

MOUNTAINS TO *Sound*

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This streetscape, with no vegetation, was ranked lowest in a national survey of visitors and business owners.



Visitors and business owners ranked this streetscape highest.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Wolf

Do business people and shoppers share an appreciation for trees? This was one of several questions in a recent national survey about the urban forest in business districts. See story on page 3.

SNOQUALMIE SUMMIT CITIZENS BUILD A LANDMARK

On a bright Saturday in August, 36 people gathered for the unveiling of a large, new visitor information Kiosk standing next to the US Forest Service office near Exit 52 at Snoqualmie Summit. The 14-foot long kiosk has visitor orientation information on one side and a wide array of historical photos and stories on the other. Local

summit is an unincorporated area, residents and businesses participate in several organizations to guide community planning. Both SNO-PAC (Snoqualmie Pass Advisory Council) and the local Snoqualmie Pass Women's Group got the idea started. "We proposed this project to the Greenway Trust which was looking for good places to use funds donated to Greenway projects by Puget Sound Energy," Murphy explains. "Once we got started, the Trust helped us find other funders so we could do something big and significant that would really serve the hundreds of thousands of people who stop here every year."

That's the way the Greenway idea works, says Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith. "Our concept plan is the catalyst for a lot of local people and agencies to pick up the idea and carry it out in local settings. We're about history as well as forests and trails.

We wanted something that let people know that we live up here and love this place

- Patti Murphy

around the Summit and some of the local birds, mammals, trees and plants. The opposite side of the Kiosk chronicles the story of the area since geologic times, including Native American commerce through the pass, early explorers, miners and lumber jacks, the development of the railroad and car road and the birth of the ski area that is a huge recreational attraction at the Summit today. The changing nature of forestry is also described. Twenty historic photos help tell the story.

Puget Sound Energy funds started the ball rolling, then additional donations came from the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Mountaineers Foundation, Booth Creek Ski Holdings,

and the late Webb Moffett. A major design breakthrough occurred when the Washington Forest Protection Association decided to roll design work by Jones and Jones Landscape Architects, working on a series of Kittitas historical signs, into the large historical element of the Kiosk. WFPA's Cindy Mitchell was instrumental in seeing that both projects went forward with WFPA support. Community members generated the historical research and photos and Nancy Rottle and Giselle Sassen of Jones and Jones did final layout and graphics design.

Many individuals at the Summit put labor and materials into the Kiosk. Architect Glen Peterson did the original design drawings. Dan Brewster, ski area manager donated clearing and grading and installation of electric lights on the kiosk. Patrick Manley had the signs printed at a discount at his company Karagraphics and he also installed the signs.

Area residents who supported the Kiosk with time, energy and materials include: David and Susan Black, Larry Everett, Wally, Jeannie, Carie and Pat Frantz, Cindy Koningson, Melody Grazda, Cassie Hansbrough, Toby and Dee Hastie, Bruck Heacock, Keven Huggett, Jo Hunter, Morris Jenkins, Judy Jennings, Bill Kaffenberger, Sheri Kelly, Kraig Kurata, Billie Lawson, Linda Legg, Tom Meehan, Dave Moffett, Tim Murphy, Joe, Sherry and Tom Pickett, Ed Stephenson, Jes Strake and Steve Strakele. Rod Mace of the US Forest Service contributed landscape design for the patio surrounding the kiosk.



Photo Patti Murphy

A visitor reads the new information kiosk at Snoqualmie Pass. The kiosk describes local history, geology, flora and fauna and recreational opportunities near Snoqualmie Pass.

citizens initiated the kiosk idea and built the structure. They received funding from a variety of public and private sources joining to support a local Greenway project.

"We're a pretty dispersed community and we wanted something that let people know that we live up here and love this place," says Patti Murphy, the Summit resident who headed the project. While the

When we saw the Summit people working hard on this, we took the idea to some of our best supporters and came up with more funds."

One side of the Kiosk features a large map of the Summit area with important trails, view sites, recreation, visitor facilities and home sites located. It also displays scenic photos of the high country

TREES IN TOWN:

Local Researcher Tests Consumer Appeal

People seem more interested in shopping in commercial districts having trees and vegetation than in districts without those elements. What's more, they say they infer greater quality and value in business districts with greenscape and are willing to pay an average of 11% more for goods and services.

