

Next Meeting: August 21

ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

Board of Directors and Members Meeting, July 17, 1986, Newport Way Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Harvey Manning, Ralph Owen, Buz Moore, Dave Kappler, Betty Manning,

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Marianne Bagley, Darla O'Brian, Bill Longwell, Jack Price, George Jackman, Maryanne Tagney-Jones, Connie Dow

OTHERS PRESENT: Bettly Culbert, Connie Fair, Tom Lucas, Mary Wellborn, Valerie Isarion (?), Mandy Cadigan, Jack Sionson, Peggy Owen, Larry Hanson, Linda

Meeting to order at 7:30, adjourned at 10:00.

Tiger Mountain affairs

To summarize, our present "Tiger Program" is as follows:

1. Study the Final Plan, submit Final Comments to DNR. (Laurene, Larry, etc. -- get your ideas and comments in shape.)
2. Pursue enforcement. (Stu Blocker is upset. DNR has little control over KC officers. Looking at new procedure. Will the enforcement continue through the year, this time?)
3. Investigate IAC funding for enforcement (Tom Lucas).
4. Pursue Tiger Environmental Center. Barb held a planning meeting, attended by Jane Crowder, ~~me, Stu, and two other teachers~~ two other teachers, Dave, Tim, HM. She is following with these people, looking toward a second planning meeting in September.
5. Tiger land acquisition. Bart Dalmasso, who ~~represents~~ represents the Preston Mills 80 acres, was offered \$350-400 an acre plus timber value by Mike Griggs. Rejected. But DNR can pay no more. Bart is still interested in possible land exchange, and I'll push Mike on this again. However, as Laurene found, at least two other properties will require cash.

New idea that came up at Lake Tradition, while eating turkey sandwiches: Brian Boyle feels we should now go to the Legislature for special appropriation. We would have DNR support, would solicit schools support (Environmental Center), Issaquah, King County, local legislators, etc. LAURENE: Front and Center. First, identify the lands we want: the Preston Mills 80 acres, the 3-4 properties on or near Section Line Trail, the Zoned Commercial acres on the service road from High Point (this is the site of the Environmental Center), the TMT trailhead area -- High Point Lake etc. Are there others? Second, rudely figure out what would be needed to buy these lands. Then, put together a proposal and start peddling it around. For legislative action in 1988?

Other news: Surveyor flags have appeared on West Tiger 3. Larry will look into it. Stu Blocker was intending to log the scraggly fringe above ~~Yaher~~ Yaher ~~the~~ Wall, but the bridge over 15 Mile Creek has been adjudged unsafe for logging trucks, and there isn't enough timber worth the cost of rebuilding. The TMT south of Manning's Reach has vanished in the nettles.

Brian says the B-N exchange may come through soon.

Menasha: let them stew in their juices.

Wayco on West Tiger is very slow discussion

Cougar Mountain Affairs

My letters to Bruce Laing were answered by him in a letter sent to everybody in County government. So I felt my answer had to go to all them, and Connie did so. (See the letters, appended.) Subsequently, and up to my meeting today (July 21) with Mike Wilkins, Tom Eksten, and Bob Jacobs, ~~is that~~ the situation is this:

There definitely will be no additional money for Cougar Park <sup>in foreseeable future</sup> beyond that now in the works. The Macintosh Property seems on track in the Council. The B-N exchange is in very ticklish situation; I think Wilkins is trying to scare me, but on other hand, nothing is finished until it's finished. Our stirring up action on other fund requests is felt to be dangerous, since Council support is a bare majority, perhaps (again, fear tactic).

I agreed to all the above -- we know it -- never have intended to make trouble. First, the B-N and the \$\$\$\$ View. Then...

