

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Education Report Vol. 13 No. 4 - Spring 1994
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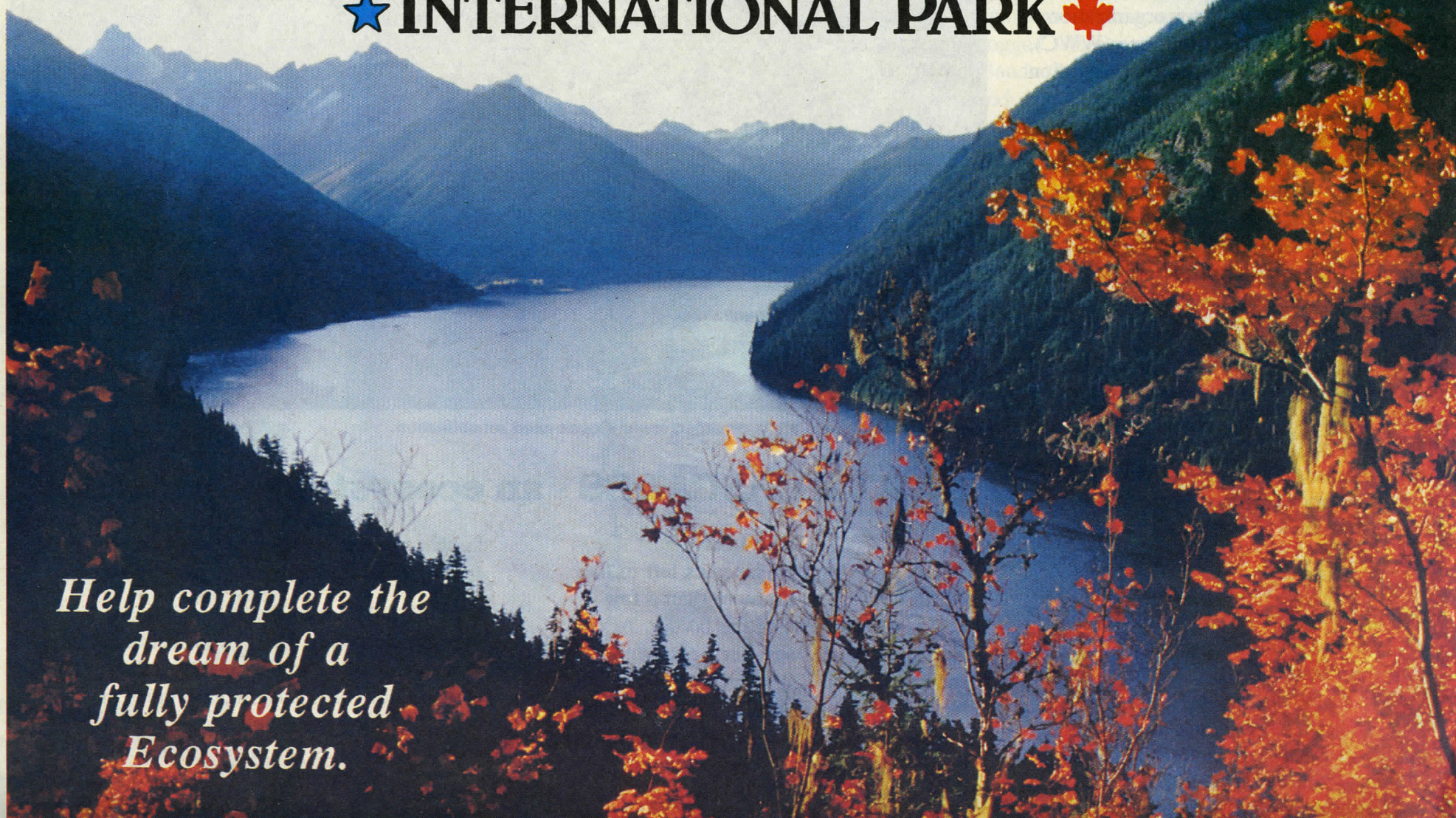
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CASCADE



★ INTERNATIONAL PARK ★



*Help complete the
dream of a
fully protected
Ecosystem.*

NATURE TRANSCENDS NATIONAL BORDERS

Along the BC-Washington border, from Bellingham to Penticton, conservationists are working on a bold new initiative to protect wild nature in the North Cascades Ecosystem. This vast, trans-boundary mountainous region is sandwiched between the densely populated Seattle/Vancouver corridor on the west and the burgeoning Okanagan/Wenatchee communities on the east.

