

leading into the heart of one of the most heavily glacier-clad regions of the Cascade crest: the Snowking, Buckindy, Dome Peak, Ptarmigan Traverse Section, between Cascade Pass and Image Lake.

(8) *Whitechuck River Amendment.*—The Whitechuck Valley, eastward one and a half miles from the present road-end, should be added to enlarge Glacier Peak Wilderness Area by 2,120 acres. This valley is the classic lowland wilderness walk of the western Cascades and is the most heavily used wilderness trail in the Mt. Baker National Forest. Every possible mile of it must be kept as is for the easy wilderness experience it affords.

(9) *Horseshoe Basin Amendment.*—The Horseshoe Basin-Windy Peak region at the eastern-most part of the North Cascades Primitive Area should be added, enlarging the Pasayten Wilderness by 24,000 acres. This major entrance to the wilderness from the east, is one of the most beautiful parts of the entire area. The existence of 12,000 acres of commercial timber appears to be the primary consideration leading to its exclusion from wilderness. This forest would be far more valuable if left standing as part of the wilderness environment rather than becoming an insignificant increment to the extensive commercial timber within the Okanogan National Forest. (The Senate has already adopted part of this amendment.)

(10) *Lightning Creek Amendment.*—The Lightning Creek drainage, east of the northern end of Ross Lake, should be added to the Pasayten Wilderness Area, not to Ross Lake Recreation Area as proposed in H.R. 8970. Conservationists oppose the North Cascades Study Team proposal for a road along the eastern shore of Ross Lake, connecting the North Cross-State Highway and the Trans-Canada Highway, which would cut through the valley of Lightning Creek. Designation of this valley as part of the Wilderness Area would greatly reduce the likelihood that the road would be constructed. Proposals to confine north-south traffic to the surface of Ross Lake are commendable.

We feel it is important to reiterate that these additions can be made without adverse effects. The areas involved have but limited resources suitable for commercial use. The economic gains to be derived from such commercial use probably would be many times less than the economic gains which could be derived from holding tourist-recreationists several more days in the area.

We urge the Committee to report H.R. 8970 with these recommended amendments before the adjournment of the 90th Congress. If, because of time limitations before adjournment, the Committee finds that it can report favorably the Senate Act (S. 1321) with some of the strengthening amendments supported by conservationists, we would urge that it consider at a later date the feasibility of making others of these proposed additions. We would urge the Committee to request the Forest Service and the National Park Service to report on these recommended additions at the time the two agencies submit their joint development plan for the North Cascades region.

We appreciate the opportunity to present these views.