KC Parks and I are agreed on the necessities of the East Side. They were very interested to learn what I had to tell them ~~about~~ about what Dave has learned from his hikes and activities. (DAVE: GET TOGETHER WITH TOM EKSTEN, TO MAKE VERY SURE HE ~~KNOWS~~ KNOWS WHAT YOU KNOW.) We are in agreement with KC Parks that though Issaquah wants a "western outlet" (through the park), that the whole Baker project needn't be talked about to the Council just yet. It will help to us to put sand in Wally's gears. I think Dave has a program going with Issaquah that will hold the line.

Dave caught a guy taking dirt from <sup>Issaquah's</sup> the Cougar Mountain reservoir <sup>excavation</sup> and dumping it on the Sather property, down Highway 900, an illegal fill. He blew the whistle and got it stopped. The problem is that 2 County inspectors quit (to go to work for developers) and have not been replaced, so that the word is out you can dig and fill and grade as you please, no cops watching (except Dave).

Gene Gumz of Issaquah, who has bought the Baker-Toner plea for an outlet to the west, is so motivated because of impending Issaquah lock. (Not a gridlock -- no grid.) KC Parks has been expecting Baker to make this move. I feel the Issaquah traffic incompetence should be good for about 20 years in the courts.

Iss Rivers and Streams Board will take same hike that Dave led down the east side, to see West Fork Tibbetts Creek, the one stream Issaquah could have completely in its jurisdiction.

DAVE: KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH TOM EKSTEN ON THE WEYCO PROJECT.

How Weyco got to build the road, nobody knows, but it's done or being done, a monster project across Far Country Creek onto Deceiver Ridge. Area is zoned suburban estate (35,000). We could be very happy if the development were clustered on the good view property atop the ridge, but left us the wetlands of the two creeks and the two cliffs, PLUS a good buffer of greenbelt adjoining the park. Dave is contacting the Weyco people. (to find out what they have in mind)

Tom ~~is~~ Eksten has the same ideas. KC Parks won't take the lead, but if we do, we can count on their support. Need to jack up the May Valley activists, present Weyco with alternatives -- one they like and we like, and the other...

This will be a formal plat, a long time in the works. We also need a trail corridor jog at the section corner, so that our existing Far Country Creek corridor can connect to the park.

We need two trailheads, one down by the school, the other at the fill over Far County Creek. This latter is going to be an enforcement problem.

The Licorice Fern road cost \$25,000 per lot!!!

The landfill wants a settling pond inside CM Park, at site of Rainbow Town. The developer on north side of Coal Creek wants a 13-acre project in the Cinder Mine, 200,000 cubic yards of material to be moved (20,000 dumptruck loads). Two ponds here. Buz got on the County about it. BALD issued a "non-significance" and Bob Jacobs said it was parks policy. Buz went to Randall Parsons of Surface Water Management who said we should have seen the notice on the telephone pole earlier, our comment period expired 15 days ago. Bell Eccles was more sympathetic, but referred Buz to the circle.

Today, Buz not present, I simply informed KC Parks that he was making a fuss on behalf of the Trails Club, and they'd hear more. All three insisted the settling ponds are good things. If the developer hadn't come up with his offer, KC Parks was ~~going~~ going to spend \$1,000,000 on a Cyclone fence to fence off the Cinder ~~Mine~~ Mine.

In short, KC Parks is in a defensive mode. I told them I didn't think the Trails Club would support the ponds, though I, not having the full data, couldn't say for sure. Go at 'em, Buz.

Yes, if there are ~~the~~ tradeoffs, they should be exposed to public view. Not ~~but~~ hidden from us, as here.

I got them in a confusion by telling them we were still ~~under~~ mad at the retention pond in Coal Creek park downstream from Scalzo Creek. Two of the three didn't know it was there. Bob Jacobs did. I also said we were perturbed by the METRO stench that had wrecked lower Coal Creek Park. Two of them said METRO couldn't extend the line upstream in Coal Creek. But Tom said, "It thinks it can!"

In summary, KC Parks doesn't know exactly what's going on.

