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North Cascades  
Conservation Council  
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SCRIPT FOR NORTH CASCADES SLIDE SHOW

(75 Slides)

Introduction: The North Cascades Mountain Range in the State of Washington is a great tangled chain of knotted peaks and spires, glaciers and rivers, lakes, forests, and meadows, stretching for a 160 miles - roughly from Mt. Rainier National Park north to the Canadian Border. The hundreds of sharp spiring mountain peaks, many of them still unnamed and relatively unexplored, rise from near sea level elevations to seven to ten thousand feet. On the flanks of the mountains are 519 glaciers, in 93 square miles of ice - three times as much living ice as in all the rest of the forty-eight states put together. The great river valleys contain the last remnants of the magnificent Pacific Northwest Rain Forest of immense Douglas Fir, cedar, and hemlock. Moss and ferns carpet the forest floor, and wild-life abounds. The great rivers and thousands of streams and lakes run clear and pure still; the nine thousand foot deep trench containing 55 mile long Lake Chelan is one of the deepest canyons in the world, from lake bottom to mountain top. In 1937 Park Service Study Report declared that the North Cascades, if created into a National Park, would "outrank in scenic quality any existing National Park in the United States and any possibility for such a park."

The seven million acre area of the North Cascades is almost entirely Federally owned, and managed by the United States Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service operates under the policy of "multiple use", which permits logging, mining, grazing, hunting, wilderness, and all forms of recreational use. However, the 1937 Park Study Report recommended the creation of a three million acre Ice Peaks National Park embracing all of the great volcanos of the North Cascades and most of the rest of the superlative scenery. This proposal was beaten down by the timber industry and its allies, and then was forgotten during the war. In the early 1950's, the Forest Service began to implement a full scale logging program in the North Cascades, severely scarring and damaging some of the most superlative scenic areas. For the most part, these timber sales were conducted over conservationists protests; and after a number of years of attempting to persuade the Forest Service that the scenic areas deserved better protection, conservationists believed that it was impossible to work with the Forest Service, which was oriented in the direction of timber production. In 1957, the North Cascades Conservation Council was formed, and one of its aims was to secure the formation of a National Park in the North Cascades. In 1963, after many years of study and analyses, the Council released its proposal for a 1.3 million acre North Cascades National Park, embracing the most superlative of the scenic areas of the North Cascades. In that same year, President Kennedy appointed a North Cascades Study Team, composed of representatives of the Park Service and the Forest Service, to study the North Cascades. This group held hearings throughout the State, and in 1966 released its report recommending the creation of a seven hundred thousand acre National Park, and several new wilderness areas. In 1967, legislation was introduced

the Forest Service, to study the North Cascades. This group held hearings throughout the State, and in 1966 released its report recommending the creation of a seven hundred thousand acre National Park, and several new wilderness areas. In 1967, legislation was introduced in Congress to create a seven hundred thousand acre North Cascades National Park and Recreation Area and several new Wilderness areas. Hearings were held, and the Senate passed some North Cascades legislation late in the year. As of the date of this writing, the House has not yet acted.

The Forest Service has strenuously resisted all proposals for a North Cascades National Park. It proposes in many scenic places to continue its logging program, coupled with a program of extensive road building into the wilderness. In recent years, mining companies have moved into the North Cascades with intensified prospecting operations, even into the heart of the existing Glacier Peak Wilderness.



The Forest Service actively promotes logging in the North Cascades, and is unable to protect wilderness areas from mining because of the laws governing mining. Because both logging and mining are forbidden in a National Park, Northwest conservationists believe that this is far better protection for this area. Conservationists feel that a wilderness park along the model of Olympic National Park, is the best solution to the problem of protecting the North Cascades.

Slides:

1. Looking south over the entire North Cascade Range from the Canadian Border to Mt. Rainier (the large volcano in the distance). Chilliwack Range is in the immediate foreground; Mt. Spickard in the center, and the Pickett Range between Spickard and Mt. Rainier. View, about 160 miles.

