



N3C Actions

JULY to OCTOBER 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.



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.

- ✓ Signed onto Washington Wild's letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology supporting DOE's proposal to designate the Cascade, Green and Napeequa Rivers as Outstanding Resource Waters with Tier III (A) protections, the highest level, requiring actions that require permits near the rivers to demonstrate they would not lower the water quality.
- ✓ Continued engagement with the NPCA National Parks Conservation Association, re: the Skagit Hydro project relicensing process, the proposed road to Ross Reservoir, and project mitigations. N3C has a seat at the table. (See page 11)



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.

- ✓ Asked DNR to remove a helicopter that crashed in the Copper Lake area near Morningstar Natural Resource Conservation Area and fine the operator. It remains to be seen if DNR will take these steps.



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.

- ✓ Our attorneys submitted a summary judgement motion challenging the Twisp logging project, and on 9/15 our reply brief to defendant Forest Service's cross-motion for summary judgement.
- ✓ Held well-attended public meeting in Twisp to share N3C's alternative to the Twisp logging project. (see page 15)
- ✓ Met with members of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Forest Service to revise the Northwest Forest Plan, urging them to retain protection for Late-Successional Reserves.
- ✓ Signed onto letter with Wild Earth Guardians to USFS Deputy Chief Chris French urging him to improve how Legacy Roads & Trails (LRT) projects are ranked and selected and ensuring greater transparency and public input/accountability
- ✓ Met with ex-USFS scientist to discuss the potential case for a lawsuit to stop the N Fork Stillaguamish logging project.



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.

- ✓ Met with Chelan County's Director of Natural Resources to discuss their new Stehekin economic development planning project. Emphasized the need to limit growth in the area. (See page 14)



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.

- ✓ Rejoined "Save Our Wild Salmon," which works to restore native salmon runs throughout the Pacific Northwest
- ✓ Signed onto letter with Endangered Species Coalition and EarthJustice urging the Biden administration to fully restore the Endangered Species Act as it approaches its 50th anniversary.

Want to take actions that protect the North Cascades?

Join the N3C board.

Contact Phil Fenner for details at philf@northcascades.org



New N3C website!



North Cascades Conservation Council

Protecting Washington's Cascades since 1957

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Special Feature: The Methow Community Alternative



We've completely redesigned our website for easier access and a more appealing design. Take a look on your big or little screen, it's mobile-friendly! We value your feedback—email us at nccinfo@northcascades.org