

SUMMARY

PROSPECTUS FOR A NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

Prepared by

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

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The Quality of the North Cascades

The North Cascades are America's finest example of classical alpine scenery. Two or three times more glaciers are found here than in all of the rest of the contiguous United States.

The North Cascades are true alps, contrasting with the singular volcanic cones of most of the Cascades. They offer scenery comparable to that of the European Alps, but occurring at more comfortable levels, with better weather, richer wildlife, and more diverse forests.

Among the most outstanding points of interest are the massive ice-displays of the Buckner-Eldorado-Snowfield area, the surmounting cone of Glacier Peak, the nearly two-mile deep Chelan trench with 50 mile-long, fjord-like Lake Chelan, the gentle and sunny Stehekin valley driving deep into the mountains, the hidden, peak-rimmed Napeequa valley, the rain forests of the Suiattle valley, and the profuse alpine gardens around the Hidden Peaks.

With the nation needing more national parks, it is only natural that this alpland continues to be proposed to be one of those parks. A National Park Service study team in 1937 recommended that a park be established in this vicinity, saying that such a park would "...outrank in its scenic, recreational, and wildlife values, any existing national park and any other possibility for such a park within the United States".

The Failure of the Forest Service to Safeguard the Quality of the North Cascades

The Forest Service had had jurisdiction over the North Cascades since the

forest reserves were created in 1897. In the period since that time, it has allowed the scenic quality of the area to deteriorate seriously through failure to close areas of scenic importance to unsightly logging. Blocks of clear-cut logging have been permitted in forested parkland valleys which should have been forever safe from defacement, as in the Cascade, Suiattle, Sauk, and Whitechuck valleys. Logging is now planned in the Stehekin valley and in the valleys of Thunder and Granite Creeks.

The reasons for these failures are apparent in the history of the Forest Service. Historically, it has been hostile to the idea of protecting forest scenery and has opposed efforts to reserve some of America's most important parks. Gifford Pinchot, the Forest Service's founder, fought John Muir in his efforts to establish these parks, and Pinchot's successors in the Service are fighting new parks today. By training and aptitude, foresters are oriented toward economic resources and not toward esthetics. They are not trained in landscape esthetics and commonly lack the ability and desire to protect forest scenery.

That Forest Service policies in the North Cascades have not been in the public interest is shown by the actions of the two most recent Secretaries of Agriculture. Both of them have repudiated parts of these policies. Secretary Benson in 1960 overruled Forest Service attempts to keep the Suiattle, Agnes, and Phelps Creek corridors out of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. He did not think they should be open to logging--but closed to it. Moreover, he overruled the Regional Forester's attempt to allow logging as a key use in the Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area, reserving it instead primarily for recreation. Secretary Freeman in 1961 ordered the Forest Service to suspend plans for any secondary logging in that area and directed the Service to prepare plans for preserving the appearance of important landscape associations. This has been done only grudgingly and inadequately.

In view of this history, reason does not exist to believe that the Forest Service will ever adequately protect the North Cascades.

The Advantages of National Park Service Management

The National Park Service is the agency of the federal government organized to administer the nation's superlative scenic resources. The North Cascades are surely among those resources.

Under National Park Service management, trees of the forest landscape are secure from cutting. Logging is not allowed. Thus the forest scenery of the North Cascades will be definitely protected in a North Cascades National Park.

In a North Cascades National Park, the scenery will also be secure from scarring by mining activity. With the park act proposed, the Park Service will be able to prevent new defacement in the North Cascades by mining, whereas the Forest Service cannot. In a North Cascades National Park, the Park Service will also be able to prevent the flooding of prime valleys by power dams, whereas the Forest Service lacks the legal authority to prevent inundation. A park would also provide complete protection of natural watersheds.

The Park Service, in addition, would aim in a North Cascades National Park at eventually eliminating all grazing, and this would protect fragile alpine meadows. The Forest Service pursues an uncertain policy of allowing some grazing to continue in these meadows.

The Park Service also aims at reestablishing the native fauna of park areas. The public usually finds wild animals easy to observe in parks. In Forest Service administered areas, habitat is manipulated to favor just preferred game species, and these animals are often frightened from public view by hunters.

