

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

Subject: Alpine Lakes Wilderness Progress, The Mountain's Earth Day Concert & More!



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*By Ruth Nielsen*

*Part-time Mazama resident, outdoor recreation lawyer and dog trainer*

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## Welcome

Dear Andrea,

April makes me think of a line from an Alexander Pope poem "*Hope springs eternal.*" We're *hopeful* with the U.S. House's passage of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Rivers bill, getting us another step closer to ensuring these treasures are preserved for all to enjoy.

*Spring* is happening all around and is a great time to get outdoors. Check out this month's featured hike: the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River.

We are *eternally* grateful to [103.7 The Mountain](#) for its long-standing support of The Wilderness Society. [Get your tickets now](#) for The Mountain's annual Earth Day concert on April 18, featuring Train and One Eskimo. At the show, KMTT hosts will present The Wilderness Society with a \$60,000 donation from "Live from

### [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](#)

*Keeping Wild Rivers Wild*

April 15, 2010

Celebrate Earth Month by learning about our rivers in Washington state. Find out which rivers are protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, current campaigns and ways you can help ensure that our rivers stay healthy and meet the needs of our region's communities now and in the future.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

### [103.7 The Mountain](#)

A long-time partner of The Wilderness Society, [103.7 The Mountain](#) has a "passion for the music" that extends to wildlands too. From [1 THING] to its conservation collaborations to its studio practices, The Mountain inspires others to learn about and practice sustainability.

[Join 103.7 The Mountain and The Wilderness Society](#) for a

the Mountain Music Lounge Vol. 15" CD proceeds.

It's also the 40th anniversary celebration of Earth Day and there are lots of opportunities throughout the month to learn and get involved. On April 15, Keeping Wild Rivers Wild offers a chance to find out more about Washington's rivers and meet with representatives from many of our local conservation groups, including The Wilderness Society.

Until next month,  
Peter Dykstra  
Director, PNW Region

*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 Ruth Nielsen  
*Part-time Mazama resident, outdoor recreation lawyer  
and dog trainer*

### Adventures on Wheels

My favorite part of enjoying the North Cascades is to share them with our dogs. Our oldest dog, Winter, has a degenerative disease that has paralyzed his rear end and I was afraid that was the end of our backcountry trips together. However, I found wheels that made it possible for Winter to get around on just two legs with the wheels to support his rear end. I decided to give the wheels a try on a short spring backpacking trip to one of our favorite spots in the North Cascades.

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



*Chris Moore and Winter*

special Earth Day concert on April 13, featuring Train and One Eskimo!

### Bringing the Parks to the People

May 2, 2010

Northwest National Park Family Day is a free, family-friendly event to get outdoors and learn about the natural, cultural and historical treasures of our National Park System. Meet our state's parks rangers, shake hands with mascot Teddy Mather and enjoy hands-on activities for kids.

[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](http://www.experiencewilderness.org) to plan your next adventure into the North Cascades.

### Questions? Comments?

Email us at [ncinfo@twsnw.org](mailto:ncinfo@twsnw.org).

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## Conservation

### Natural Wonders of the North Cascades

*Alpine Lakes Wilderness & Rivers Bill Clears U.S. House*

Expansion of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and protection of the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers are palpably close to reality. On March 18, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill that would add 22,000 acres to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate 10 miles of the Pratt River and nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River as wild and scenic. Having this additional protected area so close to an urban center would be a great benefit to our communities, especially with today's unprecedented population growth.

Under this measure, the popular Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area would be enlarged

to include rare low-elevation old growth and mature forests that are home to robust fish and wildlife populations such as cougars, black bears, bobcats, elk, deer and trout. The 22,000-acre addition would increase biodiversity as well as protect recreational opportunities like hiking, backpacking, fishing, climbing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The legislation also would keep the Pratt River and upper portion of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River in their present pristine conditions. Wild and Scenic status would permanently protect these rivers' free-flowing character, safeguard water quality for downstream residents, conserve critical wildlife and fish habitat and preserve the rivers' world-class fishing, kayaking and whitewater rafting.

Protecting these areas was part of the original vision for the 1976 Alpine Lakes Wilderness designation. In working toward the realization of this vision, Representative Dave Reichert first proposed legislation nearly three years ago. The companion Senate bill, sponsored by Senator Patty Murray, passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in December 2009 and now awaits action by the full Senate.

[Read our press release.](#)

## Recreation

### Explore the North Cascades

#### *Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Trail*

A splendid river walk, the Middle Fork trail leads you 14 miles through virgin forests and across picturesque tributary streams to the headwaters of the Middle Fork. Experience wilderness that so many are working hard to preserve through the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Rivers act, which recently passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation would add nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork to the National Wild and Scenic River System and extend the northern edge of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area to the river valley.



*Middle Fork Snoqualmie River*

[Learn more about this hike.](#)

## Vibrant Communities

### North Bend

Located just 30 miles east of Seattle, North Bend is the gateway to the North Cascade mountains. It's an outdoor enthusiast's paradise, where year-round recreational opportunities such as hiking, cycling, kayaking, fishing, climbing and skiing abound. The charming historic town sits nestled at the base of Mount Si, with views of Rattlesnake Ridge and the North Cascades.

[Learn more about North Bend.](#)

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