2. Map of the North Cascades, showing location and proposed park and wilderness areas. The area enclosed in green is "the North Cascades Area". The green area is National Forest land. The purple area at the bottom is Mt. Rainier National Park; the purple area at the top is the area of the proposed North Cascades National Park. This is a 1966 map; a new map would show the North Cascades National Park divided in half by what is called the Ross Lake Recreation Area. The northern half of the proposed park is the Pickett Range Countries; the southern half is the Eldorado Peaks Country. Just to the left of the northern half of the park is the Mt. Baker area; just to the right of that is Ross Lake and the Pasayten Wilderness (formerly the North Cascades Primitive Area). Just to the south of the proposed park is the Glacier Peak Wilderness. All of these areas are in dark green. Conservation organizations in 1963 proposed a 1.3 million acre park roughly in a circle surrounding the Glacier Peak Wilderness, with that Wilderness as its center. This circle encloses the area in most danger from logging, as well as superlative scenic country. Further to the south, in dark green are proposed wilderness units in the Alpine Lakes Country, just to the east of Seattle, and in the Cougar Lakes Country, just to the east of Rainier National Park. Note Puget Sound coming in at the left, and the locations of the City of Seattle.

3. Same view as number 1, only wider angle. Note Glacier Peak at the far left horizon. North Cascades Mountains extend for twenty to fifty miles to the left out of sight of the picture. The range is some eighty to one hundred miles wide at its widest point.

Pickett Range Country: Northern unit of proposed administration National Park.

4. Pickett Range is extremely rugged country; three hundred thousand acres in northern unit of proposed park. This view looks over the Chilliwack Range, with Mt. Redoubt in foreground, with Redoubt Glacier behind. Pickett Range country is already located within the North Cascades Primitive Area; contains almost no commercial timber and was in no danger of exploitation. For this reason, it was not included in conservationists recommendations for a National Park all of which concentrated on the area further south.

5. View over the Pickett Range across Mt. Challenger, Crooked Thumb Ridge, Mt. Fury, then the southern Picketts.

6. View over the Chilliwack Range kind of looking north

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5. View over the Pickett Range across Mt. Challenger, Crooked Thumb Ridge, Mt. Fury, then the southern Picketts.
6. View north across the Chilliwack Range kind of looking north into Canada.
7. Mt. Terror group, southern Picketts.
8. Southern Picketts, looking across Tetattle Valley, from Sourdough Mountain.
9. Pickett Range, from Easy Ridge.
10. Challenger Glacier, on Mt. Challenger - Mt. a meringue pie.
11. Baker River Valley, looking west. The mountains in the Pickett Range range from 6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation; the



valleys are between 800 and 2,000 feet in elevation. Where not wiped out by periodic avalanches, the forest growth is lush, semi rain forest.

12. Hikers descending Copper Mountain Ridge, North Cascades Primitive Area.

13. Sunset from Perfect Pass, norther Picketts. Mt. Shuksan at right, Mt. Baker at left.

14. Border Peaks at sunset from Copper Mountain Ridge, North Cascade Primitive Area (northern Picketts).

#### Ross Lake Recreation Area; Granite Creek Valley

15. The Ross Lake Recreation Area is a narrow unit of one hundred thousand acres embracing three reservoirs in the North Cascades owned by Seattle City Light Company. The area is quite scenic and also takes in both sides of the north cross state highway, now under construction. This first view shows a view of Diablo Lake, a reservoir. Note carefully the forested appearance of the mountain plunging into Diablo Lake at the left. This is the route of the north cross state highway, and this picture was taken before the highway was built.

16. This picture of the same area shows what damaging effects road construction can have in this area. This highway, traveling through some of the most scenic portions of the North Cascades, is a mess. Hunting, some logging activity, and mining, under regulations of the Department of Interior, are permitted in recreation areas.

#### Granite Creek Valley

17. View from Heather Pass, looking north into the upper Granite Creek Valley. This 45,000 acre valley is broad and wide, and contains magnificent stands of timber. The 1966 North Cascades Study Team Report characterized it as one of the most unique and scenic places in the entire North Cascades. And yet, now it is not included in the administration proposal for a National Park. This is a beautiful wilderness valley now, but is the route of the north cross state highway. Northwest conservationists feel that the Forest Service intends to log this valley when the highway is built. They are pressing for its inclusion either in the recreation area or the National Park.