On one thing we mightily agreed (July 21): the Master Plan must go forward right away, for both parks. The encroachments as above need to be spelled out. But also, what has forced the KC Parks hand is the sudden influx of horses, the rapid destruction of the trail system we have created.

Mine gas... The first hole is filled, are all others in the Muldoon to be filled? But the intercommunicating tunnels will mean they all have to be filled.

#### Motorcycles -- IAC -- Squak Mountain State Park

Tom Lucas reported that Rod Chandler got 400-500 letters on motorcycles. This was the number he said he needed. The Trails Club took the lead, responsible for the bulk. So, it's a success for Rod, and a feather in our cap.

Jan Tveten of State Parks put in a request ~~to~~ to IAC for "ORV money" for enforcement on Squak. This was in May. In mid-July I talked to Bob Wilder, IAC chief, and he was not aware of this request. The motor-man, Lovelady, had it in hand. As of now, we are awaiting word on how the request came out.

Wilder responded to angry letters from me and Ira Spring, about using the ORV money wrongly, by phoning me. I said we'd be glad to have him come up and see us some time.

But meanwhile, Tom Lucas, representing us and Washington Trails Association, is going to see Wilder to scout out the man and the terrain. Brian Boyle told me, on our picnic, that he is mightily impressed by Ira, that he's got something goin. We have a special stake in this because of Squak and Tiger.

Ira tells me that Anne Cox, chair of IAC, works in bicycle dept of REI's Spokane store, and she got a copy of my hot letter to Wilder and agrees. Ira feels that the tide is turning on the IAC and if we keep pressure on Wilder we can gain ground even without recourse to Governor and Legislature.

Tom will coordinate us with Ira and Louise.

### History book

Ralph slipped me a copy of the latest ms. last meeting, but I've not had a chance to read. Tonight, he put out copies to four-five of us. We're close to thinking of production. Get Milt to fill in latter day history, also John Baima. The Newcastle gathering in August?

~~Bye-bye~~ In September, move onward.

### Betty's Trail

Back where we started. The Bellevue forester doesn't know where the corridor is. Though at the top is a sign, "Bellevue Parks!!!!" Betty will try to inform the bureaucracy.

### Happy Trails

Linda reported that they have about a year to go before 130 ~~hours~~<sup>hours</sup> cut off their access to Cougar Mountain.

Pam Lee is working on a program to keep Old Newcastle as a sort of public garden. Linda looked at property on Lakemont, in area of Primrose Creek, ~~which~~ ideal -- and now it's short-platted.

Any good ideas on property?

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The 1986 instalment of Tiger Mountain blackberry jam was duly delivered at this meeting by Larry (from Marty) to HM. I can't remember if this tribute is due "for lifetime" or "in perpetuity." In latter case, the situation is really medieval -- and that's good.

Copies of Totem appended. This Tiger Mountain issue has got excellent response. Brian says that on taking office he had the mailing list pruned to some 400, because most of the 15,000 issues had been going to dead letter office. Now has built list back up to a select 15,000. Good editor. Good PR piece.

Connie Dow has ordered resupply of letterhead envelopes, sheets, and second sheets. Those of us who need a resupply, take hope.

President's Diary: 1

June 23: Vyznis hearing July 1. HM will write club statement on RR trail for Dick to hand in.

Entiat City Park watches to see where you spread your sleeping bag on the lawn, then turns on the sprinklers. Betty and I moved three times -- finally onto gravel. In morning the ranger gave us half-price -- only \$4 for the night. We were very cranky next day.

At Return V, let us run vans from Metro 210. We talked about it, then forgot.

June 24: Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park made the California newspapers, on the AP wire -- so we might have gone nationwide! (It was the gas...)