These preferences emerge from studies conducted by University of Washington researcher, Dr. Kathy Wolf. "We've used visual preference surveys to tap into people's reactions to various environments," she explains. She surveyed business people and consumers in eight business districts around the United States.

Trees and Bushes Score Highest

Each person surveyed is asked to rate 32 different photo scenes that show retail settings with different amounts and quality of vegetation. How much did they like the scene? In a separate study, they were asked to rate each place for amenities and comforts. Would they travel farther and spend more time in some districts than in others? What would they expect things to cost in the various districts? The districts with trees and significant landscaping scored higher on almost all preferences responses.

People said they would be willing to pay more for parking in a well-landscaped business district. "This suggests to me that greater revenues from shaded parking would offset the costs of parking space loss, a frequent objection to trees by merchants," Wolf says. Amenity and Comfort ratings were about 80% higher for a tree-lined sidewalk compared to a non-shaded street.

Costs for Businesses

Both business and customer survey groups

gave higher ratings to scenes with trees, but customers consistently rated scenes with trees higher than business owners. "There are costs for business owners," Wolf says, "and those are very important in a competitive retail environment. Businesses may not want trees to block the visibility of their store, they may be concerned about trees damaging the sidewalks or trees taking up space for parking and, of course, flowers, twigs and leaves require constant clean-up."

In another study of business owners, Wolf found a number of people who think trees are good for business. "Plantings and landscaping draw a lot of people," according to a retail mall manager. "The benefits are huge," said a realtor.

Wolf also reports other studies on the role of trees and landscaping in patronage and land values. "Weyerhaeuser surveyed real estate appraisers and 86% of them agreed that landscaping added to the dollar value of commercial real estate. Another study, looking at all the design variables in marketing attractive office space, showed that the highest occupancy rates occurred when there were landscape amenities, showing trees as even more attractive than direct access to main roads.

First Impressions of the Roadside

Kathy Wolf has recently completed a study to see what judgments people make about an unfamiliar community or business district based on its appearance from a highway. "While driving, people consider where to stop, shop or return to explore later. We know that people respond psychologically to visual information in less than 0.3 seconds. So I wanted to tease out the perceptions people have about a place based on its greenscape. Also, what do they infer about the business quality of the place

based on the view from the road." She surveyed drivers in selected cities across the United States using six basic images, digitally altered, to show different amounts and arrangements of vegetation.

Green Screen Most Popular

Among all five photographs showing an increasing amount of vegetation between the roadway and adjacent commercial land uses, the highest rated ones, by far, says Wolf, were highways where background buildings were screened by trees, though one could still see glimpses of commercial settings beyond. Business owners favored that view almost as much as consumers.

She describes other studies including a test of which of two routes people would choose to get to a nearby shopping center. One was a scenic parkway, the other was a faster, non-scenic expressway. Even though the scenic route took more time and required more stops, study participants picked it over half the time.

"We are beginning to document a variety of links between travelers and the green edge of the roadway," Kathy Wolf says. "The links are not only related to attractive-looking business communities and prices in the shops, but also to potential ways to reduce the stress that is increasingly part of driving. Trees and other vegetation are valued in the highway environment."

Detailed fact sheets about Wolf's studies can be found on the Internet at <<http://www.cfr.washington.edu/enviro-mind>>. Wolf's studies are funded by a variety of sources including the US Forest Service and the National Urban and Community Forestry Council.

A New Park in Easton

Volunteers in the small Kittitas County town of Easton have created a new park. A large gravel pit owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation located just north of I-90 at exit 71 has been changed into a park with fishing ponds and green space.

About two years ago, residents of Easton decided their town needed a park, explains Lynne Thomas, Easton resident. The WSDOT gravel pits and ponds at exit 71 were already attracting people. Because the Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the ponds with trout, people were fishing or stopping for a rest off the freeway. But there was no parking, bathroom or garbage can. Litter was everywhere, says Thomas.

Continued on Page 5



Fishing at Easton Ponds.

