

From: "The Wilderness Society" <ncinfo@twsw.org>

Subject: Celebrate 75 Years of TWS, Learn About the Ecology of Winter & More!



February 2010 News & Quick Links:

My North Cascades Story

*By Jay Lucas
Executive Director,
Methow Valley Sport Trails Association*

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Welcome

Dear Andrea,

At the end of January, The Wilderness Society celebrated its 75th birthday. On January 21st, 1935 Robert Sterling Yard, Benton MacKaye, and Robert Marshall, among others, founded The Wilderness Society as an "organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom of the wilderness."

These men founded an organization just as relevant and necessary today as it was in 1935. In its seventy-five years, The Wilderness Society has ensured that millions of acres of land will remain under the highest federal protection, thereby conserving mountains, deserts, forests, rivers, and the benefits of these open spaces for future generations. This includes wilderness areas such as Alpine Lakes, Glacier Peak, and Wild Sky - right here in our own North Cascades.

This month, get out in the North Cascades and explore the unique wildlife area of

Tell a Friend

Know someone who would like to learn more about the North Cascades? [Click here and let them know!](#)

Learning Activity of the Month

Winter Wings: Birds of the Skagit Flats

February 20, 2010 Join North Cascades Institute naturalist Jim Alt for a field excursion designed to celebrate one of the Northwest's natural treasures. Traveling together, you'll survey the area's profound bird life, with a focus on raptors, wintering waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as the relationships that bring these various species together in this particular place.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

Methow Valley Sport Trails Association

The Methow Valley Sport Trails Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and promoting environmentally sound recreation on or near the trail system in the Methow Valley.

[Learn more about this great organization.](#)

Umtanum Creek, learn about the birds of the Skagit River or discover the ecology of winter – and remember that it's people like you, who love wilderness and the North Cascades, who make the work we do possible.

John Chelminiak
North Cascades Initiative Director

The Wilderness Society's North Cascades Initiative envisions the North Cascades as a celebrated national treasure, where wilderness is preserved for future generations, where recreational opportunities are enhanced and well-planned, and where vibrant local communities realize the benefits of the wildlands surrounding them.

My North Cascades Story

By Jay Lucas
Executive Director
Methow Valley Sport Trails Association

Life in the Methow Valley

'My' North Cascades begins on the dry eastern slopes of the Range, in the community of the Methow Valley. My life is intimately tied to walking, riding, skiing and managing the trails that begin right out my back door. The popular [Methow Valley Sport Trails Association's](#) valley-bottom trails that draw mountain bikers, cross-country skiers and hikers to the Methow, act as connectors to a system of National Forest and wilderness trails that ultimately lead to some of the most remote wilderness areas in the lower 48.

[Continue reading Jay's story.](#)



Jay Lucas

Conservation

Natural Wonders of the North Cascades *Ecology of Winter Field Class*

There is plenty for naturalists to enjoy on a field trip in winter. On this four hour outing, practice your winter plant identification skills, follow animal tracks to decipher what kind of mission they were on and observe the behavior of winter birds. Learn about the remarkable adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive the 'energy bottleneck' of winter...all the while watching for the first signs of spring!

[Learn more about this activity.](#)

Recreation

Explore the North Cascades *Umtanum Creek Trail, Wenas Wildlife Area*

This month visit the Umtanum Recreation Area,

Methow Olympic Festival

The Methow Valley is the best place to be during the 2010 Winter Games for Olympic enthusiasts who want to do more than just watch! Enjoy a Washington State Olympic experience – Methow Valley Style! Experience Olympic activities while surrounded by the Winter Olympic Spirit in the beautiful Methow Valley from February 12-28, 2010.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

The North Cascades Are Calling -- You!

We're now on [Facebook!](#) Make sure to check out our new nonprofit page and [become a Fan](#) of the North Cascades!

Do you love to picnic, hike, camp, climb or commune with nature? Or do you simply like to admire it all from afar? You can do all of that and more in the North Cascades! Visit: www.experiencewilderness.org to plan your next adventure into the North Cascades.

Questions? Comments?

Email us at ncinfo@twsnw.org.

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located just south of Ellensburg. Popular in the spring for its spectacular wildflower display, Umtanum Creek is a great mid-winter destination as well. As part of the Wenas Wildlife Area, Umtanum Creek boasts an array of wildlife. Keep your eyes open for bald eagles wintering along the Yakima River and its tributaries, as well as for California bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, coyotes and mule deer.



Umtanum Recreation Area

[Learn more about this trip.](#)

Vibrant Communities

Cle Elum

Located in the beautiful Teanaway Valley, the town of Cle Elum has access to a range of world-class outdoor recreation activities in both winter and summer. The name Cle Elum comes from the Kittitas word "Tle-el-Lum," meaning "swift water" after the Cle Elum River.

[Learn more about Cle Elum.](#)



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