The goal of the National Park Service is to maintain a park in unimpaired natural condition for public enjoyment. To provide for varied enjoyment, developments such as roads, campgrounds, and museums are provided. However, these are restricted to the periphery of the park, and a wilderness core is maintained. In the case of the proposed North Cascades National Park, all of the existing Glacier Peak Wilderness Area will be maintained by law as wilderness. Developments to accommodate visitors will be in areas already developed with roads. The difference there will be that tourist facilities will replace logging activity.

These facilities will be keyed to the general purpose of preserving a natural environment and will harmonize with the landscape. Road standards will be geared to low-speed recreational use. The Park Service, in contrast to the Forest Service, will have police power to enforce its traffic regulations, as well as regulations restricting use of motorized trail vehicles and combatting littering and vandalism.

An interpretive program to help visitors understand natural phenomena will also be provided. Thus a North Cascades National Park should prove to be a major tourist attraction in Washington, and increases in tourist revenues should more than offset minor losses from curtailed timber production.

The Specific Proposal for a Park

Boundaries for the proposed park have been carefully selected with park standards clearly in mind. The area proposed to be put under the National Park Service consists of units which three historic studies have identified as meeting such standards. The units included are: the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, the Cascade Pass-Ruby Creek area, the upper Lake Chelan area, and the valleys of the Shehekin, Cascade, Suiattle, Whitechuck, Sauk, White, Chiwawa, and Entiat rivers, as well as the headwaters of the West Fork of the Methow River and Early Winters Creek.

This area consists of 1,308,186 acres, of which 458,505 acres are in the present Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and 849,681 acres are in the surrounding areas. It lies in five counties: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Chelan, and Okanogan, and would be taken from four national forests: the Mt. Baker, the Snoqualmie, the Wenatchee, and the Okanogan.

The area to be put under the National Park Service would be divided into two parts: a North Cascades National Park of 1,038,665 acres and a Chelan National Mountain Recreation Area of 269,521 acres contiguous with the eastern boundary of the park. Hunting would be allowed in the latter area, and it will comprise 21% of the entire area proposed for transfer to the Park Service.

A bill to establish this park and recreation area has been drafted by the

North Cascades Conservation Council. Under the terms of this bill, land for the park would be acquired by transfer from the holdings of the Forest Service and by purchase of private holdings. Industrial properties (used for logging, mining, etc.) and unimproved lands could also be condemned, with payment of just compensation. Already improved property which conforms to appropriate zoning regulations and is used for residential, resort, or agricultural purposes could not be condemned. Property rights such as leases, permits, and mining claims would also not be forfeited.

The Park Service would administer this area under its general organic laws, with certain additional directives. The bill provides that the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area will continue to be maintained as wilderness, that the North Cross-state Highway will be allowed to be completed, that hunting will be permissible in the recreation area, that air and boat service on Lake Chelan will be allowed, and that prospecting in the park for rare minerals needed for defense will be allowed.

Also special provisions are included to ease the economic impact of the park immediately after its establishment. Compensatory payments to counties from the federal treasury are provided to make up any losses from reduced timber sale receipts from the abutting national forests and losses from a reduction in the tax base caused by public acquisition of private lands. These losses are expected to be short-lived as growth in the tourist economy will soon make up the difference.

The bill also provides that local contractors will be given preference in the letting of contracts for park construction and that preference will be given to the employment of local people in the park.

Finally, a citizens' Advisory Board will be provided to make sure that local viewpoints are fully considered in the administration of the park.

The Economic Impact of a Park

The economic impact of the proposed park would fall primarily on timbering and tourism, stimulating the latter and restricting the former. Its impact on other economic activities would be slight. Mining in the area is almost non-existent,

with only one very small mine operating and none planned for development. Only two grazing allotments exist in the area, and they would probably be allowed to continue. No dams exist in the area and none are planned. Reservoirs abutting the area would be unaffected. Only 3,000 acres of privately owned land would probably need to be acquired, and opportunity to hunt only some 800 deer and 60 mountain goats annually would probably be foregone.

