

Issaquah Alps Trails Club**"The Apparatus"**

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Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club Liaison:

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Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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April • May • June 1992

A Puzzle. Where Is This Trail?*by Bill Longwell*

A hiker stands on a wide trailhead, elevation 83 feet, on the outskirts of a small town. The town spans most of a broad valley and frequently is flooded. A large, dark river winds downvalley toward saltwater, more than 20 miles distant.

The trailhead, now a town park, was once the site of a railroad station. The line here was double-track. The railroad, a major branchline, carried freight and passengers along the winding river past Cascade foothills. From this point trains headed north to intersect a transcontinental line running east from saltwater over the Cascades. In the other direction tracks ran toward another transcontinental line over the Cascades.

At least four communities along this route built photogenic railroad stations. Only one remains. The grade, now a trail, gives a hiker a marvelous route to the Cascades. Or to saltwater.

This track did not take the heavy locomotives of the mainlines. Its oldtime steam engines were lighter and lower than on the mainline, perhaps more like the logging lines on Tiger Mountain.

Actually, three branch lines plied this valley. They are virtually gone. A partial line still exists. Our rail route, built in 1911, has left few artifacts. An occasional spike, concrete foundations for block signals, a few rotting telephone poles (the multi-wired type that once lined all railroad lines) are all that remain. Any nearby community hot on the route built a road to the grade. The rail ends of these access roads still evidence wide sections where there were double tracks and passing tracks.

This branchline followed the route of Lt. Abiel Tinkham (two Snoqualmie peaks are named for him) as he explored from Puget Sound to Snoqualmie Pass in 1854. Today it still provides a transcontinental route, albeit a fiber-optic one.

From the trailhead the hiker walks past 20-year-old fir trees growing on the site of the old station, passes a high school on a raised bed, and in more than a mile, gains only 18 feet of elevation. On both sides of the grade stand new subdivisions and old farms. Hay barns moulder in wet pastures roamed by a variety of breeds of cattle. The grade soon crosses a wide river, drift logs lining its gravel banks. About 2 miles beyond, a smaller fishable stream crosses underneath the grade, but new homes line its banks. Fisherfolk must be clever to find access. Eagles sometimes perch in tall trees to hunt the stream.

During the hunting season hunters stalk nearby, right along busy roads and the backyards of close-by homes, seeking their prey. The hiker may be treated by sounds of their gunfire, an ornament of the fabric of sound in this neighborhood. Crows and ravens and occasional gulls lend cacophonous protests.

The grade curves at a duckpond, passes a small, still active sawmill and aims for the forested hillside. Here the grade/trail serves as interface between current logging and new subdivisions. Juncos, their two white-tail feathers signalling their retreat, scatter ahead of the hiker and into the

(continued on page 2)

A Puzzle... (cont.)

trees to stir up a flurry of other birds: bushtits and chestnut-backed chickadees. If he waits long enough, the hiker spots Hutton's vireos and kinglets.

In olden times as a train approached a road crossing, a "W" on tall white signs reminded the engineer to whistle. In mind's ear a nostalgic hiker can hear the long-lost sounds.

After 4 miles the east-bound walker can see far up-valley a tall mountain that serves as a benchmark to nearby communities. Now the grade cuts through a ridge and winds beneath tall trees, mostly firs. An autumn wind passes through the treetops and works at the soft fibers of rotting snags. Occasional cracking sounds predict the certain outcome of this contest.

After a 2 percent climb, reasonably steep for most railroads, the grade levels and rides along a bench high above the nearby highway. Planes fly low overhead to approach a private air strip.

Peering from the edge of what was a siding, the hiker can find a view across the 2-mile-wide valley to another grade hugging the wall of the next ridge to the south. Both grades joined about a dozen miles ahead, at a sawmill that still operates. On the valley floor a church steeple stands above a rural subdivision. At this point the grade once again begins a 2 percent climb, passing over fills and through cuts and under several rockslides. Boulders 3 feet high line the grade. Some doubtless fell on the tracks, a menace to trains.

At another view of the benchmark mountain, the grade passes a red #8 painted on a rock and enters a steep-walled valley drained by a violent stream. White water pours over huge boulders and waterfalls and races to its confluence with the large, dark river in the main valley. This stream offers the main attraction for the hikers who have kept

on for the whole 12 miles.

