



N3C Actions

NOVEMBER 2022
to MARCH 2023

Advocacy carried out by dedicated N3C volunteers in the last four months to protect and preserve the North Cascades lands, waters, plants and wildlife. Also noted are several issues being monitored that may require action when fully evaluated and understood.



DEFENDING WILD AREAS AGAINST DAMAGING INDUSTRIAL USES

Why it matters: resource extraction — mining, logging, hydropower — is the most harmful use of public land. N3C strives to save what remains wild, mitigate what's been lost, and restore what's been damaged.

- Wrote to Seattle City Light requesting cost numbers for recoating the transmission towers, so we begin negotiations for a replacement aesthetic mitigation.
- Attended SCL tour of Skagit project. City Light demonstrated how they could partially re-water the Gorge Reach.
- Submitted written comments on SCL's hydro Lighting Plan, supporting National Park Service requests to shield lighting from surrounding area.
- Submitted testimony to State Legislature opposing Yakima Plan, saying it should refrain from funding water projects that do not pencil out or that contribute to additional methane generation.



ESTABLISHING, EXPANDING AND PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

Why it matters: federal land designation as Wilderness and Park is the gold standard of ecosystem protection, precluding most damaging industrial and commercial exploitation.

- Commented on NOCA EA on modifications for Graybeal & Bridge Creek campgrounds. N3C is opposed to the use of helicopters and chainsaws in Wilderness, as they are prohibited under the Wilderness Act.
- Urged N3C members, in an Action Alert, to request that NOCA campsite work be done without helicopters and chainsaws.
- Sent letter to Darrington Ranger re status of Monte Cristo track and requesting the gate lock be changed. She will change lock but the track will not be decommissioned. See page 9.
- Attended webinar on new National Conservation Legacy Center National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Showed plans for the Missoula, MT museum, due to open in 2025.

Want to take actions that protect the North Cascades?

Join the N3C board.

Contact Phil Fenner for details at
philf@northcascades.org



PROTECTING ANCIENT FORESTS AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Why it matters: like real estate, they're just not making ancient forest anymore. We seek to restore watersheds and fisheries damaged from decades of heavy logging and road building and protect significant forests from degradation.

- ✓ Sent Action Alert opposing Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest plan to cut 2+ ac of old growth so Mt. Baker Ski Area can expand its parking lot. See page 9.
- ✓ Filed Twisp lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service. In its formal Answer, USFS denies almost all our allegations, or says they are too vague. Reiterated our position in our reply to Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Superintendent Kristin Bail. See page 13.
- ✓ Met Senator Cantwell staffer Ric Evans re Twisp to lobby for the USFS to open its input process beyond just Collaborative members.
- ✓ Hosted meeting of concerned Methow citizens in Twisp to explain our concerns.
- ✓ Filed N. Fk Stillaguamish draft EA comments opposing large-scale commercial thinning.
- ✓ Attended S. Fk. Stilly appeal oral arguments at the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals hearing on our appeal of its 2021 ruling against our 2018 EA objection.
- ✓ Signed OregonWild letter thanking USFS for the recent withdrawal of the Flat Country logging project, and calling on the FS and Bureau of



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECREATION IN WILD AREAS

Why it matters: balancing access with economics and Wilderness preservation, we evaluate motorized use and places where it needs to be limited to reduce land impacts and recurring road repair costs.

- ✓ Requested meeting with NPS Regional Land Office to tell new staff about what was wrong with the last land exchange in Stehekin so it won't happen again.
 - ✓ Attended Alpine Lakes Collaborative meetings. N3C has joined this Washington Trails Association-led group, which seeks to limit recreational impacts in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.
 - ✓ Objected to "brushhogging" on the Stehekin road. Poorly executed trimming severely damaged vegetation and left an ugly mess along the roadside.
-
- Land Management to implement Pr. Biden's executive order to conserve mature and old-growth forests by promulgating a strong and enduring forest carbon rule.
- ✓ Composed and signed-on joint letter by Washington Wild urging Gov. In-slee to support funding for ten trust land transfers totaling more than 7,000 acres in 10 counties.
 - ✓ Attended webinars on thinning problems and Dominick Della Salla of Wild Heritage presentation to League of Women Voters.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Why it matters: From microscopic fungi to top predators, the wilderness ecosystem's living members are interdependent, so keeping viable populations of each species is essential to preserve the ecosystem for future generations.

- ✓ Submitted comments on grizzly reintroduction to the National Park Service and FWS. N3C favors return of grizzlies, with concerns about source populations, helicopters, and other current plan elements.
- ✓ Met with Wilderness Watch leadership, which opposes grizzly bear reintroduction, to share thoughts on new scoping comments and methods that would minimize helicopters and other manipulations but achieve the goal of restoring the complete ecosystem, which we support.
- ✓ Attended NPCA Grizzly Bear restoration calls and reiterated our concerns about helicopters and source populations.
- ✓ Signed on to NPCA grizzly EIS letter thanking NPS and NFWS for restarting grizzly EIS.

- ✓ Attended Center for Responsible Forestry (CRF) webinar on legacy forests via WWU. Learned how CRF is trying to stop logging of legacy forests on State lands.
- ✓ Attended Climate Forests Coalition strategy call, and announced our MBSNF Carbon-Watershed Reserve position statement. See page 15.