June 27: Jan Tveten calls to "stay informed." We agree we don't need another meeting just now. City of Issaquah has now 5 alternatives: (1) not renewing; (2) continue; (3) present 20 acres plus 22 more; (4) 60 acres; (5) 75 acres. I told him we were hoping for a 20 acres, more intensive use, alternative. Told him we feel the opposition is inflexible. He agrees.

Issaquah will not be able to make the July 8 and 16 dates, will reschedule. Told Jan if they go for August, they are in trouble. He agrees. The Commission is supposed to consider in October. He thinks the EIS review process is the time to hash out the differences. He seems to be saying he will be leaning on Commission etc. to be reasonable. I told him that if the other side isn't, we'll have no choice...

Jack reports they are filling up the famous mine shaft, as of yesterday.

June 28: To West Point, with 250 others, including Charlie Royer, John Miller, Cynthia Sullivan, Lois North. Where was our VP, who grew up on this beach? Home writing letters, we trust. IATC will send a letter to Metro Council.

Mike Griggs says DNR will make cash offer on the 80 acres in Many Creek Valley!!! Astounding. I write Bart Dalmasso telling him why this isn't a bad deal. Specifically, <sup>development</sup> ~~that~~ would make Ruth very angry.

June 30: Ilsa Volinn loves the Iss Alps  
Barbara and Connie picked up 20 new members at REI sit-in

Major letter to Bruce Laing, attached, with his.  
Major letter to Metro Council, also sent out via Connie

Have you all seen Totem, featuring Tiger Mountain?

State Parks has requested ORV money from IAC to keep ORVs off Squak Mountain! This was at the instance of Marcy Golde. Sad to say, she has resigned from State Parks Commission to concentrate on DNR forest policy.

I wrote hot letter to IAC about being ideologically corrupted by wheels. Awaiting Tom's word on how much libel, per se, I committed.

Have you all seen Tiger Mountain State Forest Final Plan? I haven't read it yet. Waiting for Laurene to read it to me.

July 2: Bart Dalmasso on the phone; we agree to keep in touch.

July 3: Debbie Berto of Iss Press signs me up to speak to Iss Chamber of Commerce. Is this the real world?

July 4: Rain holds down the local fireworks; I only have to behead, with Swiss Army knife, three children.

July 5: Reports that the new horsemen coming into Cougar Park are screwing up the trails -- and then complaining to KC Parks that hikers are chiding them. Jack and Linda -- a crisis is building.

KC Parks may be screwing up our mine holes, under publicity pressure. Have to watch them.

July 8: Betty Culbert will keep up the pressure on Bellevue Parks, about the greenbelt trail. Nag nag nag, all we can do.

July 9: Bob Wildern, chief cheese of IAC, calls to tell me my letter got his attention. Ira also complained about loading up a new advisory committee with wheels. Bob warned me not to go too heavy after the IAC, lest I throw out the baby with the bath water. Told him that as the father of ~~fever~~ I didn't think that was an idea not sometimes worth considering. Wilder will come up sometime to do his nice-guy act for me and Ira. Meanwhile, on another front, Tom Lucas will go at him on the Squak Park money. Wilder was unaware of the State Park request for ORV enforcement money, which had gone in to his Lovelady boy (the ORV laddy) in May. We may have something going here on Squak, then Tiger.

Jack reports a new hole pumping black damp from the Muldoon. King County is in a panic. Putting up giant signs, BEWARE OF HOLES.

A fellow calls me to report the Hotline disconnected whenever he tried to leave a message. So did I after he complained about our trails being steep, brushy, slippery. I told him to feel free. He could even join the club and go out with our Chief Ranger.

July 10: Ruth won't fly east until 1987, for the 50th Birthday of the Piper Cub. The Vyzis affair is continued, because Irv Berteig took all the time, left none for State Parks or Dick Brooks. Next in late July?

A.J. is "shaping the laws" for the future of Issaquah. Reports of a recall movement. Earthquake evidence is building. One of Ruth's neighbors is a De Leo, ganging up on Mad Anna.