The grade must climb almost a mile upstream to an airy crossing and then reverse its course, completing a classic railroad horseshoe curve to head downstream. Near the head of this valley the old grade crosses the stream on a 10-foot-wide curved trestle that stands 200 feet above white water. Vertigo! Horses do not cross here. Deer do not cross here. They have built their own trail down into and across the stream and up again. Some hikers turn back because the ties sit about 4 inches apart and some of them *wobble!* Other hikers cross by linking arms to form an electric current to power the necessary courage.

Beyond the trestle views open up-valley toward Snoqualmie Pass. The grade here takes dead aim on West Tiger Mountain. The northern Olympics loom in the west. The grade turns east and leaves the violent stream.

Original plans in 1888 called for this railroad to climb a nearby valley and cross the Cascades at Dutch Miller Gap, a wild idea perhaps inspired by Pacific Railway crossing of Stampede Pass.

Moss-covered boulders and licorice fern line the now-level grade. One or two telephone poles still stand. Metal hangs from their summits, but a climb would knock the whole pole down.

Most hikers exit at the next paved road to cars or the bus line, about a mile distant. But don't leave the grade until passing through a tunnel for views to a sawmill this grade once served. Two miles beyond the mill await more treasures: what's left of a covered bridge and intact beaver dams, brand new in 1991. Beyond that lie more airy trestles, the high Cascades, a wide lake, the Great American Desert, and the Rockies.

Do you know the location of this grade? For the solution see page 9.

Greenway Hike Series

by Joe Toynbee

This coming July the Issaquah Alps Trails Club will conduct a series of hikes to acquaint participants with the various sections of the I-90 Greenway Corridor. Anyone doing all six of the hikes would be replicating most of the "Mountains-To-Sound March" which the club sponsored in July of 1990. Each individual hike will have its own leader and be conducted in the same manner as hikes in the regular hike schedule.

The hikes and their dates are:

July 11, Saturday.

Snoqualmie Pass to McClellan Butte trail on the railroad grade. Optional overnite campout at the Tinkham Campground.

July 12, Sunday. McClellan Butte trail to Rattlesnake Lake on the railroad grade. (Some portions of this route may be bypassed because of downed trestles.)

July 18, Saturday.

Rattlesnake Ridge.

July 19, Sunday. Tiger Mountain.

July 25, Saturday. Squak and Cougar Mountains.

July 26, Sunday. Newcastle Beach Park to Discovery Park. (Seattle has greenways, too!)

To receive more complete information on these hikes, including routes, distances, leaders, meeting places, etc., please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope after May 1 to: Greenway Hikes, 5908 So. Prentice Street, Seattle, 98178. Additional information will be in the next *Alpiner*.

Public Involvement—What Can You Do?

by Sarah Young with Gus Nelson

Do you have an environmental concern for our local area? Do you want to preserve and enhance our hiking trails? Do you have a question regarding trail use enforcement? Are you interested in wetlands and wildlife issues? Consider contacting the King County or Issaquah local government agencies for information or action. The IATC can help you find the right organization or person within our local government to talk to! If uncertain about who to contact, call the President or a Vice-President of the IATC for assistance. For questionable activities on Cougar, Squak, or Tiger Mountain, also feel free to contact the IATC Cougar, Squak, or Tiger Mountain Watcher. See the Alpiner masthead for names and numbers of these IATC contacts.

King County Council meetings are open to the public and are regularly listed in the Seattle and Eastside newspapers. For current information on protection of our trails, wetlands, and wildlife, or other issues affecting our environments, please call one of King County Council members listed below, or the President or any Vice President of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

Some of the King County Council members are:

- Bruce Laing296-3457
- Greg Nickels296-1008
- Brian Derdowski296-1003
- Larry Phillips296-1000

And what about the city of Issaquah? Check the Issaquah Press—published every Wednesday—for listings of civic meetings, including the City Council, Park Board, Planning Policy Commission, and Development Commission. You, the public, are welcome at all of these regularly scheduled meetings. You may call the City Hall at 391-1000 for information or stop by the City Hall on the day of the City Council meeting to get the evening's meeting agenda (note: you may have to ask for it!!). *The City Council regularly meets on the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall South.* The Issaquah Parks and Recreation Director at 391-1008 can also be a valuable source of current information on environmental issues. And lastly, if you receive cable TV and live within the city of Issaquah, you can now tune into Channel 28 for live coverage of the City Council meetings.

Here are the names and telephone numbers of some other key local organizations that you may want to clip and save. Call them, or call the IATC if you want information on how you can help enhance and protect your natural environment.

- Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)...888-5215, or 1-800-527-3305
Trail use conflicts, land use issues, state-wide logging permits.
- Save Lake Sammamish...641-3008
Water quality (chemicals, silt, sewage) of the Lake and its contributing streams and creeks.
- Mountains to Sound (MTS) Greenway Trust...587-2447
Protection of wildlife, scenic views, historic features, recreational opportunities, and open space buffers along the I-90 corridor.
- King County Parks...296-4169
Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Squak Mountain, MTS Greenway.
- Washington State Parks...753-5757
Squak Mountain State Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, Twin Falls State Park, and the John Wayne Trail.

Remember, you don't have to be an expert to participate! Every day there are issues that affect our lives and that we, in turn, can influence—take the time to learn more about some of them. A simple phone call or letter can make a difference!

April 1992 Hikes and Events

Wednesday April 1

Squak Summit Loop
3C 9:00 a.m.
Tom Mechler 255-0922

Friday April 3

Tiger Mtn. - Leader's Choice
3C 8:30 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday April 4

Cougar Mtn. - Bear Ridge &
Tibbetts Creek
2B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday April 5

Tiger Mtn. - Silent Swamp Loop
2B 9:30 a.m.
Warren Jones 888-0262

Wednesday April 8

West Tiger Peaks - Ways Less
Travelled. 3C 9:00 a.m.
Jim & Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Friday April 10

Lake Desire & Echo Mtn. - Spring
Flowers, Chocolate Lily, Etc.
2B 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday April 11

East Tiger from Preston
4D 8:00 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Trail Maintenance
9:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday April 12

Cougar Mtn. - Wilderness Peak
3C 9:30 a.m.
Tom Walsh 453-8319

DeLeo Wall - Far Country Cougar
Mtn. Park
2B 9:30 a.m.
Jim & Mary Cadigan 641-4046

APRIL 1992

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Friday April 17

Tiger Mtn. - Leader's Choice
3C 8:30 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday April 18

Tiger Mtn. Trail
4D 8:00 a.m.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Tiger Mtn. - Around the Lake,
Wetlands Adventure Trail
1B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday April 19

Cougar Ring - Beginning and
Ending at Coal Creek Townsite.
Will hit all four corners of Cougar
Mtn. Regional Wildland Park.
3C+ 9:00 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Lake Tradition Plateau
1A 12:30 a.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Wednesday April 22

Toddler/Family Hike - Kelsey Crk.
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday April 24

DeLeo Wall Loop - Seeking the
Chocolate Lily & Wild Easter Lily
3B 9:00 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005
Bob Knutsen 243-4546

Saturday April 25

Flower Identification - Tiger Mtn.
Trail South - Slow Pace!
2A 9:00 a.m.
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Grand Ridge Variations from City
Hall. 3B 9:00 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Trail Maintenance
9:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday April 26

Cougar Mtn. - Wilderness Creek to
Coal Creek Falls and Return
3C 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Tradition Lake Plateau - Tour of
the Best Trails
2B 1:00 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Monday April 27

Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Issaquah Community
Hall (next to Fire Station)

Tuesday April 28

Tiger Mtn. Trail - 15+ Miles
3D 8:00 a.m.
Joann Howe

May 1992 Hikes and Events

Friday May 1

Flower Identification Walk on
Paved King Co. Trail – Slow Pace!
1A 6:30 p.m.
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Saturday May 2

Rattlesnake Mtn. – Ridge Trail
Work Party. Sign-up required!
3C 8:30 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Sunday May 3

Tiger Mtn. – Leader's Choice
3C 9:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Artist's Hike – short hike, will stop
to do a painting. Call leader for
details. Patsey Parsons 255-6603

Thursday May 7

Hobart RR Grade & Tiger Mtn.
Loop. Spring flowers of the woods.
BB 9:00 a.m.
Gail Palm 746-1070
Bob Knutsen 243-4546

Saturday May 9

Squak Mtn. from City Hall –
Waterfall Creek, East Ridge Trail,
Old Griz Trail, Bullitt Fireplace
3C 9:00 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Rattlesnake Ridge – Ridge to
Winery Loop Trail
3C 9:00 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Trail Maintenance
9:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday May 10

Lake Tradition Plateau – Adven-
ture Trail, Big Trees & the Under-
side of I-90. 2B 12:30 p.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

MAY 1992

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Wednesday May 13

Toddler/Family Hike – High Point
RR Grade. 1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday May 16

Squak Mtn. – South Loop: Phil's
Creek, Central Peak, West Peak,
Bullitt Gorge. 3C 8:30 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Tiger Mtn. – Artifacts Trail Work
Party. 9:00 a.m.
John Johnson 633-3805