18. Looking across the Granite Creek Valley to the Valley of Porcupine Creek. The new transmountain highway will traverse the timber approximately across the left lower third of the picture.

19. Headwaters of Granite Creek; Silver Star Mountain from spire on Early Winters Peak.

#### Eldorado Peaks Country: Southern Unit of Administrations Proposed National Park.

20. View south and east down Stehekin River Valley, towards

National Park.

20. View south and east down Stehekin River Valley, towards Lake Chelan, from summit of Mt. Sahale.

21. View to south from foot of Sahale Glacier, across the Triplet-Johannesberg Massif to the Illabot Range.

22. Boston Peaks, and Ripsaw Ridge from summit of Mt. Sahale, near Cascade Pass.

23. Forbidden Peak and Sharkfin Tower from Mt. Sahale.

24. Mt. Buckner and Ripsaw Ridge from summit of Mt. Sahale.



25. Cascade Pass, in the heart of the scenic climax of the North Cascades, looking west. This pass is two miles from the end of the road, and is one of the most heavily used places in the entire North Cascades. There is a trail in the lower foreground.

26. View over Cascade Pass from Sahale arm, looking south toward the Triplets and Mt. Johannesburg.

27. Magic Mountain from near Cascade Pass.

28. The Illabot Range. Heavy logging operations are now taking place under Forest Service management, just to the right of the picture.

29. Typical North Cascades forest, Cascade River valley. This is the issue in the North Cascades. The Forest Service proposes to log these forests. Conservationists feel that they are as much a part of the scenery as the glaciers and rock above. The National Park proposed by the administration includes only the upper six miles of the Cascade valley, leaving out about ten miles of prime scenic country which contains forest of this type. There is very little forest of this type now in the National Park proposed by the administration. (S.1321, and HR.8970). Conservationists have proposed a National Park (HR.12139) which would include the forest scenery, as well as the rock and ice.

#### The Mount Baker Area

30. Air view over Mt. Baker, with Mt. Shuksan in mid-background, and Chilliwack Range in far left background. Conservationists seek to add the 135,000 acre Mt. Baker area to the National Park for three basic reasons: (1) Is a magnificent scenic complex in its own right, as the slides will show; (2) It provides an outstanding geological display of all the North Cascades history. Mt. Baker, a young volcano, stands directly across from Mt. Shuksan, an example of the metamorphic rock which makes up most of the North Cascades, both geological features are displayed across from each other. (3) The Mt. Baker area already has roads in it, and would provide living space for persons wishing to view the park, without putting pressure on the Park Service to build roads into the wilderness which is most of the proposed Park Area now.

31. Sunset on Mt. Baker, from skyline divide.

32. Advancing Colman Glacier on Mt. Baker. This glacier advanced 100 feet in the winter of 1965-66. It is still advancing. Mt. Baker has more glacier, pound for pound, than any other mountain in the North Cascades. Its two mile high ice gleams directly above range forests only 700 feet above sea level. Much of this forest unfortunately has been logged already.

33. Mt. Shuksan from Picture Lake. Mt. Shuksan is just inside the proposed North Cascades Park; the lake is just outside it.

34. Mt. Baker from skyline divide.

35. Looking west down Ruth Creek Valley, northern part of Mt. Baker area. There are about 100,000 acres of de facto wilderness in this area. This valley is a prime entry corridor into the Pickett Range country.

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36. American Border Peak (R) and Canadian Border Peak (L) From Gold Run Pass, Tomyhoi Lake trail.

37. Looking north into Canada down the valley of Silesia Creek, northern part of Mt. Baker area. The Forest Service considered logging this area, by coming in through Canada, but has apparently temporarily abandoned the idea.