In late 1992 a dozen conservation groups from the United States and Canada joined together to form the Cascade International Alliance to work for the creation of a Cascade International Park. Following the principles of conservation biology, the new park will connect existing parks with new protected areas. It will be large enough to fully protect the Cascades' biodiversity in perpetuity.

The heart of the North Cascades Ecosystem is a 1,194,000 hectare (3,032,762 acre) cluster of parks, cherished for their hiking trails, fishing streams and wildlife. The existing park lands encompass towering ice-covered volcanoes, serrated mountain peaks, alpine flower meadows, ancient temperate rainforests, dryland pine forests and interior bunchgrass meadows. Grizzly bear, lynx, elk and mountain goats roam the diverse habitats. The streams support abundant

steelhead and salmon.

The Cascade parks comprise some of North America's finest protected areas, including BC's 65,884 ha (162,799 acre) Manning and 33,272 ha (82,215 acre) Cathedral Provincial Parks, as well as the 32,508 ha (80,327 acre) Skagit and 16,680 ha (41,216 acre) Cascade Recreation Areas. In Washington State there are the North Cascades National Park, the Ross Lake and Chelan National Recreation Areas and the Pasayten, Mt. Baker, Noisy-



The Roosevelt elk have returned to mainland BC from across the border after 120 years in exile.

Diobsud, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth, Boulder, Henry Jackson and Glacier Peaks Wilderness Areas.

Everyone agrees that we are amazingly blessed to have such a large piece of wild nature - the well spring of life - still remaining in the centre of the fastest growing group of communities in North America. But how can we ensure the survival of the wild Cascades in the face of unprecedented population growth and industrial activity? Already the surrounding population surpasses four million. And it's expected to double over the next two decades! Wildlife, everything from salmon to grizzly bears, have begun to dwindle as the mighty ecosystem is impacted on all sides by clearcut logging.

The task of conserving biodiversity in perpetuity is made even more challenging by the patchwork of jurisdictions, including First Nations' territories, two national, a provincial, a state, and dozens of municipal and regional governments. Though nature has no political boundaries, people certainly do!

Conservationists know that everyone must cooperatively manage current parks, create new ones and manage lands outside parks to keep the North Cascades Ecosystem intact.

Become a member and be a Defender of Nature

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is a non-profit environmental organization headquartered in Vancouver BC. Founded in 1980, now we are over 20,000 members strong. This newspaper is co-published with our sister organization, the World Wilderness Committee (WWC), a not-for-profit environmental organization founded in Washington State in 1990.

Our job is preserving wilderness, the natural life-support system of planet Earth. Many of our wilderness-saving projects have been in the hinterlands of BC, including Carmanah Valley, South Morseby, Stein Valley, Chilko Lake, Kitlope River, the Cariboo Mountains and Clayoquot Sound.

The proposed Cascade International Park is virtually on our door step. I can look out from a highrise a few blocks from our Vancouver office and see the ice-covered Cascade peaks glistening on the eastern horizon. Many of us have lived within the mighty Cascades ecosystem our whole lives without really being aware of it.

The Wilderness Committee has been working for the protection of the North Cascades Ecosystem for only one year. We began our campaign when we joined with other US and Canadian environmental groups to form the Cascade International Alliance in December of 1992. Our growing awareness of the threats to this ecosystem makes the fight for its protection a passionate one.



The Border Peaks - logging damaged lower slopes need rehabilitation.

NORTH CASCADES - an ecosystem in trouble!

