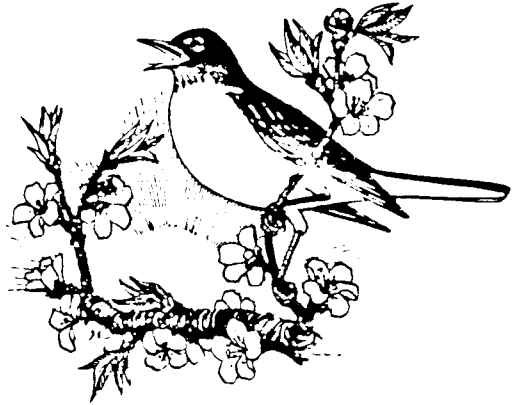


# The peninsula wilderness club

APRIL 1984



## OLYMPIC FIRE DAMAGE

9 March 1986

By Clint Porter

Still recuperating from an illness at the time, I had decided to limit myself that weekend to a quiet Sunday afternoon walk in the woods and figured that this would be a good time to take a look at the damage caused by last years' forest fire up above Staircase along the North Fork of the Skokomish River.

Although I noticed one burnt out area along the road as I drove in, there was, to my surprise, no sign of damage in the area immediately around Staircase itself. Hiking north along the trail, the first sign of damage was not burnt trees, but erosion. As those who have been this way know, the trail here is actually an old road bed. Now, about three quarters of a mile north of Staircase, a significant stretch of the old trail has been completely washed away. About a quarter of a mile beyond that, you find the sign announcing that you are entering the area of the Beaver Fire which extends beyond for either 2 or 2.5 miles. Travelers are warned not to stop along the way. "This," I thought, "Sounds foreboding."

As it turns out, the damage was not as bad as I had thought it might be. From the news reports, one would have thought the whole valley had been burned out. Actually, except for one area, all of the damage occurred east of the trail and up hill. It appears that the fire fighters may have used the trail as part of their line of defense. Even east of the trail the damage is not complete. Many of the trees look more like they took a good scorching without being completely burnt. Islands of untouched trees appear here and there, and some trees seem to have been only partially scorched,, brown needles on one side with green on the other. I lack the qualifications to even guess how many of these damaged trees may actually survive.

The fire damage ends just before you reach the turn off for Flap Jack Lakes. I went about a third of the way up that trail and noted only one spot where the fire had reached the trail.

Although the trail through the burned area is passable, there is work that can be done. This would include reestablishing the trail across the washed out area and removing trees lying across the trail which were probably felled by the fire fighters to establish a fire break.



The search is on...! Once again I'm throwing myself on the mercy of all you PWC members and I'm calling out, desperately, for someone to take my place on the newsletter staff. I know I've threatened before, but this time I mean it--it's time for me to move on and let someone else take their turn. You don't have to panic-- Clint Porter has been working with me since November 1984, and Alice Savage joined up last November. We've worked together as a team and have enjoyed sharing the responsibilities of putting out our monthly poopsheet. You don't have to spend a lot of time on it; we meet one night a month to do the actual paste-up and we all do a little bit here and there beforehand, such as writing out and/or typing any information we already have.

I've really enjoyed the over two years that I've put in on the newsletter...but it's time to move on. My thanks to everyone who has been of help to me...And yes, I will miss it.

*Mary*

## CLUB CALENDAR

14 APRIL MONDAY MONTHLY MEETING

Entertainment this month will be provided by Dick Roemer who will be showing us slides of his kayak trip down the Yukon several years ago. It should be a fascinating program.

Originally, we had planned to have Hazel Wolf, the 87 year old grande dame of the Pacific Northwest conservationists tell us about her recent trip to Nicaragua. Unfortunately she will not be with us this month due to an unexpected trip. She has, however, promised to be with us at our May meeting to present a program which we should all look forward to.

