeing your money go to work faster on Conservation matters, without having it watered down by high administrative costs, you can help us in three ways:

1. Always include a note, copy of an invoice, dues notice, application blank, or something advising us what the payment is intended to cover. *Don't* rely on your check to do the whole job.

2. Please write your name and return ad-

dress legibly on the envelop so we can contact you should there be any question.

3. Don't send cash through the mails. Neither the bank nor the Sierra Club will assume responsibility for failure on the part of the Post Office to deliver cash, unless registered, certified, or insured mail services are used.

We have received about ten letters from members (who received a second Dues notice) indicating they had paid previously in cash. The cost of a check, money order, or registered letter is cheap insurance against loss and eases considerably the strain on our relationship which occurs when we receive an envelop which obviously contained money at one time but doesn't when it arrives.

—ELMER MARYATT, Office Manager

Our Competitors Say:

"It is necessary that the lumber industry have a watchdog in the nation's capital to alert us to the threat of new encroachments on our personal and business lives. It is also necessary that we have a well-trained professional staff to help members of Congress and government officials understand the impact of their programs—those in being and those proposed—on lumbermen three thousand miles away.

"Finally, it is necessary that we have a staff to assist in the development and presentation of proposals to assure *maximum* wise use of our natural resources to the benefit of all Americans. But the most that any staff can do alone is create a climate in which *your* Congress—*your* legislators—will be receptive to *your* views. At the final hour, our lawmakers want—in fact, they demand—to hear from you.

"During his brilliant term as president of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, Bob Ingram emphasized, again and again, that the lumbermen of this country have more than an *opportunity* but, indeed, a *responsibility* to help select, nominate and elect qualified candidates to public office.

"Perhaps my contribution to Bob's fine work can be to urge, again and again, that each member of the lumber industry establish close personal contact with his Senators and Congressman—whether or not he helped elect these men to office—and that he keep these legislators fully informed as to his views—and why these views are right—on every foreign and domestic issue that affects our industry.

"Our objectives in Congress and other areas of government can be achieved only if we work full-time at the assignment, only if we have dynamic support and complete coöperation on an industry-wide, every-member basis."—Thomas J. McHugh, President, National Lumber Manufacturers Association, February 2, 1960 before the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Bulletin Board

★ In establishing the new *Glacier Peak Wilderness Area* in north central Washington, the United States Forest Service included for protection the scenic forested canyons of the Suiattle River and Agnes Creek. (See maps on pages 4 and 5.) The equally valuable scenic and forested valley of the White Chuck River, however, was excluded from the Wilderness. More important, in announcing the establishment of the 458,000-acre Wilderness Area, the Forest Service simultaneously announced the arbitrary disposition as a Scenic Area (in which logging is permitted)—without public hearing or previous notice—of another 340,000 adjacent acres known as the Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area. This area, which was included in the original Marshall-Silcox proposal, is an important part of the total land unit and contains some of the most spectacular scenery in the United States. Forest Service officials previously had informed conservationists that this area was not yet under study.

The Forest Service has announced simultaneously the establishment of the *Bridger Wilderness Area* and the conversion of the proposed *Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror* Wilderness Area to a Scenic Area.

★ Region I of the United States Forest Service has announced the proposed establishment of the *Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area* to contain 1,163,555 acres in southwestern Montana and eastern Idaho. This would exclude from the proposed Wilderness Area some 700,000 acres at present in the Primitive Area. Additional information may be obtained from the Regional Forester, Federal Building, Missoula, Montana, and from the Supervisors of the Lolo National Forest, Bitterroot National Forest,

Conservation in the White House

To the extent that the candidates have talked at all about natural resources in this campaign, they usually have been referring to such hard economic developments as hydroelectric dams, irrigation projects or reclamation. But the most critical issue in the field of conservation today does not lie in that area, important as it is. It lies in the opposite direction: in the growing battle to preserve intact a few carefully selected tracts of land—several million crucial acres of mountain, valley, forest, prairie and shoreline—not for their economic value, but despite their economic value.—JOHN OAKES, *New York Times*, October 2, 1960.

Clearwater National Forest and Nezperce National Forest. Public hearings will be held in Missoula, Montana, on March 7, 1961, and Lewiston, Idaho, on March 9, 1961.

The Bureau of Land Management, responsible for administering over 470 million acres of public lands (more than all other federal lands combined) has prepared a statement of its projected program for the next 50 years. Known as "Project 2012," this Bureau of Land Management program will be comparable to the National Park Service's Mission 66 and the Forest Service's Operation Outdoors. Project 2012 will be presented to Congress for its consideration in early 1961.

★ Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton has approved the proposal to create a National Seashore at *Point Reyes*, the highly scenic coastal area just north of San Francisco. While interested citizens are working with the National Park Service to help establish this much-needed scenic and recreational reserve, approximately 2,500 acres of key Point Reyes property is being advertised for sale for possible subdivision.

After six years of study, the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club has completed formulation of a recommended *policy for the United States Forest Service*. This will be reported on in detail in the December Annual Issue of the *Bulletin*.

★ Reminder: Those who have traveled in the *North Cascades Primitive Area* are invited by the United States Forest Service to express their views regarding reclassification of this region into Wilderness Area status. Comments should be directed to the supervisors of the Mount Baker National Forest, Bellingham, Washington, and the Okanogan National Forest, Okanogan, Washington, and should be sent before December 1, 1960. Certain proposals call for the reclassification of the North Cascades Primitive Area into not one, but two or three Wilderness Areas with some heavily timbered sections omitted.

In this crucial election year, it is the constitutional privilege of every interested citizen to find out where his local and national candidates stand on vital issues.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN

★ Starred items need extra help.



Agnes Valley was included in the newly established Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, North Cascades, Washington.
Photograph by David R. Simons