Cougar Mtn. – Far Country & Coal
Creek. 2B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday May 17

Joint Hike with SVTC – Exploring
North Slope of Rattlesnake Mtn.
3C 8:30 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tiger Mtn. – Leader's Choice
3C 9:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Beyond the Alps – Little Mt. Si
2B 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Tuesday May 19

Leader's Choice – Tiger Mtn. Pot
Luck Lunch – Bring your favorite
hiking lunch item to share (enough
for 10).
3D 8:30 a.m. Joann Howe

Saturday May 23

Middle Tiger from S. Tiger Moun-
tain Trail Trailhead
4C 8:30 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Trail Maintenance
9:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Tiger Mtn. – Wetlands, Big Tree &
Adventure Trail
2A 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday May 24

Coal Creek Falls & Marshall's Hill
2B 10:00 a.m.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Lake Tradition Plateau
1A 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Monday May 25

West Tiger 2 and Railroad Grade
4C 9:00 a.m.
Jim & Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Issaquah Community
Hall (next to Fire Station)

Friday May 29

Bird Identification
1A 6:30 p.m.
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Saturday May 30

Cougar Mtn. Work Party
9:00 a.m. John Johnson 633-3805

June 1992 Hikes and Events

Monday June 1

Tiger Mtn. – Leader's Choice
3C 8:30 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Tuesday June 2

Sneaking Up to AA Park via Big Tree & Little Big Tree
2C 9:00 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005
Bob Knutsen 243-4546

Saturday June 6

Squak Mtn. – Perimeter Loop Trail. Circle Squak and see it all.
3C+ 8:30 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Trail Maintenance
9:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Beyond the Alps – Twin Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

Sunday June 7

RETURN TO NEWCASTLE!

Wednesday June 10

Toddler/Family Hike – Twin Falls Area
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday June 12

Beyond the Alps – Twin Falls State Park & RR grade east to trestle.
2B 9:30 a.m.
Jim & Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday June 13

West Tiger 1
3C 8:30 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Talus Caves of Tiger Mtn.
2B 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

JUNE 1992						
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Sunday June 14

Mushroom I.D. – Grand Ridge
2B 8:30 a.m. Bill McFerren & Mary Lynch 391-5379

Monday June 15

Tiger Mtn. – Leader's Choice
3C 8:30 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday June 20

Bird I.D. – Snoqualmie Ridge
2A 8:30 a.m.
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Poo Poo Point / W. Tiger RR Grade Loop
3C 8:30 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Trail Maintenance Work Party
9:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday June 21

Cougar Mtn. – Exploring the North Village Trails
3B 10:00 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Licorice Fern to Far Country Lookout
2A 12:30 p.m.
John Johnson 633-3805

Monday June 22

Yah-er Wall via Hidden Estates or Poo Poo Point
3B 9:00 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Issaquah Community Hall (next to Fire Station)

Saturday June 27

East Tiger Variations
3D 9:00 a.m.
Bob Knutsen 243-4546

Sunday June 28

Peak Hopping on Tiger Mtn. Will visit S. Tiger, Middle Tiger, E. Tiger & W. Tigers 1 2 & 3 on this S-N traverse. 4D 8:30 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tuesday June 30

Preston – East Tiger
3D 8:00 a.m. Joann Howe

Hike Information

HIKE LEADERS

The hike leaders are volunteers who have donated their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round regardless of weather. *Minimum attendance is 3, including the leader.*

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat, easy or hard—or all of the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As *volunteers*, neither the hike leaders, the Trails Club or club directors are in any way responsible or liable for hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general wellbeing while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working any trail.

The club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join with the hike leader and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. *Please, no pets on these hikes.*

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate the hiking time and letters indicate the degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours

Class 2: 4 hours

Class 3: 6 hours

Class 4: 8 hours

These are *approximate* hiking times, not including travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes, depending on the hike) and meal times (lunch will add another 20-70 minutes, depending on the mood of the group). The times are based on an assumption of a two mile per hour pace, with a half hour added for each 1000 feet in elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards can extend the hiking time.

Degree of Difficulty

A: little or no elevation gain, up to 500

feet, no difficulties for average walker

B: some climbing: up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty

C: more climbing: up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty

D: much climbing: over 2500 feet elevation gain

This is an *estimated* degree of difficulty. Most trails in the Issaquah Alps are not up to the high standards of state and national parks. Issaquah Trails can be very steep in parts or muddy and brushy. Hikers may gain 1000 feet in just one mile of a five-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain hike. Sometimes there are trees to climb over or nettles and berry bushes to beat through. *Short* doesn't automatically mean easy and *long* doesn't automatically mean tough.