Gentle Ben is not with Weyco anymore, but is using the Weyco name.

Professor Rounds reports that Skelly and Loy got \$16,000 for filling in one black damp hole, now wants to do a hundred of them, including the one in a Strain mine that just opened up. Black damp always comes out in hot weather after a long spell of rain. Skelly and Loy is going to get a hard look from some quarters. Ginger is fine, but OSM is liable to panic. Why did we ever tell anybody about this area? Fred told of a Skelly and Loy man who went down 100 feet on a rope into the Muldoon Air Shaft he and his brothers dug -- the one that goes 720 feet to the bottom. No breathing apparatus. Fred stood above, wondering whether to cut the rope or hope for black damp.

One of our hike parties at Forest Theater encountered Gentle Ben, who told them the truth about Manning, who is destroying the Big Tree (which Ben showed him) and doing much other bad stuff, including (he didn't mention) screwing him out of an illegal logging job for Crazy Anna. Ben is threatening to hurl us off of Snoqualmie Falls. Very funny, except the hike party didn't know what was up. Have we had a dozen resignations this week?

Margaret Feaster extends thanks for help on the Girl Scout Night Hike of May 17. 30 Scouts and 32 adult scouts enjoyed a fun and challenging event. This was on Tradition Plateau.

Mike Griggs reports that he offered Delmasso \$400 an acre plus timber value for the Preston 80 acres. The maximum DNR can pay. No deal. I'll take this up with Brian Saturday.

Anne Vandermay sent in another \$100, to complete the memorial, and thanks. Touching letter. Chief Ranger, spend another \$100 on tools.

Letters to KC Council and all, addressed to Bruce Laing, received yesterday by the folks. Today, call from KC Parks, to set up a meeting, July 21. I'm getting disenchanted.

Called Bruce Laing about budget item for fulltime ranger; won't come to Council to October 15. Pitch the Executive.

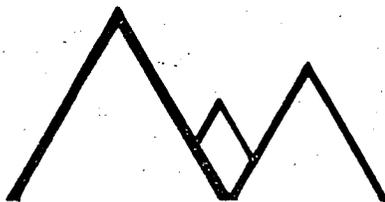
~~July 11: copy of my letter to Bruce Laing reached KC Parks today, they can lead to set up July 21 meeting.~~

July 12: Hiked with Brian and Carol Boyle and the two women who bought us, to Lake Tradition for lunch. Good fun, and also some good info and ideas; ~~see~~ see MINUTES.

July 13: Barbara J. reports fish in High Point Lake (Ruth, how can that be?) and a meadowlark (??) on Peggy's Trail.

July 14: Bill Longwell reports that Stu Blocker and Doug McClellan report 3 timber sales on Tiger in next 12 years. Thinning on West Side Road. Horses from East Sammamish Plateau have destroyed a large section of the TMT. Will has built a trail down to High Point Lake from powerline. Horse damage is mounting everywhere. No horserider work parties happening. The future holds severe restrictions on horse use -- otherwise, no use at all, since horses can't use trails they have destroyed.

July 17: Issaquah Tourist Bureau wants more of our fliers. 175 people a day come through. Great enthusiasm about our hikes. Barbara suggests we make up a map of Tradition Plateau, a giveaway flier.



## ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

P.O. BOX 351 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

June 30, 1986

Metro Council  
821 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear members of the Metro Council,

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is, by its charter, confined to the peaks and waterways of the Issaquah area. However, we are acutely aware of the interdependence of "our area" and all other parts of "Puget Sound City". Of our 3500 members, only 16 percent are from Issaquah and 7 percent from Renton; 24 percent are from Bellevue; 29 percent from Seattle; 21½ percent from elsewhere in King County and 2½ percent from outside King County.