## The Glacier Peak Wilderness

This 458,000 acre area has been the focal point of most of the controversy in the North Cascades. Formerly a Limited Area, the Forest Service proposed to reclassify into a Wilderness Area in 1957. However, the proposals were carefully drawn to exclude all of the commercially timbered valleys, leaving only rock and ice. Conservationists, labeling this proposal a "Starfish" or "Wilderness on the Rocks", mustered their forces, and by dint of great pressure, forced the Forest Service to include at least portions of some of these valleys in the wilderness. However, many beautifully scenic valleys still remain outside of the wilderness, just to the west, south, and east. It is continuing Forest Service logging in these areas - which are logically part of the same scenic and wilderness complex - which has given impetus and strength to the drive for a North Cascades National Park.

38. View north of the Napeequa Valley, southeast portion of Glacier Peak Wilderness, from Little Giant Trail. Glacier Peak out of sight to the left.

39. On Napeequa Valley floor.

40. Upper part of Napeequa Valley.

41. High Pass and Triad Lake, end of July. This pass is at an elevation of about 5,500 feet, high for this country which starts at near sea level.

42. View of Glacier Peak from Buck Creek Pass, showing characteristic forests, meadows, and glaciers. (Glacier Peak is 10,450 feet in elevation)

43. Traversing meadows near High Pass. Much of the high country of the North Cascades is characterized by this picture. During flower season in July and August, one can walk for miles through oceans and oceans of these flowers.

44. Leo's Lump and Pen Peak Mountain from flower dome. Glacier Peak out of picture to the right.

45. Seven Fingered Jack Mountain from Entiat meadows, eastern part of wilderness.

46. Lyman Lakes from Cloudy Pass, on Cascade crest trail.

47. Clark Mountain and high meadows.

48. Deer in upper Napeequa Valley. The major opposition to a North Cascades National Park has come from hunters, who claim that much hunting opportunity will be lost if such a park is established. The hunting is entirely deer and mountain goats. 16,000 deer are killed each year in the State of Washington, and about 300 mountain goats. The Administration Proposed Park, according to the State Game Department, would affect about 600 deer; the 1.3 million acre National Park proposed by conservationists would affect about 800 deer. In other words, about 2% of all the deer killed in the state would be affected by the creation of the largest possible North Cascades National Park.

49. Upper Ice Lake (7150 feet) from summit of Mt. Maude (9080 feet). Ice Creek Valley in background.

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50. Mouth of Agnes Creek, as it empties into Stehekin River. The Agnes here has just flowed through a five mile gorge, 300 feet deep, which is almost totally unknown. The Forest Service proposed to log the valley of Agnes Creek in the 1950's, until conservationist pressure forced its inclusion in the Wilderness.

51. Lyman Lake and Bonanza Peak. Bonanza is the second highest non-volcanic peak in the entire Cascade Range (9511 feet).



52. Lyman Lake and Dumbell Mountain from Cloudy Pass.

53. Image Lake and Glacier Peak. This lake, located at 6,000 feet on top of Miner's Ridge, is one of the most scenic places in the State of Washington. It is located 15 miles from the nearest road, and a 4,000 foot gain in elevation. It takes two days to get there, and yet thousands of people make the trip every summer.

54. Dawn over Image Lake and Glacier Peak. The Suiattle River valley separates Miner's Ridge from Glacier Peak; the bottom of the valley is about 2,000 feet in elevation, leaving 8,000 feet between it and the top of Glacier Peak.

55. Meadows around Image Lake.

56. Evening at Image Lake. A proposed Kennecott open pit copper mine will be located at its nearest point, about one-half mile to the left of this picture.

57. A picture of the Kennicott open pit copper mine at Bingham, Utah. This is a mine of the same type which is proposed by this company to be placed on Miner's Ridge. This would require the building of an access road, transmission lines, mill site, town site, and tailing dumps, all in the very heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness. As long as the mining laws operate, no wilderness place under Forest Service management is safe. Mining and prospecting are not permitted in national parks.

58. View of Suiattle River Valley, arcing off to headwaters on Glacier Peak (off the picture to the right) from Miner's Ridge. This picture is taken from the approximate site of the proposed Kennicott open pit copper mine.