HIKE DESCRIPTION MODIFIERS

Exploration

The leader shows trails and points of interest along the way. The trails to be hiked or points visited depend on the weather and the group's interests.

Leader's Choice

The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike schedule.

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

Variation

The leader may detour, take short cuts and loops, explore or otherwise deviate from the main trail to make the hike more interesting.

Exploratory Bushwhack

The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades. Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud and have a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Youth Hike

For children ages six to 12.

Parents must come along.

Toddler's Walk

For parents with very small children or infants.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot just south of Issaquah City Hall. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah-Front Street) off Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go one mile or so down Front Street, past the light at Sunset to S.E. Andrews. Turn left into the KC Foods complex. Go one block to parking area between First Avenue and Rainier Blvd. Park south of Andrews Street.

CLOTHING

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, rain gear, food, drink, matches, flashlight and first aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Volunteers organize and schedule trail maintenance parties periodically as listed in the hike schedule. These work parties meet at the same place as the regular hikes (see "Meeting Place" above). The Club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers and other tools. Trail work parties last at least four hours. *Trail maintenance is a vital part of the Club's work—and a great way to meet people!* Individuals and groups are also encouraged to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it.

**ISSAQUAH ALPS
HOTLINE: 328-0480**

24 hours a day, recorded hike descriptions and club messages

FOOT Asks King County To "Pause" In Their Efforts to Acquire Land For A Sammamish To Redmond Watershed Trail

Friends Of Open Trails (FOOT) is circulating a petition asking King County to pause in their efforts to acquire land for a Sammamish to Redmond Watershed Trail and allow time for community input. Much of the proposed trail's corridor crossing the East Sammamish Plateau is routed beneath the high voltage Bonneville Power Line. FOOT is asking the area's residents if this is the type of trail experience they prefer. After one day of making the petition available to the public, FOOT has indicated that many residents feel that this is not the kind of trail they want King County to build.

The following is an excerpt from the petition FOOT is circulating:

Please Say No To King County's Ugly, Hazardous, Sammamish to Redmond Watershed Trail.

We support scenic safe trails through a natural environment which gives the user a quality experience.

Instead, King County is proposing to spend over \$3.2 million for its ugly, hazardous Sammamish to Redmond Watershed Trail.

Once that money is spent, there will be no funds left for a quality trail.

King County's proposed trail is hazardous because most of it is routed beneath a 230,000 volt transmission line. This will expose the users to dangerous electromagnetic radiation which may cause genetic defects and cancer. These harmful effects will be quadrupled if Bonneville Power increases the voltage up to 1 million volts in the future, as may be presently planned.

King County's proposed trail is ugly because nearly all of it is routed through degrading fenced corridors, in residents' yards and through industrial gas line and ultra-high voltage power line clear cuts, which will be clear cuts forever. It crosses numerous arterials, streets and driveways.

Is this how you want your scarce tax dollars spent?

For more information and a copy of this petition please contact Greg Moravan at 392-2690

The View Loggers

The chief enemy of "urban forests"? The *view loggers*. The Summit is the one that is most visible from the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway and has received the most newspaper ink. But the chainsaws on The Precipice of Cougar Mountain have slaughtered a grove of ancient Douglas firs—so that a single recent immigrant from Los Angeles could look down from his picture windows to the traffic on I-90, so warming to the heart of an Angeleno.

King County's new Sensitive Areas Ordinance regulates tree-cutting. Recently Northstream Development, owned by a member of the Nordstrom family, was fined \$250,000 for cutting 31 maples and alders on 1.6 acres to open up views of Lake Sammamish and the Olympics, logging that boosted the asking price of the five lots involved by \$50,000 each. Northstream also is required to plant three 6-foot trees for every one that was cut.

So when you spot a view logging operation, *call the cops!* (King County, Bellevue, Issaquah, depending on the location.)

Volunteer Help Wanted...

IATC Mail Distribution Coordinator

Must either live or work in Issaquah. Responsibilities include: monitoring our Post Office box two to three times a week, and distributing or rerouting of various club correspondence. You will also keep several locations in Issaquah supplied with our membership brochures. If interested, please call Bill McFerren at 391-3359.

