

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D.C., March 17, 1967.

HON. JOHN W. McCORMACK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The President, in his January 30, 1967, message on Protecting Our Natural Heritage, recommended that the 90th Congress establish a national park in the North Cascades area in the State of Washington, provided the wilderness and recreation areas are protected.

The enclosed draft of a proposed bill will carry out the President's recommendation. We strongly recommend that it be enacted.

The bill is based upon a joint study conducted over a period of 2½ years by this Department and the Department of Agriculture of about 6 million acres of Federal lands in the North Cascade Mountains in Washington. The bill (1) establishes a North Cascades National Park; (2) establishes a Ross Lake National Recreation Area; (3) designates a national forest area as the Pasayten Wilderness; (4) designates certain national forest areas for addition to the existing Glacier Peak Wilderness; and (5) provides for the review of the area within the North Cascades National Park with respect to the suitability of any such lands for future designation by the Congress as wilderness areas. A detailed analysis of the provisions of the bill is set forth in an enclosure to this letter.

This proposed legislation has been prepared in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture and has his approval.

The man-years and cost-data statements for the North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake National Recreation Area (based on current assumptions and estimates) required by the Act of July 25, 1956 (70 Stat. 652; 5 U.S.C. 642a), when annual expenditures exceed \$1 million are enclosed.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that this proposed legislation is in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

A BILL To establish the North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake National Recreation Area, to designate the Pasayten Wilderness and to modify the Glacier Peak Wilderness, in the State of Washington, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

SEC. 101. In order to preserve for the benefit, use, and inspiration of present and future generations certain majestic mountain scenery, snow fields, glaciers, alpine meadows, and unique natural features in the North Cascade Mountains of the State of Washington, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing rights, the North Cascades National Park (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "park"). The park shall consist of the lands, waters, and interests therein within the area designated "national park" on the map entitled "Proposed Management Units, North Cascades, Washington," numbered NP-CAS-7000, and dated February 1967. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

TITLE II—ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

SEC. 201. In order to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of portions of the Skagit River and Ross, Diablo, and Gorge Lakes, together with the surrounding lands, and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, there is hereby established, subject to valid existing rights, the Ross Lake National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "recreation area"). The recreation area shall consist of the lands and waters within the area designated "national recreation area" on the map referred to in section 101 of this Act.