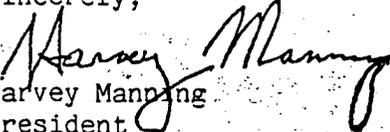
We remember very gratefully that the very first public expression of support for the concept of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park by a public official was by the Mayor of Seattle. He saw -- as now everyone recognizes -- that this large natural area is important to the entire regional community. We like to refer to it as "wilderness on the Metro 210."

From the boundary of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park to the boundary of Discovery Park it is an easy 35 minute drive by auto. The two parks are complementary, the one a natural area in the foothill highlands, the other a natural area on the salt water shore. We envision cooperative interpretive programs in future.

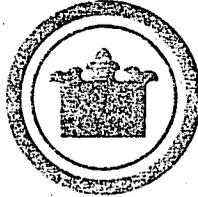
Our organization strongly supports Friends of Discovery Park in saving the beach of West Point. Metro, which has performed so nobly in cleaning up Lake Washington, and is working now to preserve the quality of Puget Sound, must not destroy the greatest beach in King County. A stronger statement can be made: With the existing treatment plant removed and the spit restored to a natural condition, West Point will be the greatest beach of the Whulj ("the salt water we know"). We say this in full awareness of the claims of Dungeness Spit, Spencer Spit, and several others because of where West Point is. None of the others lies on (with a short walk) a Metro bus route, accessible to so many people, young and old, poor and poorer, so quickly and easily.

It is too bad, of course, that the "social overhead" of a growing "Puget Sound City" must go up. But unless these overhead costs are paid, the "City" will lose its soul. Because of the U.S. Army presence, we for a long while half forgot how important West Point was to our soul. We have remembered. We must not kill it.

Sincerely,

  
Harvey Manning  
President

# King County Council



Bruce Laing, *District Six*

June 19, 1986

Mr. Harvey Manning, President  
Issaquah Alps Trail Club  
Post Office Box 351  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

RE: Land Acquisitions - Cougar Mountain

Dear Harvey:

Thank you for your letters dated May 1, 10, 14, 1986 proposing King County purchase three parcels of property, one owned by Anna Stewart, one owned by Weyerhaeuser and the third owned by Mary Louise Gunn on Big Tree Ridge. I was not familiar with the three properties and asked the Parks Division for its recommendations.

The property on Big Tree Ridge is not contiguous to the proposed boundaries of Cougar Mountain Park. Therefore, The Parks Division will not be proposing that it be included within the boundaries of the Park. The County has not identified how we intend to preserve trail corridors accessing the park, which would be the purpose of buying this land.

The Parks Division agrees portions of the Stewart and Weyerhaeuser properties would be desirable additions to Cougar Mountain Park. However, the properties were consciously excluded from the boundaries agreed to in the Parks Division's October, 1984 Preliminary Land Acquisition, Development and Operations Plan. My understanding is the Parks Division reviewed the boundaries with you, and you concurred the boundaries were reasonable.

Parks Division recommends against expanding the boundaries to include the Stewart and Weyerhaeuser parcels for two reasons. First, there are about 1,000 acres within the agreed boundaries of Cougar Mountain park remaining to be acquired; it will require considerable County resources, either tradeable land or cash, to complete those acquisitions. Second, there are many other park and recreation needs in King County competing for limited funds. I believe any redirection of resources out of the recognized boundaries of Cougar Mountain Park will be questioned and may erode the support necessary for continued acquisition of lands for the park.

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Mr. Harvey Manning

I have asked Michael Wilkins to contact you to set up a meeting to further discuss these issues. Thank you for your continued support and concern for Cougar Mountain.