GRIZZLIES

Today there are few grizzlies left in the North Cascades—no more than a few dozen on each side of the border. At one time, not so long ago, the ecosystem supported over 200 grizzlies. Now, the North Cascades is one of only six areas in the continental US where these magnificent bears still exist, and their population recovery has become, of necessity, a major goal of US conservationists. The grizzlies'

known to exist in the proposed Cascade International Park protected areas in BC.

Spotted owl conservation measures are unfortunately only "under consideration" in British Columbia where endangered species laws do not exist. Logging continues in key BC habitat areas and a spotted owl recovery plan has yet to be adopted by the BC provincial government.

Predictably the BC forest industry is saying

The Wilderness Committee works within the law. Our tactics focus on mobilizing people through the production and widespread distribution of educational reports (like the one you are reading now), videos, posters, books and endangered wilderness calendars. We hold public meetings and rallies and we build trails into threatened areas.

We are not against all logging. We are against clearcutting. We are for selection logging methods. We are for more value-added wood-products manufacturing - getting more jobs from a log so we can cut fewer trees and protect more wild lands.

We believe that we can have both more permanent forestry jobs and more protected ancient forests. I hope that you will help us create the Cascade International Park. Please consider becoming a Wilderness Committee member (if you are already not one). It costs only \$30 a year. I believe it is one of the best investments you can make to save both wilderness and jobs.

Sincerely yours,



Joe Foy, Campaign Director

Credits: Writing: Mitch Friedman and Joe Foy - Editing: Adriane Carr & Paul George - Design & Production: Sue Fox-Gregory - Map: adapted with permission from the book *Cascadia Wild* published by Greater Ecosystem Alliance and adapted for WCWC by Sue-Fox Gregory - Photos: Joe Foy, Leo DeGroot, Bernie Pawlik, M. Reid, Greater Ecosystem Alliance.

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in the Cascades depends to a great deal on preservation of natural habitat on the adjacent still-wild lands in BC. The two key areas which must be preserved are the Upper Skagit and Tulameen Valleys, where grizzlies still exist.

LYNX

The North American lynx is a member of the cat family that lives only in northern and high-elevation forests, where they feed predominately on snowshoe hare. Due to logging, hunting, and other human impacts, very few lynx remain anywhere in the lower States. Perhaps the healthiest population left is on the east side of the North Cascades, in a Washington State area known as the Okanogan Meadows. Hopefully, lynx in this area have not been cut off and reproductively isolated from their "cousin" lynx in BC by the recently built network of roads and clearcuts just north of the border. In order to survive, the remaining lynx habitat needs to be protected and adjoining lands must be healed.

SPOTTED OWLS

Recently, massive efforts have been made to save the northern spotted owl in the northwestern United States. US laws protect ancient forests in order to safeguard the species that depend on them, including the spotted owl, a species which indicates the health of the oldgrowth forests. The southwest corner of BC is the northern extent of this species' range. It is estimated that as many as 100 pairs of spotted owls live in BC's Coast Range and North Cascades. Eight active nesting sites are

critical oldgrowth forest habitat biologists have determined is necessary to conserve this species. Obligations under the new, internationally adopted Biodiversity Convention, in which Canada played a leadership role, should help. Of greatest importance is increasing public pressure to conserve nature.

ROOSEVELT ELK

For the first time in over a century, elk are returning to BC's lower Fraser Valley. They have entered BC from the United States through the Chilliwack River Valley via the North Cascades National Park. But without protection and rehabilitation of lowland forests on the BC side, their future remains uncertain.



Lynx - for the Cascade population's survival, Washington's Okanogan Meadows must be protected.

Full Protection For The North Cascades

The Wilderness Committee is recommending that currently unprotected key areas of the North Cascades be granted park protection. This protection is needed in order to revitalize fish and wildlife populations and to safeguard the region's prime wilderness, recreation and spiritual values. Most of the proposed protected areas are in BC. One, the Okanogan Meadows, is in Washington State.