As nearly 10% of the area of the proposed park is covered with commercial forest land now open to logging, the removal of this timber land from production would have the effect of reducing the annual allowable cut to a small degree. It is estimated that 35.93 MMBF would be removed from the allowable cut, for a 6% reduction in the combined allowable cuts of the four national forests involved. This reduction is slight in comparison to normal fluctuations in log production and frequent technical revisions in allowable cuts. By 1980, it is estimated that this production loss might be worth \$5.3 million a year and be capable of supporting some 300 jobs. With a loss of some \$213,252 forecast as being caused by reductions in hunting opportunity (capable of supporting some 14 jobs), it is estimated that the total income reductions caused annually by the park by 1980 might run to \$5,602,252. This income might be able to support 314 employees.

It is foreseen that increased tourist revenues will more than offset these losses. It is estimated that the number of visitors to the area will more than double if a park exists, with 1.2 million more tourists visiting the area by 1980 if a park is established. This added visitation should bring almost \$50 million more annually to the state by 1980 and should support nearly 3,000 new jobs. In the immediate vicinity of the park, \$33 million in new business income should be brought in to support some 2,000 jobs.

Thus, 9 new dollars will be gained in the state as a whole for every dollar lost, and six new dollars will be gained around the park for every dollar lost. The surplus of park gains in the state by 1980 should be over \$43 million and nearly \$28 million in the vicinity of the park. Employment gains by 1980 should

run to 2,700 new jobs in the state as a whole, and 1,800 near the park. 10 new jobs then will be gained in the state as a whole for every one lost and 6 will thus be gained in the park vicinity.

Also, it is estimated that more than \$2 million annually in new taxes to the state should be produced by these increases in tourism by 1980.

LOCATION: Southward along the Cascade Crest from Diablo Reservoir (including the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area) to Lake Wenatchee, just north of Stevens Pass Highway ----- North to South - 60 miles

East of the foothill towns of Marblemount, Darrington and Granite Falls to include the upper half of Lake Chelan -- East to West - 50 miles

ACREAGE: North Cascades National Park ----- 1,038,665

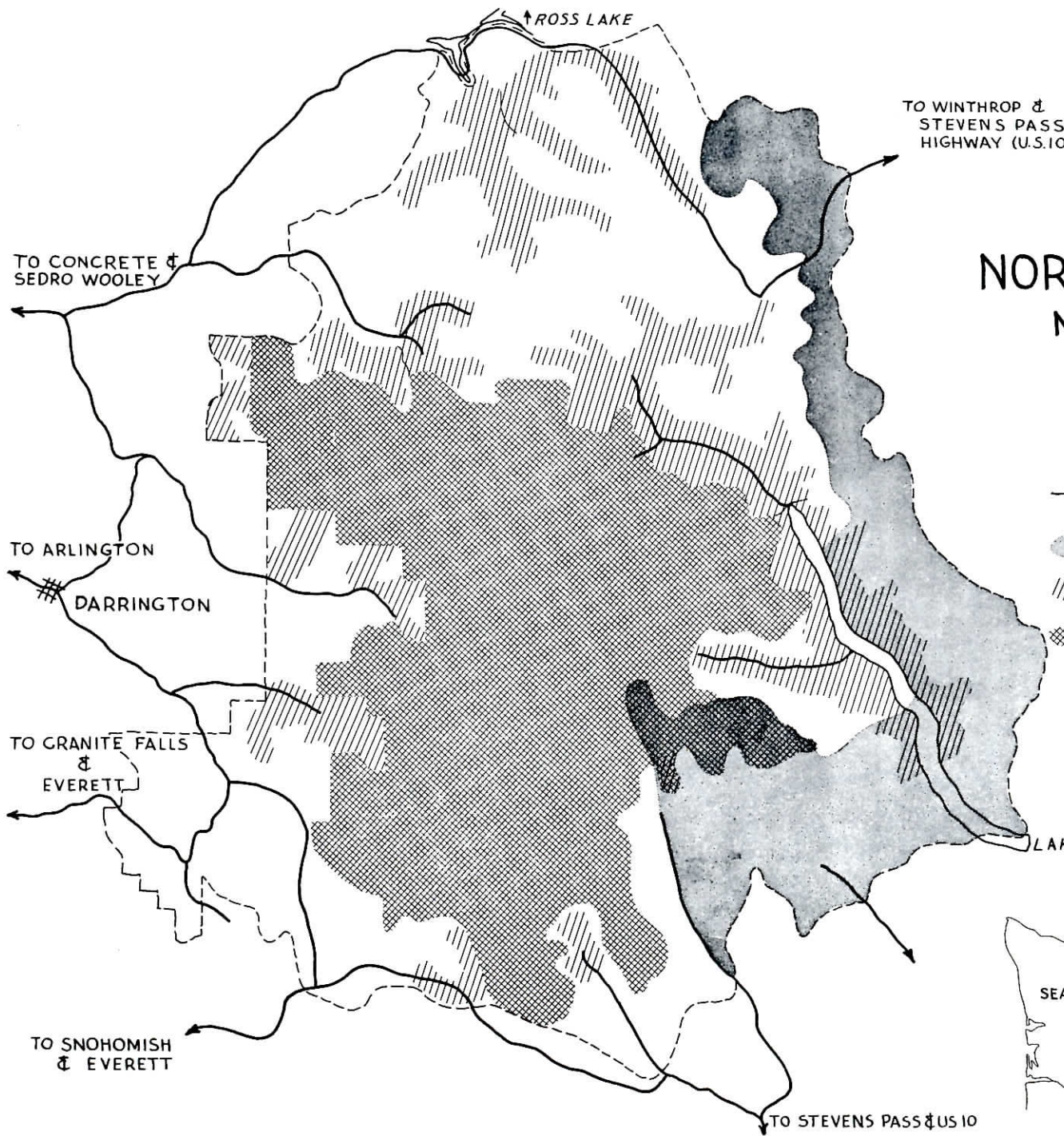
Chelan National Mountain Recreation Area ----- 269,521