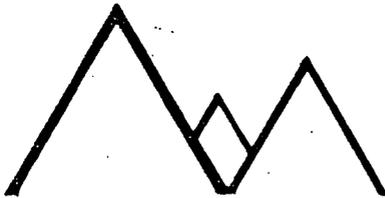
Sincerely,



BRUCE LAING  
Councilman, District Six

BL/hz

cc: Tim Hill, King County Executive  
King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Cal Hoggard, Program Director  
Jerry Peterson, Administrator  
Joe Nagel, Acting Director, Department  
of Planning & Community Development  
ATTN: Michael Wilkins, Acting Manager, Parks  
Tom Eksten, Project Administrator



## ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

P.O. BOX 351 . ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

July 1, 1986

Bruce Laing  
King County Council

Dear Bruce,

Thank you very much for the status report in your letter of June 19. We are most appreciative of your efforts on behalf of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, and your consideration of my suggestions. I can only say, my feeling is that if we've struck out with you on these matters, the game is over. That's why I beg the chance to hassle the umpire a little.

Your third paragraph doesn't quite convey my understanding of the situation. It is true that when the Weyerhaeuser half-section was in process of platting by Licorice Fern Estates, we sadly accepted the loss of an important stretch of Deceiver Ridge and the slopes to Cabbage Creek and Far Country Creek. This is contiguous to the heart of the Park's "Wilderness Area," and when I explored there a decade ago, was my favorite part of Cougar Mountain. We were very sad that the park was half a step late in getting underway.

Then, when the developer went belly-up and Weyco took back half of the half-section, with the Park by then a reality, our hearts leapt with joy.

We had never agreed with any decision that this area did not properly belong in the Park. We were very happy that parks Division took the position that the Park was "opportunistic" -- not set in concrete but ready to leap with joy at any reasonable opportunity. When the option appeared closed, we accepted that. When the option suddenly opened, we went after it.

We certainly are disappointed that we the people -- in the Trails Club, in the May Valley neighborhood -- should be doing our darndest to "work the system" and periodically are made the victims of our innocence. We still don't know where we failed. We would have thought our ~~friends~~ friends in King County would have warned us. We thought we had made the proper appeals to get a review of the ~~Weyco~~ Weyco development of the quarter-section. When local residents called to say there was blasting in progress, we assured them it was their imagination, Weyco was on hold. Poor, silly us!

So, Weyco is building a monster road over Far Country Creek ( I trust somebody in King County is checking their treatment of this important May Creek tributary. I trust, I trust...) onto Deceiver Ridge. Very well. We never have opposed the development.

However, cannot King County do some jawboning with Weyco? Get them to hold off platting the upper portion of Deceiver Ridge and its flanks? Put houses there and The Wilderness of the Park will receive the sounds of lawnmowers and portable radios. Just a small reservation, for sound and sight, would greatly enhance the wildness of the Park's wildest area.

Cannot King County at least ask Weyco to hold off for a few years, to let us have a chance to obtain the property? They'll still make their profit.

We never have sought to deny the owners their fair profit -- or even their ~~xx~~ extravagant profit, if they can get it. We do think that a large firm must take some care of its public image.

I fear that an old decision has put the entire section out of King County deliberation. The Trails Club is not being inconsistent in saying that a change in the situation made possible a new decision. I hope to sit down with Mike Wilkins and clear this up.

The "Stewart property" is another situation entirely. The Trails Club always has said that the Park must have, at the least, the "barrier ridge" guarding the Far Country Basin. We pulled back our boundaries, on our maps, because Anna Stewart vigorously objected to anyone -- developers or hikers -- talking about "her" property. We respected that -- respected the wishes of a family which has owned that property for over a century. We have thought that the "opportunistic Park" would keep close watch on that property and somewhere down the line -- next year, ten years, twenty years -- when the family wishes changed, jump right in and get that ridge -- and as much more of the homestead as is available. (To the best of our knowledge, it is the site of the Indian Trail down to May Valley.)

Our position remains unchanged. We did jump in when Anna set out to log her property, an apparent switch in her position. The DNR did not issue the permits. Her contract logger went ahead anyhow, illegally, until halted. Then Anna's family belatedly discovered what she was up to without consulting them -- co-proprietors in the family trust -- and heck broke loose. I daresay Anna blames me for this. Truthfully, I have not set foot on her property since she offered to shoot me. In a friendly way, of course.