IATC Historic Preservation Coordinator

Responsibilities include helping to identify and inventory historic artifacts in the Issaquah Alps, and serving as liaison between the IATC and various local historical societies. Person should have an interest in, and some knowledge of, local history. If interested, please call Bill McFerren at 391-3359.

Issaquah Creek Basin

The Issaquah Creek Basin, 61 square miles between Preston and Cougar Mountain, Hobart and Lake Sammamish, is in deep trouble. The nine-member Citizen Basin Advisory Team has put together a worst-case scenario that would cause "a lot of people's mouths to fall open in total horror." Though 80 percent of the basin currently is forested, that ratio will drop dramatically as development occurs. For example, the 4.5 square miles of the North fork sub-basin (Grand Ridge, etc.) presently is 72 percent forest; under full development, that would fall to 5 percent.

Of horror stories there is no end. The December 1991 *Save Lake Sammamish Newsletter* reports that though the development in the lake's basin increased by 10 percent from 1986 to 1990, the average increase in lake level response to such storms as those of November, 1990 was 24 percent. If the predicted development continues, it will expand from 25 to 65 percent in the next 10 years. Such expansion could increase the lake level in heavy storms by several feet above their current levels.

Any person who lives on or near Lake Sammamish or any of its feeding streams would do very well and wisely to keep up to date on the bad that is planned and the good that must be done to prevent it by reading the *SLS Newsletter*.

Do so by joining:

Save Lake Sammamish
Suite 2565, 1420 Gilman Blvd.
Issaquah, WA 98027
641-3008

Membership dues? Name your own figure—any amount will be appreciated.

There is much work to be done. Volunteers are sought. Call Joanna Buehler, 641-3008.

Answer to "A Puzzle..."

The Rivers: *Snoqualmie, Tolt, Griffin Creek, Tokul Creek.*

The Communities: *Duvall, Carnation, Fall City, Spring Glen, Tokul, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Tanner, Cedar Falls*

The Benchmark Mountain: *Mt. Si.*
Highway 203, 202.

Join Former Coal Miners at 'Return to Newcastle'

King County Parks will once again sponsor "Return to Newcastle", our annual celebration of history, parks and open space on Sunday, June 7 from 10 to 5.

The event is held in the Newcastle area of Cougar Mountain, near the Red Town trailhead. For directions, call Ralph Owen at 746-1070 or follow the signs from Newport Way and 150th.

Historical artifacts will be displayed along with photos and maps. Former miners and their families will attend to tell about the coal mining days in what is now Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, King County's largest park.

King County will arrange musical entertainment, good food will be on sale and the Trails Club will lead history walks and hikes throughout the day. Trails Club books and maps will be on sale. Spend an hour or the whole day!



Tiger Mountain State Forest – The Self-Sustaining Greenway

by Doug McClelland, Wendy Sammarco and Dan Pomeroy—(206) 825-1631

What does being a neighbor or visitor to the Tiger Mountain State Forest mean? The answer varies by your viewpoint. From the forest managers' perspective, we will share some of our thoughts.

The usual description for the Tiger Mountain State Forest is that of a working forest in an urban environment. The term working forest indicates that preservation and park cannot be a part of the plan...or can they?

By its location alone, Tiger Mountain is an urban forest. Typically when we think of urban forests we think of city trees, small plantings that beautify a city park or backyard open spaces. When you view Tiger Mountain from Interstate 90 or Issaquah the perspective of the urban forest becomes a broader greenway.

How can preservation or a park become a part of a working forest? There are a variety of management areas on Tiger Mountain which make a pretty strong argument for preservation. This working forest includes a 2,000 acre Natural Resource Conservation Area whose primary management emphasis is on conservation of ecological habitat. Throughout the forest there are riparian management/wildlife corridors which are preserved to insure water quality and offer wildlife undisturbed routes of travel. At various locations in the forest there are selected gene pool reserve areas, typically 100 year old+ trees, which have been preserved to provide future generations of genetic diversity. There are upland management areas which have environmental features, such as wetlands, or areas that provide unique habitat adjacent to a harvest

unit. Over 4,500 acres on Tiger Mountain are designated in these special uses.

The Tiger Mountain State Forest Management Plan allows the annual harvest of 125 acres of timber. This rate of harvest allows for timber production on a sustained yield basis—harvesting only what grows each year. The harvest areas are designed on a five year action plan guided by the age of the trees and scattered within the five drainage basins on Tiger Mountain.

