



# N3C Actions

OCTOBER 2023 to  
FEBRUARY 2024

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.

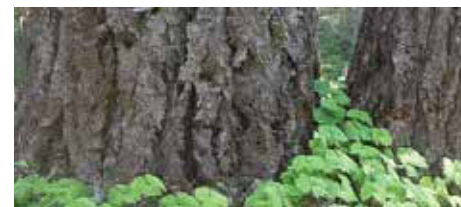
- ✓ Filed comments supporting decommissioning of old dam retaining Bagley Lake near Heather Meadows north of Mt. Baker, to attain a more natural hydrology in the degraded upper basin of Bagley Creek. Requested collecting and disposing of introduced eastern brook trout population, to prevent reproduction with native fish populations in the North Fork Nooksack River; and implementing safeguards to protect the Mt. Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) from possible degradation during the removal.
- ✓ Participated in the ongoing re-licensing process of the Seattle City Light hydro project, attending monthly Comprehensive Settlement Table, Recreation Working Group, Terrestrial and Wildlife Working Group, Fish Passage Working Group meetings, as well as the all-day Recreation Visioning session. See page 6.
- ✓ Signed on to letter by one of our members opposing Yakima Plan. While there are no specific requests in the Capital Budget for additional funding for water projects like Yakima, it is an opportunity to raise concerns from our comments submitted last year.



## 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.

- ✓ Signed letter by an N3C member to the Skykomish District Ranger requesting permanent closure of National Forest inholdings in the protected Morningstar NRCA to helicopters to prevent pollution of Snohomish County's watershed by crashes like the recent one at Copper Lake.
- ✓ Signed letter to protect the Snohomish County watershed from helicopters.
- ✓ Signed onto Washington Wild letter opposing military overflights over Washington wilderness areas, specifically the Methow Valley and the Pasayten and Lake Chelan/Sawtooth Wilderness Areas
- ✓ Signed on to Washington Wild letter opposing fixed anchors in Wilderness. See page 7.



## 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.

- ✓ Signed on to Wild Earth Guardians letter to Sens. Murray & Cantwell asking them not to fund Legacy Roads & Trails (LRT) until it is reformed to re-focus on road decommissioning. (Contrary to other orgs asking for \$100M in the FY2025 Interior-Environmental Appropriations Bill.) LRT funding has been used to keep roads open, the opposite of its original intent.
- ✓ Signed on to letter opposing CO2 injection in Natl Forests. See page 17.
- ✓ Signed onto Legacy Forest Defense Coalition opposing "Stilly Revisited" timber sale downstream of the 2014 Oso landslide, which would fragment and destroy large parts of one of few remaining stands of lowland old-growth forest and is located on slopes even steeper than those that failed in 2014. Signing this letter gives us the opportunity to be co-litigants in LFDC's suit against WA DNR.
- ✓ Signed on to John Muir Project letter requesting an Executive Moratorium on logging and full protections for federal mature and old-growth forests.
- ✓ Attended NW Forest Plan Revisions Federal Advisory Committee 3-day



## 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.

- ✓ Lobbied to restore NPS Rangers to Stehekin by sending a 500-signature petition to NPS Director Chuck Sams and Interior Sec. Deb Halland two days after learning personnel would not be replaced. Published letter to the editor in the *Seattle Times* late February. See page X.
- ✓ Joined Chelan County Panel reviewing proposals for a contractor to develop a Stehekin Economic Development plan, intended to make Stehekin more sustainable. See <https://kpg.com/grant-application-for-stehekins-sustainability/>
- public meeting (virtually) to monitor situation. We were not appointed to this committee but have contacts with allies within it.
- ✓ Attended oral arguments in the Twisp "Restoration" (logging) Project (TRP) lawsuit, which is now heading to the Ninth Circuit for appeal.
- ✓ Sent letter to WA Department of Natural Resources supporting Trust Land Transfer (TLT) for Beckler River 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.

- ✓ Signed on to letter by Defenders of Wildlife supporting the creation of a National Biodiversity Strategy as proposed in [S. Res. 494](#) by Senator Jeff Merkley [D-OR]. With nearly one million species at risk of extinction, an NBS provides a critical blueprint for the U.S. to address and stem the crisis facing nature.
- ✓ Filed comments on grizzly reintroduction plans, including our stated positions on the overall process, the best sources of bears to take from, reducing human conflicts, opposing helo use in Wilderness, and opposing the ESA 10(j) "experimental population" rule which would permit killing any grizzly that conflicts with humans, and calling for more action on connectivity of populations.

- ✓ Signed on to WA Wild letter for State Funding for Protection of State Forests through (TLT), urging the Washington State Legislature to fully fund supplemental budget request for \$8 million.
- ✓ Signed on to letter urging Gov. Inslee to designate \$10 million in Natural Climate Solutions Account (e.g., carbon auction funds) to the TLT program. Carbon auction proceeds are higher than expected and a portion of those funds would help TLT to catch up on past unfunded projects.