THE PENINSULAR WILDERNESS CLUB MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:30 PM AT THE KITSAP UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ON PERRY AVENUE IN EAST PREMERTON

<u>OFFICERS</u>			*	<u>NEWSLETTER STAFF</u>	
PRESIDENT	Jim Groh	779-5421	*	Mary Swoboda-Groh	779-5421
VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Luddon	373-0431	*	Clint Porter	377-3087
SECRETARY	Kathy Thomas	830-4456	*	Alice Savage	638-2597
TREASURER	David Ladd	479-8683	*		

## HOOD CANAL COORDINATING COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Environmental protection along the Hood Canal will be the focus of the newly formed Hood Canal Coordinating Council. The group, consisting of one commissioner each from Mason, Kitsap, and Jefferson Counties, one representative of the Washington State Ecological Commission, and one representative each from the Skokomish and Port Gamble-Klallam Indian Tribes, plans to "start a major planning effort to ensure the protection and enhancement of the environmental integrity of the Hood Canal watershed on a regional scale."

The Council will produce recommendations for a comprehensive management plan for the Hood Canal region by July, 1986. Anyone interested in becoming involved in this planning effort should contact: Hood Canal Coordinating Council, 3133 NW Randal Way, Silverdale, WA 98383. Phone: (206) 698-3133.

## BONNEVILLE POWER ISSUES HYDRO- ELECTRIC ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STUDY

The Bonneville Power Association has released a draft study of the effects of hydro-electric dams on rivers. The study is designed to be a model for BPA planning in the development of all future hydro-electric projects.

You can get a copy of the report by leaving a message on BPA's toll-free request line, (800) 624-9495. Ask for "Calculation of Environmental Costs and Benefits Associated With Hydro-electric Power in the Pacific Northwest." Send comments to: Shepard C. Buchanan; Office of Environmental Analysis; Bonneville Power Administration; 1002 NE Holladay Street; Portland, OR 97208.

Taken from WASHINGTON WILDFIRE, The Journal of  
the Washington Wilderness Coalition

# community interest

## BACKPACKING 86 APRIL AND MAY PENSTEMON GUIDE SERVICE

The P.G.S., in cooperation with Bremerton Parks and Recreation, will be conducting a course for the basic backpacker through both lectures and field trips. Subjects will include walking technique, clothing and equipment, and minimum impact camping. For more information call 377-9042.

## INTRODUCTION TO MOUNTAINEERING 86 MAY AND JUNE PENSTEMON GUIDE SERVICE

In cooperation with Bremerton Parks and Recreation, P.G.S. is putting on an introductory course in basic mountaineering. Course includes both lectures and practical training in the field. For more information call 377-9042.

## OLYMPIC COLLEGE CLIMBING COURSE

Olympic College offers a course in Basic Mountaineering each spring about this time of year. The emphasis is on self-sufficiency in the mountains and the fundamental rules of safety. For more information, call Olympic College at 478-4506.

# ... NEWS OF OLD FRIENDS...

A welcome back is in order for "Mac"Dowell. For those of you who didn't know that Mac was back, he arrived just in time for the March meeting--literally! He called us from Silverdale wanting to know how to get to the meeting place after driving non-stop all the way--from the East Coast. Now that's a dedicated PWCer!! He's raring to get back into hiking and climbing in the Beautiful Pacific NW, so anyone with the same inclinations should find a willing partner in Mac.

Jim and I just recently heard from Kevin Page, who was also a dedicated PWC member until he took off to go climbing all over the West about two years ago. After that, he lived in Wenatchee for a while and then, last we'd heard, he was somewhere in Seattle. Well, it now appears that Kevin is in California. He's been climbing in Joshua Tree, and then has plans to move to the Valley and then on to the High Sierra. He promises to keep the club up to date on his activities and has extended an open invitation to anyone who might like to join him. Anyone interested in contacting Kevin can call Jim and I for that information at 779-5421.

Mary Swoboda-Groh

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