#### West Side Valleys Not In Glacier Peak Wilderness

It is the logging of these valleys under Forest Service management that has sparked the drive for a North Cascades National Park. Conservationists believe that scenic and wilderness values are far higher in these valleys than timber values. They have demonstrated that even the largest possible North Cascades National Park, which would include these valleys, would reserve from cutting only 8/10 of 1% of all the timber now cut in the State of Washington. The effect on the local economy would be extremely slight; the gain to the nation and to the state would be great.

59. View of the West Side Valley country, looking east toward the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

60. Suiattle River Valley, outside of the Wilderness, showing typical forested scenery. Conservationists believe that the magnificent northwest forests are just as much a part of the scenery as the rock and ice. They provide a unique experience all their own, and offer a setting for the high country.

61. In the depths of the northwest forest, Suiattle River Valley. This type of forest is found nowhere else on earth.

62. Forest trail, Suiattle River, outside of Glacier Peak Wilderness.

63. Typical old growth Douglas fir in Buck Creek Valley, a tributary to the Suiattle River. The valley was omitted from wilderness by the Forest Service which claimed "it had too much



63. Typical old growth Douglas fir in such a tributary to the Suiattle River. The valley was omitted from wilderness protection by the Forest Service which claimed "it had too much timber". The Forest Service has stated its intent to log this valley if it is not protected by a National Park or Wilderness status.

64. De facto wilderness forest along the Whitechuck River, outside of the Glacier Peak Wilderness. This area too will be logged unless included in the Wilderness.

65. Goat Lake, inside the boundary of the proposed conservationists National Park. The Forest Service has recently conducted heavy logging sales within a mile of this lake.

66. Boulder River, and Rain Forest. This valley is scheduled for logging in 1969.

67. Mt. Index and Persis Ridge, from Steven's Pass highway, south of Glacier Peak Wilderness.

68. Cooper Lake, looking into proposed Alpine Lakes Wilderness, just east of Seattle. The Forest Service has recently conducted a heavy logging sale just above this lake.

### Maps

69. This map is intended to illustrate the commercial timber in the North Cascades Region. A dark black line in a rough oblong indicates the boundaries of the 1.3 million acre national park embodied in HR.12139. Note that the main commercial timber in this area is in what are known as narrow valley "stringers". Very little substantial tracts of timber are involved. Note that the main bodies of commercial timber, all in green, are outside of any proposal. Again, note that all the timber which could be cut in this proposed park would amount to about 8/10 of 1% of all the timber cut in the State of Washington.

70. This map illustrates the commercial timber available in the Administration Proposed Park. An infinitesimal amount of timber is involved, barely enough to calculate in the state's annual cut. The new administration legislation proposes even to omit the narrow valley stringer just above and to the right of the word "highway" on the map. Some cynics have called this "The Loggers Park", because it has hardly any timber in it.

### Logging in The North Cascades

71. Forest Service clearcut logging on south slopes of Mt. Baker. It is this sort of insensitivity to scenic values which has sparked conservationist's efforts to put management of the superlative North Cascades country into the hands of another agency more sensitive. The Park Service has yet to log its first virgin forest, mine its first ridge, dam its first river valley.

72. Forest Service logging in Marble Creek, tributary to the Cascade River. This logging is in the Eldorado Peaks country, inside the boundary of the area proposed by conservationists for national park status. The clearcut method is typical of logging practices in the Northwest.

73. Logging on private lands at west end of Cascade River Valley. An example of erosion and destruction caused by this type of logging practice.

74. This picture, and the one which follows, were taken about a mile apart. This picture is taken on the drive toward Mt. Rainier National Park, as one passes through a State Park.

75. A "Tree Farm", just a mile away from the other picture. This picture was taken approximately 15 years after logging. Many places in the North Cascades look like this now. In many places, the soils are so steep that it is difficult for trees to grow back after they have been cut. Conservationists would like to see a halt to this sort of practice in the scenic parts of the North Cascades. This is why we want a National Park.