

The North Cascades

For over sixty years, the **North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC – aka N3C)** has been at the forefront of protecting America’s “Wilderness Alps”—Washington’s spectacular North Cascades. On the western slopes of the range, rainforest valleys rise to subalpine parkland and craggy summits flanked by hundreds of lakes and more than 700 glaciers. To the east, gentler pine and meadow-clad ridges and valleys stretch for miles, like waves on a turbulent sea. It is among the most beautiful landscapes on Earth and is one of the wildest places left in the lower 48 States.

NCCC and the North Cascades: Our History

Archaeological evidence indicates that virtually every part of the range, even the high meadows and peaks, have been utilized by Indigenous people for more than 9,000 years. Euro-American settlers arrived in the 1870s. Logging and mining soon followed and much wild country was lost over the course of the twentieth century. Logging roads were pushed up many valleys and most of a once vast sea of old-growth forest was cut down.

As more people visited and fell in love with the North Cascades, pressure mounted for their protection, including the thousands of species of flora and fauna that live here. In March 1957, the **North Cascades Conservation Council** was formed to save these Wilderness Alps from the accelerating onslaught of logging, roads, and mining.



Ancient forests are critical to the North Cascades ecosystem.

Photo by Phil Zalesky

NCCC’s pivotal activism led to designation of the Glacier Peak Wilderness in 1960. Another great NCCC victory came in 1968 when Congress established North Cascades National Park, the Pasayten Wilderness, and the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. NCCC continued to play a leading role in the designation of new Wilderness Areas, including the Alpine Lakes and William O. Douglas Wilderness Areas. NCCC led campaigns to stop a planned open-pit copper mine near Glacier Peak and construction of High Ross dam on the upper Skagit River, both of which would have had devastating impacts on the pristine natural environment.

Despite these great victories, much of the biologically productive, species-rich low elevation valleys—the heart and soul of the North Cascades ecosystem—have been largely excluded from protection!

Today, NCCC is working on many fronts in the North Cascades. Our work takes on new importance in the wake of climate change.

- Establishing new wilderness: NCCC succeeded at designating the Wild Sky Wilderness and expanding Alpine Lakes Wilderness into Pratt River, and seeks to permanently protect more roadless areas in the Cascades.
- Defending forests: NCCC is at the forefront of efforts to stop damaging timber sales, protect ancient forests, remove abandoned and unnecessary logging and mining roads, and promote the re-wilding of our maturing second-growth forests.
- Supporting wildlife conservation and keystone species: Grizzly bear, wolf, and fisher populations have plummeted in the North Cascades over the past 150 years. NCCC is helping to reintroduce fishers and supports the reintroduction of grizzly bears.
- Promoting sound recreational use: Motorized recreation in wild areas threatens fish and wildlife habitats, causes erosion, and shatters silence in the North Cascades. NCCC advocates strongly for sustainable, instead of damaging, recreational use.

Membership Benefits

The Wild Cascades, premier journal of the North Cascades and its people, places, and politics—lively and unafraid to challenge the status quo (3 issues/year).

Cascades Catalyst email alerts, so YOU can take timely action to help preserve wildlands in the North Cascades.



Be part of a vibrant grassroots network of advocates for protection of the unique lands, waters, plants, wildlife, and wilderness of the North Cascades.

JOIN NOW at www.northcascades.org/wordpress/join-us

Or use this mail-in form:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email (opt): _____ City/St/Zip _____

- I'd like to volunteer! Contact me. Please send me occasional action alerts and news of upcoming events by email—approx. one email per month (we do not sell addresses to anyone).

Amount enclosed:
___ Low-income/student \$10 ___ Individual \$30 ___ Family \$50 ___ Sustaining \$100
___ Other: \$ _____ You can also donate to specific NCCC projects (visit www.northcascades.org for info).

NCCC is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.
Send check or money order and this form to: NCCC Membership, Box 95980, Seattle, WA 98145

“Nowhere do the Mountain masses and Peaks, present such strange, fantastic, dauntless, & startling outlines as here.”

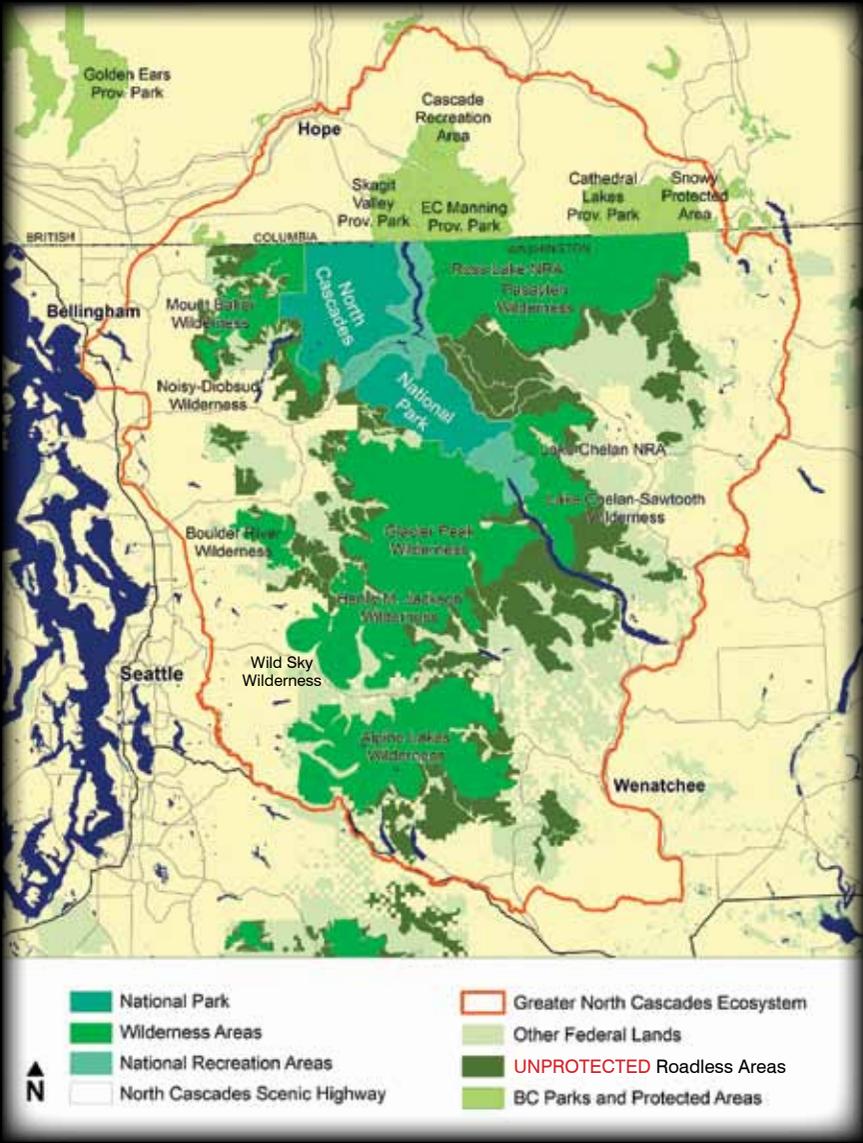
—Heinrick Küster, Swiss surveyor
U.S. Boundary Survey, 1859