The government of BC initiated a planning process called the Protected Area Strategy (PAS) to double the park lands in BC by the year 2000. We are recommending that our North Cascade BC park proposals be considered for protection this year under the PAS program. Because none of the BC proposed protected areas have been ceded by the First Nations via treaty or sale, we

advocate that full park status for new areas be conferred only with First Nations approval. In addition, the Wilderness Committee recommends that the North Cascades protected lands in all jurisdictions (BC, Washington State, First Nations and municipal) be managed cooperatively to conserve the living resources and that these protected areas together be called the Cascade International Park.

Recommended New Protected Areas

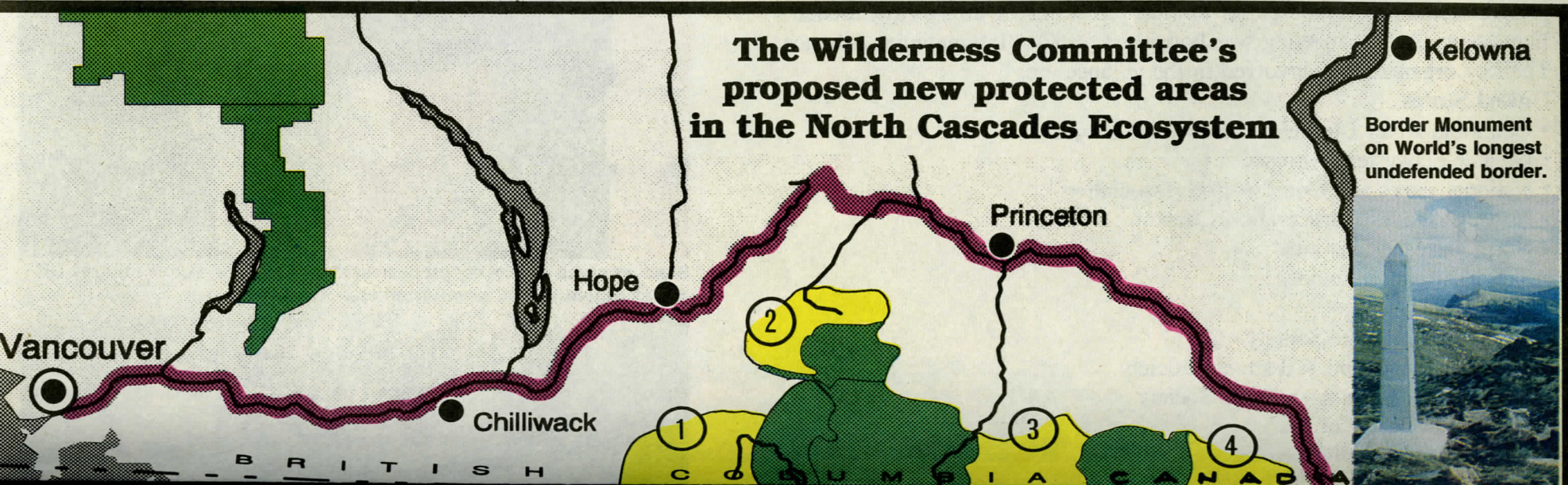
#1. Upper Chilliwack Valley - Chilliwack Lake, BC. The Chilliwack Lake and upper valley area is one of the most popular outdoor recreation destinations in the province. Fishing, hiking and camping are the most popular activities. The area is an important spiritual retreat for the Chilliwack Tribe. People have been advocating its protection since the 1960s.