Timber management on Tiger Mountain is a classroom in new techniques of harvest planning. In other words, timber sales are designed using new ideas to better manage habitat immediately after harvest and in the future. Ideas such as snag protection and recruitment (habitat inns), landscape design (minimum fragmentation), promoting structural diversity (mimicking old growth) and providing a local seed source through leaving some of the existing stand behind are some of the techniques of new forestry. Tiger Mountain State Forest is helping in the evolution of the new forestry concept.

What if you happen to live directly adjacent to the forest and we are planning a timber sale near your property? At first glance you may not be excited about timber harvesting in your backyard. But remember, one of the advantages of living adjacent to the Tiger Mountain State Forest is knowing the forest will not be developed. This land will stay in forest management forever. The Department of Natural Resources wants to be a good neighbor. We want to involve everyone in the timber manage-

ment process. Public meetings sharing information and gathering input is part of our daily business. Often our forest neighbors have better knowledge about a part of Tiger Mountain than we do. Through this information sharing process we can make informed land management decisions and the forest neighbors become a part of the timber management process.

Tiger Mountain contains some of the most productive timber producing soils in the world. The State Forest generates revenue for schools and King County. The majority of the revenue is generated through the sale of timber. Timber sales can annually generate over a million dollars in revenue. In this way the forest becomes a self-supporting Greenway.

Tiger Mountain is a working forest with a variety of goals. There is great care taken to conserve unique habitats through upland management protection and the Natural Resource Conservation Area. There is equal care given to preserve water quality through riparian management corridors and regulated harvest rates within drainage basins. Sensitive areas are left undisturbed in off base designations. Harvest activity is designed by using the leading edge of forestry practices.

A working forest is an exciting place to share our renewable natural resources. Next Alpiner article...Managing recreation in an urban forest—will it work?

Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club

Spring Hike Schedule

April 1992

SAT 4 APR Otter Falls.

8 MI 600 ft. 3B 9:00 NB
Unique falls and lake hidden amid the beauty of the Taylor River valley
Mike Leake 333-4243

SUN 5 APR Little Sl.

5 MI 1200 ft. 2B 9:30 NB
Enchanting trail with wonderful views of mountains and valley.
Alexandra Pye 935-8510

SAT 11 APR Bandera Mtn.

7 MI 2800 ft. 3D 8:30 NB
This is a "snowline probe" and will go as high as conditions allow. Views will be great from any elevation. Steep footpath - *hiking boots required!*
June Stevens 222-5452

SUN 12 APR Twin Falls State Park and Cedar Butte.

7 MI 1800 ft. 3C 9:00 NB
One-way hike features waterfalls, streams, beaver pond, lake and a footstool peak.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

SAT 18 APR Phelps Ridge.

6.5 MI 2250 ft. 3C 9:30 NB
Very scenic road walk with great vistas of Tolt and North Fork valleys.
Rosie Bodien 828-0170

SUN 19 APR Rachor Creek Vertical EXPLORATORY BUSHWACK.

1 MI 900 ft. ?? 9:30 NB
Down Rachor Creek to river (is it possible?) and back up! Steep, *unknown ground*, definitely exploratory. Difficulty and time unknown. Call leader beforehand. *Hiking boots required!*
John Johnson 633-3805

SAT 25 APR Mt. Washington "owl" site via Twin Falls.

9 MI 2600 ft. 3D 9:00 NB
Spectacle of plunging cataracts and a wooded climb to a popular viewpoint.
Tom Palm 783-6005

May 1992

SAT 2 MAY Silent Swamp and Beaver Valley.

5.3 MI 900 ft. 2B 9:00 PPR
Sweeping views of Raging and Snoqualmie valleys plus the solitude of deep woods wetlands.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

SUN 3 MAY Rattlesnake Ledge "Sunrise."

2 MI 1100 ft. 2B 6:45 NB
Spectacular vistas from atop this awesome escarpment. Trail steep and rough in spots. *Hiking boots required.*
Daucey Brewington 888-2426

SUN 10 MAY Little Sl.

5 MI 1200 ft. 10:00 NB
Beautiful views of North Bend and surrounding mountains.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

SAT 16 MAY Old CCC Truck Road, Big Blowout and Moss Cliffs.

4 MI 570 ft. 2B 9:30 NB
Beautiful scenic spring walk on old road (closed to cars). Views of Middle Fork and Pratt River valleys. Optional side trip to "secret place."
Pat Brewington 888-2426

SUN 17 MAY N. Rattlesnake Ramble

3C 8:45 NB
Exploring the north slope of Rattlesnake Mtn. Joint Hike with IATC.
Ralph Owen 746-1070
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

SAT 23 MAY West Defiance Ridge.