Total Scenic Preservation ----- 1,308,186

	PARK	RECREATION AREA
Whatcom County -----	49,526 -----	0
Skagit County -----	273,519 -----	0
Snohomish County -----	283,764 -----	0
Chelan County -----	431,856 -----	211,573
Okanogan County -----	0 -----	57,948
	<u>1,038,665</u>	<u>269,521</u>
Land Ownership - Federal - Mt. Baker N. F. -----		590,214
Snoqualmie N. F. -----		16,595
Wenatchee N. F. -----		643,429
Okanogan N. F. -----		57,948
TOTAL (includes 0 State but 9,000 acres private inholdings) --		<u>1,308,186</u>

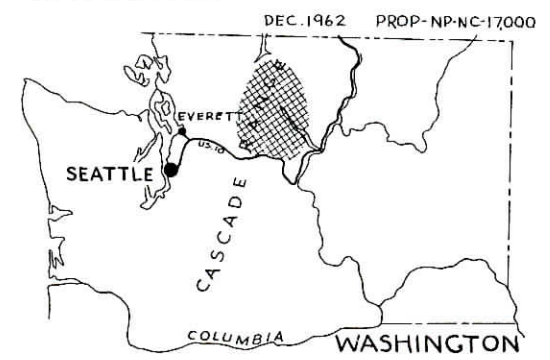
NATURAL RESOURCES, ECONOMICS AND RECREATION:

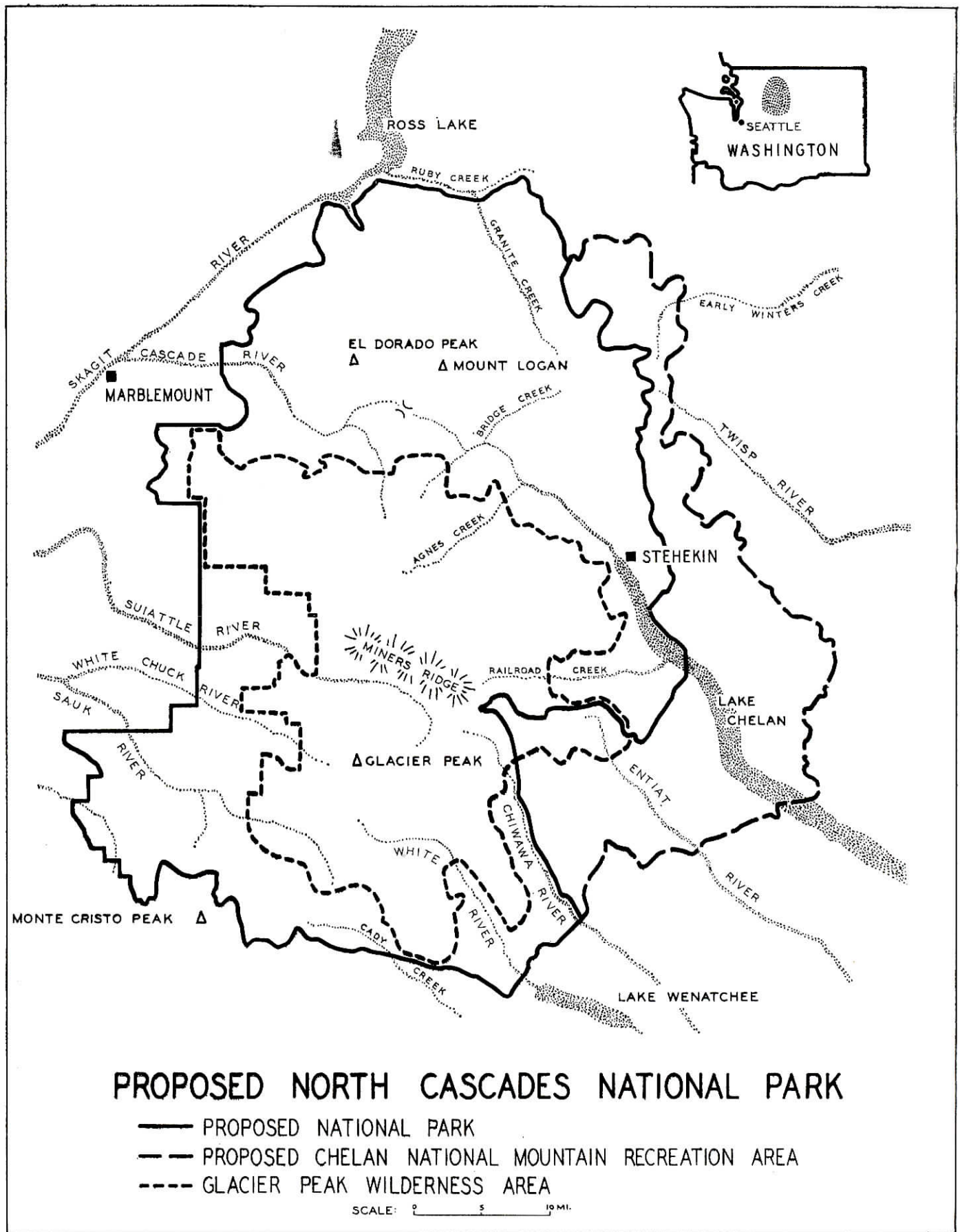
1. Acreage outside Glacier Peak Wilderness Area covered with merchantable timber ----- 127,356 (9.7%)
2. Acreage outside Glacier Peak Wilderness Area covered with rock, ice, water, meadows and non-merchantable timber ----- 722,325 (91.3%)
3. Sum of (1) and (2) ----- 849,681 (100%)
4. Acreage of Glacier Peak Wilderness Area ----- 458,505
5. TOTAL acreage to be transferred to the National Park Service, sum of (3) and (4) ----- 1,308,186
6. Reduction in annual allowable cut of above 4 national forests ----- 5.9%
7. Mining in the area almost non-existent
8. Only 2 grazing allotments in area
9. No dams in or planned for the area
10. Timber production loss ----- \$ 5,389,000 annually or 300 jobs
11. Hunting income loss ----- \$ 213,252 " or 14 jobs
- Sum of (10) and (11) ----- \$ 5,602,252 " or 314 jobs
12. Tourist visitation gain (park locality) \$33,525,900 " or 2095 new jobs
- NET GAIN (12) minus (11) ----- \$27,923,648 " or 1781 jobs
13. Reduction in annual mountain goat kill ----- 60
14. Reduction in annual mule deer kill ----- 800