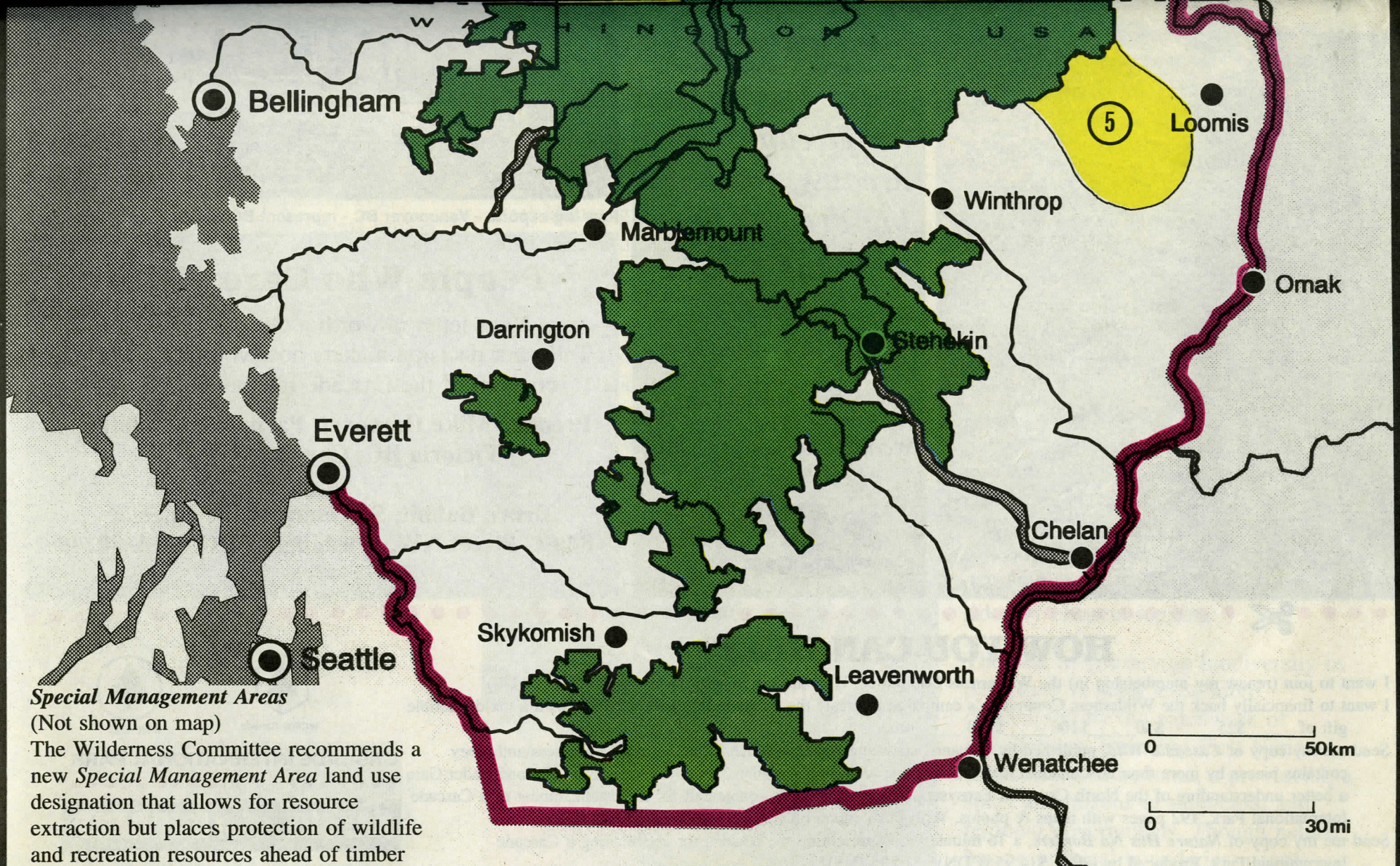
#2. Upper Tulameen Valley, BC. The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society has been working for several decades to gain protection for this area with its grizzly habitat, scenic meadows and historic trails.

#3. Upper Pasayten/Ashnola Valleys, BC. Though some of this area has been roaded and logged, there are important pockets of wild lands that need to be protected. Logged over lands should be left to heal.

#4. Similkameen River, BC. This area has extremely dry habitats, including bunchgrass meadows, which are under-represented in the current BC parks system. It must be protected.




#5. Okanogan Meadows, Washington. Preservation of the Meadows is critical to the survival of the lynx in Washington State.