11 MI 3400 ft. 4D 8:15 NB
Immense views from the scenic and long-abandoned Dirty Harry's logging road. Some brush. *Hiking boots required.*
Pat Love 243-0355

SAT 30 MAY Marten Lake.

9 MI 1900 ft. 3C 8:30 NB
Lovely lake in fine old growth forest with sparkling streams and waterfalls. NOTE: one-third of hike is on extremely rough fisherman's footpath. Possible snow. *Hiking boots required.* Party limit 12—call leader to reserve space.
Warren Jones 888-0262

June 1992

SAT 6 JUN Mt. Sl via Old Trail.

8 MI 3450 ft. 3D 9:00 NB
Quiet, private way to hike this old favorite
Tom Palm 783-6005

SUN 7 JUN Anette Lake.

7.5 MI 1400 ft. 3B 10:00 NB
Fine old growth forest and sparkling peak-ringed lake.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

SAT 13 JUN Lake Blethen

10 MI 2000 ft. 3C 8:30 NB
Lonely lake lying near the very scenic Quartz Creek Road. Involves some rough, possibly muddy fisherman's trail.
Warren Jones 888-0262

SUN 14 JUN Mt. Washington

10 MI 3200 ft. 4D 9:00 NB
Superb views of Snoqualmie Peaks and Chester Morse Lake.
Jim and Ginny Evans 226-5825

SAT 20 JUN Dorothy, Bear, Deer and Snoqualmie Lakes.

15 MI 1600 or 2600 ft. 4C or 5D
From the Miller River to the Taylor River through the heart of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. A long tough trip for experienced hikers. One-way hike which requires drivers to exchange cars. Limit 24. Call leaders to reserve space.
Diane Guthrie 788-6755
June Stevens 222-5452

SUN 21 JUN Franklin Falls Loop and Denny Creek.

6 MI 980 ft. 1A 10:30 NB
Beautiful river walk through virgin forest. Return via historic wagon route. Optional walk to picturesque falls on Denny Creek. Franklin Falls is the site of a proposed hydro project.
Pat Brewington 888-2426

SUN 28 JUN Loch Katrine & Ridge.

10 MI 2500 ft. 3C 8:30 NB
Step from clear-cut vistas into virgin forest. Stop at beautiful lake or climb to outstanding panorama.
Diane Guthrie 788-6755

SVTC Information

For membership and information about the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club call 888-2426.

NB = meet at the North Bend Park and Ride at 4th and Main by the library.

FC = meet at the Fall City Community Park parking lot, junction of SR202 and SR203.

PPR = meet at the Preston Park and Ride located at I-90 Exit 22, Preston/Fall City.

PLEASE, NO PETS ON HIKE!

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has no involvement with these hikes. This schedule is provided at the request of the SVTC, which has classified these hikes and provided all other information.

Membership Application Issaquah Alps Trails Club

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- Annual Regular Dues\$10
- Annual Contributing Dues\$20
- Lifetime Membership\$100
- Limited Income\$5

All memberships cover the entire family.

A regular annual family membership is \$10. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

Contributing memberships at \$20 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

Lifetime memberships at \$100 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.

Issaquah Alps Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

• *Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park* By Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen.

1990 updated edition. This new edition brings you all the old favorites plus new favorites—new trails on the west side connecting to Renton and May Creek plus *all new maps!* \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

• *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*

By Bill Longwell. 1989 updated edition. New trails: Tradition Plateau Trail (adding Swamp and Wetlands Trails), the *new* Bootleg Trail, the *new* Preston Trail. Plus encounters with animals. \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

• *Bedrock and Boots—An Introduction to the Geology of the Issaquah Alps* By Marvin Pistrang.

A thorough but simple chronology of the geology of the Alps from the early Eocene period to modern times. \$3.50 (includes tax and shipping)

• *The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History* By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald.

A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area on Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers.

More than 100 photos, four maps and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$11.50 (includes tax and shipping)

• *Tiger Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

• *Cougar Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

• *Tradition Lake map and Grand Ridge map* \$1.00 (includes tax and shipping)

• *T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club"* Specify size (S,M,L,XL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$11, long sleeve: \$15.00.

• *T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March"* Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11.00. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

• *Poster: Mountains to Sound March.* Full-color poster depicts the dramatic sweep of Interstate 90 as it winds down out of the Cascades into Seattle. \$12.50.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

P.O. Box 351

Issaquah, WA 98027

93/03/01

Issaquah Library

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