PROPOSED NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

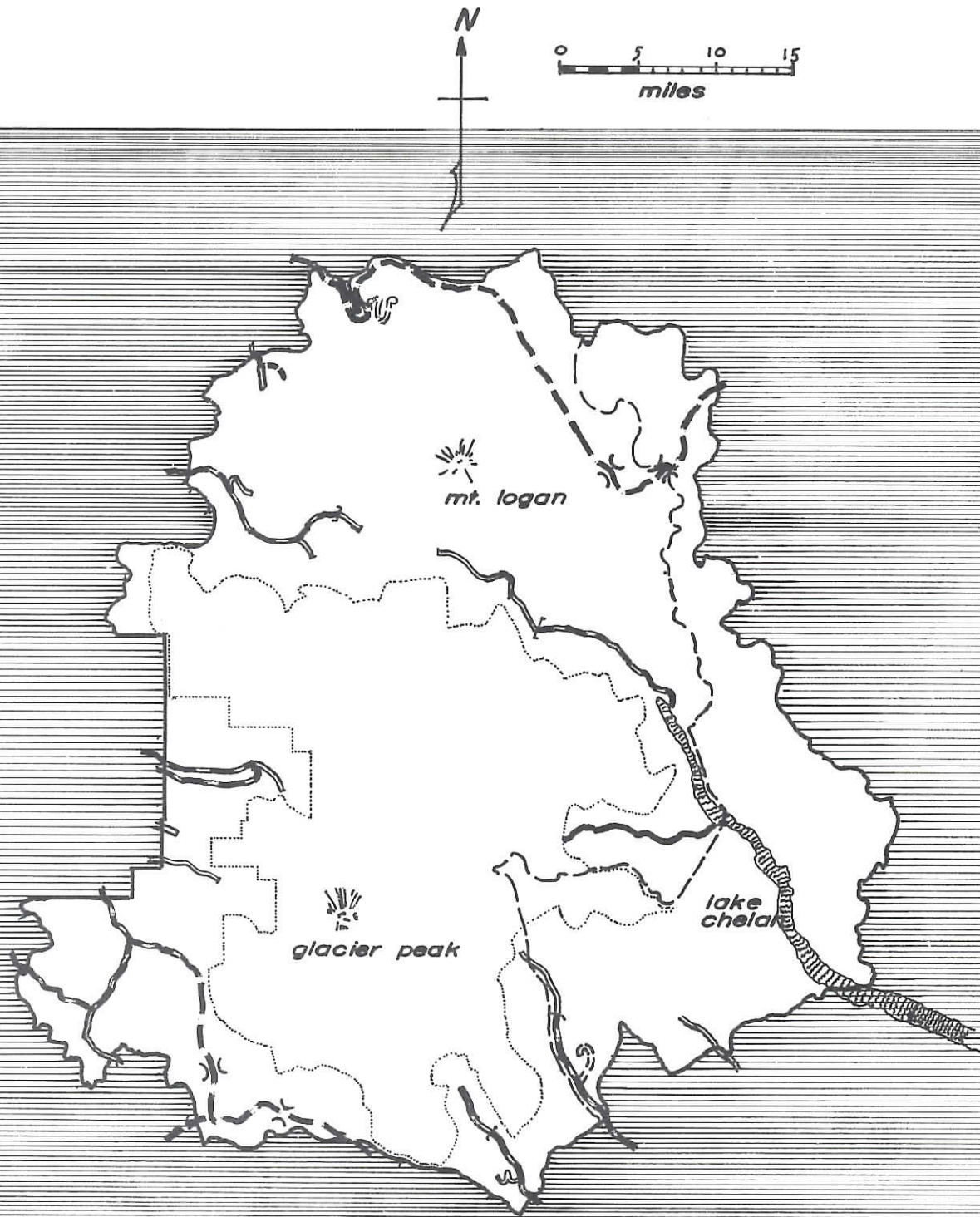
- AREA TO BE ADMINISTERED BY PARK SERVICE
- RECREATION AREA
- /// SUGGESTED FOREST SERVICE LOGGING MORATORIUM
- GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS AREA





ROAD DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

that might be expected under National Park Service



exterior boundary of area to be under National Park Service	—————
area east of this line in Chelan National Mountain Recreation Area	- - - - -
boundary of existing Glacier Peak Wilderness Area
roads	
<u>existing</u>	<u>future</u>
paved	—————
unpaved	- - - - -
proposed for paving by N.P.S.	—+—+—+—+—+—+—
	—+—+—+—+—+—+—