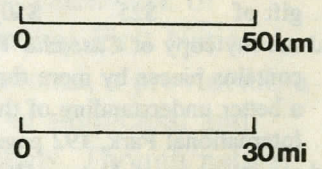




Special Management Areas
(Not shown on map)

The Wilderness Committee recommends a new *Special Management Area* land use designation that allows for resource extraction but places protection of wildlife and recreation resources ahead of timber production. *Special Management Lands* must buffer the International Park and provide wildlife corridors to northern wilderness preserves in BC's Nahatlatch and Stein watersheds, the Southern Chilcotin Ranges and Chilko Lake.

	Proposed Protected Areas
	National and Provincial Parks and Wilderness Areas
	Ecosystem Boundary



North Cascades A fully protected environment with permanent jobs

Steps must be taken now to protect the North Cascade Ecosystem. Important recreation areas are being lost as industrial development continues in unprotected lands. First Nations' spiritual retreat areas are being obliterated. Fish populations are being depleted. Wildlife is in decline. Decisive action is needed, **now!** Any way you look at it, more trees are going to have to be spared from the chain saw. Will this mean less woodworker jobs? No! Not if we change the way local logging is carried out and if we manufacture wood products locally instead of shipping the wood off to far-away mills.

The Wilderness Committee demands that selection logging systems replace clearcut logging. Selection management eco-forestry will protect the environment and increase the number of logging jobs per tree cut. We also demand a ban on the export of unprocessed raw logs and cants in order to increase local manufacturing jobs and enable more wilderness preservation.



Raw logs being exported - Olympia, Wash. - A loss of jobs for Washington State's woodworkers.

Working together to win! Cascade International Alliance

In December of 1992, environmental groups from the North Cascades region joined together to campaign for the full protection of the North Cascade Ecosystem. At this meeting was born the Cascades International Alliance. The key organizations involved in the alliance are:

United States

- Columbia River Bioregional Education Project
- Greater Ecosystem Alliance
- National Parks and Conservation Association
- North Cascades Conservation Council
- North Cascades Institute
- Skagit Audubon Society

Canada

- Canadian Earthcare Society
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
- Steelhead Society of BC
- Wilderness Committee



Stack of cants (minimally processed logs) ready for export - Surrey BC - A loss of jobs for BC's woodworkers.





Clear cut logging doesn't just hurt the environment - it devastates it!

"Dream big dreams, for only big dreams have the power to move people's souls."

Mitch Friedman,
Vice President,
World Wilderness Committee.



Raw log exports - Vancouver BC - represent BC woodworkers' lost jobs!

People Who Care Write!

Your letter is worth a thousand votes. Tell your decision makers how you feel about the creation of the Cascade International Park.

**Premier Mike Harcourt, Parliament Buildings,
Victoria BC, Canada V8V 1X4**

and

**Bruce Babbit, Secretary of the Interior
849 C Street NW, Washington DC, USA 20240**



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- I want to join (renew my membership in) the Wilderness Committee. Here are my annual dues of \$30 (CDN or US).
- I want to financially back the Wilderness Committee's campaign to create the Cascade International Park with a tax deductible gift of _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ other.
- Send me my copy of *Cascadia Wild*, published by Greater Ecosystem Alliance (GEA). This unique wilderness anthology contains pieces by more than 20 Canadian and U.S. writers, including scientists, activists, and a First Nations leader. Gain a better understanding of the North Cascades Ecosystem. Treasure this passionate call for the establishment of a Cascade International Park. 192 pages with maps & photos. With this coupon only \$19.95 (CDN)* \$14.95 (US)*.
- Send me my copy of *Nature Has No Borders*, a 16 minute video presenting the reasons for establishing a Cascade International Park. Produced by GEA. \$14.95 (CDN)* \$10.95 (US)*.
- Send me my copy of the *Cascade International Park* and/or *Protect the Spotted Owl bumper sticker*. Produced by the Wilderness Committee. \$3 (CDN)* \$2 (US)* each. * All taxes & shipping costs included.

Name (please print) _____ Address _____
City _____ Prov/State _____ PC/Zip _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: IN CANADA - Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4.
IN THE UNITED STATES - World Wilderness Committee, Box AC, Bellingham, WA 98227-1586.
You can use your credit card to donate or purchase. Toll-free 1-800-661-9453. Fax (604) 683-8229.



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