Photo by Tom Hammond

www.northcascades.org

www.facebook.com/northcas/

Protected and Unprotected Wildlands in the North Cascades

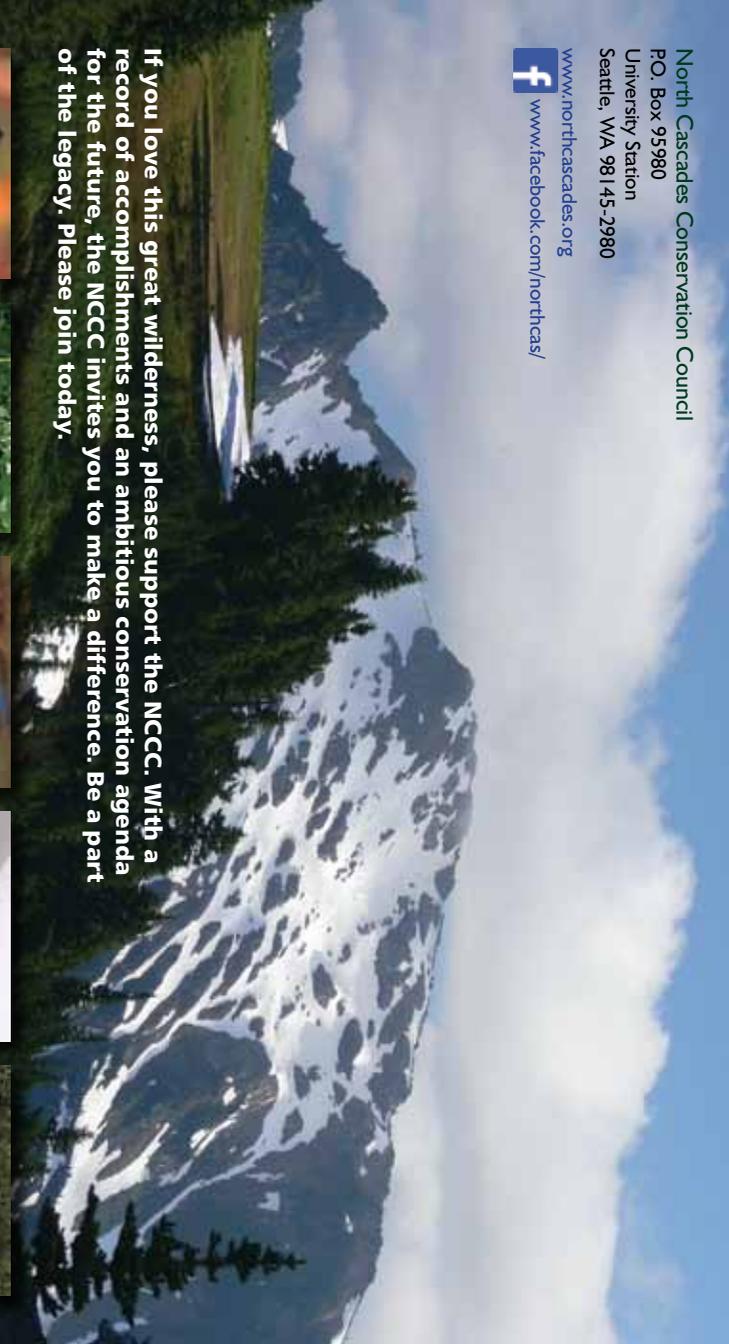


Map by Pacific Biodiversity Institute and NCCC

Threats to the Greater North Cascades ecosystem (shown here in satellite view) include damaging timber sales, mining and road-building. Preventing these are NCCC's priorities, preserving these lands for all to enjoy!



If you love this great wilderness, please support the NCCC. With a record of accomplishments and an ambitious conservation agenda for the future, the NCCC invites you to make a difference. Be a part of the legacy. Please join today.



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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL



“A merely superficial spectator might call it the American Switzerland, with its abrupt peaks rising above the clouds, its deep valleys dividing the heights, its aspect at once grand and wild.”
 —Jules Verne, 1879