

Resolution #1  
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

## **SUPPORT ADDITIONS TO THE ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS**

Submitted by: The Mountaineers and the North Cascades Conservation Council

**BACKGROUND:** In 1976, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness was signed into law after a prolonged debate. At that time, a number of desirable areas were left out of the final bill due to ownership considerations and their attendant acquisitions costs along with the desire by some decision-makers to continue high levels of logging or other resource-extraction activities in the adjacent roadless lands. One of the areas left out was the Pratt River Valley, which at the time was in a checkerboard ownership pattern left over from the railroad land-grants of the late 1800's. Since that time, the entire Pratt, thru a long-term environmental effort, has come into Federal ownership (national forest) along with a number of other parcels along the adjoining Middle and South Forks of the Snoqualmie River. The banks of the Middle Fork are accessible for miles upriver by an old and partially decommissioned road on the north side of the river or by trail on the south side. However, the Pratt continues to require a concerted effort to access by most people and so the valley and its wildlife have remained quite wild.

In early 2009, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Dave Reichert introduced companion bills in both chambers of Congress to add over 22,000 acres to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness that includes the entire Pratt River Valley and the hillside above the Middle-fork trail as well as portions of the adjacent South Fork Snoqualmie River Valley high above I-90 (not far from the site of the 2007 FWOOC annual meeting at Snoqualmie Pass). Along with the noted Wilderness additions, the entire Pratt River would be designated a Wild River. In addition, much of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie is also proposed for Wild & Scenic River status downstream almost to the town of North Bend. Although conservation and recreation groups continue to seek further additions of other areas to the very popular Alpine Lakes Wilderness, these proposed additions would resolve one of the major shortfalls of the 1976 land mark bill.

**Resolution:** The FWOOC supports adding the entire Pratt River valley and portions of the Middle and South Forks Snoqualmie River valleys to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. In addition, the FWOOC supports adding the entire Pratt River and designated portions of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River to the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Contact: Harry Romberg, 11538 17th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125. (206) 365-9302.  
hbromb@aol.com  
North Cascades Conservation Council