--But, Anna and her family and her land are a different story from the Weyco situation. In neither case, though, do we hope for immediate acquisition. We do not wish to make any upset in the progress toward obtaining the "1000 acres within the agreed boundaries." These acquisitions are crucial. Without them, the Park would be rather a sad affair compared to the opportunity. With them, it will become "the 80% park."

However, we sense a danger in our being too overjoyed about anything, because we may then be quoted later as saying we are fully satisfied. It is not true that we are insatiable. Simply, we see the opportunity that will be gone very soon -- that is going, going almost month by month. We see the "natural" boundaries of the Park, those intended by God when He designed Cougar Mountain, and feel it is our duty to seek those boundaries and not be content with less -- until, in the end, the opportunities are closed down and out for good and all. That time is not yet.

The 80% Park could and would have houses on China Summit, overlooking the Curious Valley; a row of houses on the "barrier ridge" guarding the Far Country; a line of sky castles gazing down into Klondike Swamp; a lamasery (or whatnot) on Anti-Aircraft Ridge; and weed eaters and video games on Deceiver Ridge. The un-acquired 20% remains for public discussion.

In several years we will have all the Cougar Mountain Wildland Park we ever will have. This is the only opportunity King County ever will have for a large wildland park in the center of the "Puget Sound City" now under construction.

We agree with you, strongly, that King County has many other pressing needs, for parks and recreation. My Footsore series of guidebooks makes many suggestions, all over the county. I believe we're reasonably reasonable, as realistic as anybody can be in the real world.

Mainly, I hate to see opportunities lost simply by being stricken from the agenda. Everything ought to be on the table for examination. Nothing left off because the table is getting cluttered.

I hope I'm not trying your patience too far. To conclude, we are mighty grateful for what you have done to carry on toward the full Park, and above all do not wish in any way to disrupt progress toward obtaining the 1000 acres now on the agenda.

We do not see the "Stewart property" as coming to the agenda for acquisition for a long time; that family trust may keep the land tied up for another century. However, as a Park neighbor, King County must jealously watch what its neighbors are up to.

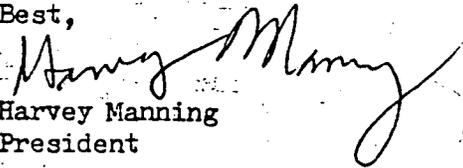
part

We understand there is no chance of purchasing any ~~part~~ of the Weyco lands on Decdver Ridge in the near future. However, again, it's a neighbor of the Park. It is a big, grownup company that has no need to gobble up all its candy at once, can afford to wait, and be a good neighbor, and lose ~~nothing~~ nothing by it. King County may have ways of making it worth Weyco's while to be a good neighbor. We only ask that King County consider what it can do, and do all it can.

As for Big Tree Ridge and the Military Road, this is reasonably left out of present Park concerns. We will see what can be done by other means. --Again, we cannot stand by and avert eyes as a patch of old-growth forest, hanging above I-90, and a section of the Military Road which has not seen wheels since the 1920s, are "ordinaryized." Maybe we can't save them, but we can mourn them.

I hope you don't mind my giving this response to your letter some circulation namely, to the people noted on your "cc list" -- plus our own Board members. Your June 19 letter contains important information, which all the above should have. However, some of the information needs to be footnoted -- as by this letter. Together, they constitute still another step toward wherever it is we're going!

Best,

  
Harvey Manning  
President

cc: Tim Hill, King County Executive  
King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Cal Hoggard, Program Director  
Jerry Peterson, Administrator  
Joe Nagel, Acting Director, Dept of Planning etc.  
ATTN: Michael Wilkins, Acting Manger, Parks  
Tom Eksten, Project Administrator.

PS I look forward to sitting down with Mike Wilkins!



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