Photo Northern Kittitas County Tribune

NEWS ALONG THE GREENWAY

COMBINED FUNDS KEEP THE GREEN EDGE FROM UNRAVELING

While new housing developments grow on the top of the Sammamish plateau and other designated urban areas in eastern King County, forested lands are also being added to the Greenway of permanent, public open spaces along I-90. The latest additions, informally called the “Preston Edge,” have been assembled by the non-profit Trust for Public Land (TPL) and will be sold to King County with development rights held by the State Department of Natural Resources.

The lands involved are along High Point Way, immediately north of I-90 and west of the Preston Industrial Park. Kent Whitehead, TPL project manager, has worked for nearly two years to arrange purchase of this 161-acre tract comprised of four connected parcels with four different owners. He has also worked with King County Parks and the State DNR to develop funding sources to secure permanent public ownership.

Arboretum Concept Wins Support

The Preston Edge properties, in combination with one parcel already purchased from the Industrial Park owners, may serve as the land base for an ambitious plan to create an Arboretum and Botanical Garden in part of the forests that surround the historic logging town of Preston. Susan Bond of North Bend has spearheaded the non-profit Arboretum planning and fundraising effort that has inspired support from citizens, businesses and the King County Executive and Council.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has been a strong supporter of the Arboretum concept. “This is a wonderful way to preserve close-in forests for public recreation and education while retaining the scenic character of the Greenway,” says Greenway Trust President Jim Ellis. “With the master plan that Susan is developing, a few buildings will be located in the Arboretum but they will not be visible from either Interstate 90 or High Point Way.”

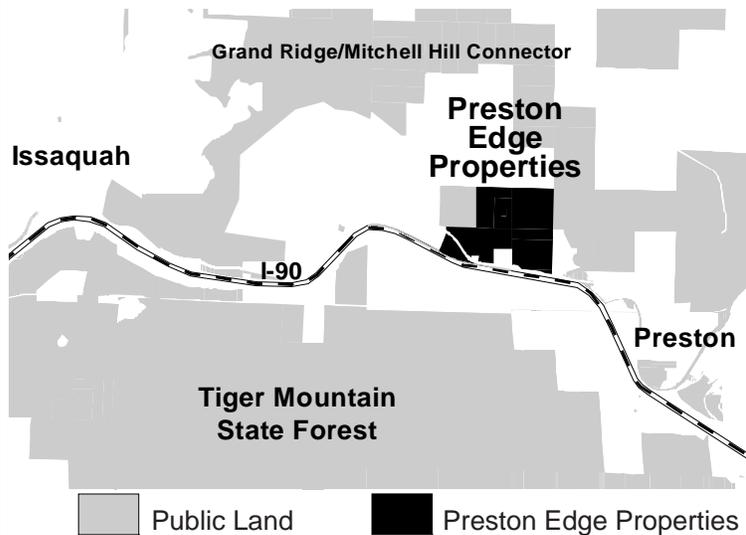


Photo Kent Whitehead

The Preston Edge properties are on the right in this photo taken just west of Preston along High Point Way. A trail link is being studied for the shoulder where this pedestrian walks that is now a major missing link in a connected regional trail system.

Two National Programs Help Protect the Edge

The largest single funding source for protection of the forests on the four Preston properties is the federal Forest Legacy Program, administered by the US Forest Service through their local partner, the State DNR, according to Whitehead. So far, a total of nearly \$1.8 million has been used to purchase the development value on these lands. Forest Legacy funds, designed to keep productive tree-growing lands from being converted to urbanized uses, has combined with other local, state and federal funds to play a large role in protecting thousands of acres along I-90. Another federal program, the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21), has allocated \$485,000 over two years to purchase the properties as integral viewshed lands on a National Scenic Byway. King County, through its Parks budget, will invest \$475,000. King County Parks will ultimately own all four parcels.

Lands being assembled for the Preston Arboretum and Botanical Gardens abut State DNR forestlands on two sides. Other recent purchases by King County and Forest Legacy are preserving forest lands just north of the proposed Arboretum for a connected open space corridor from Grand Ridge (Issaquah Highlands) to Preston on Mitchell Hill.

Greenway President Ellis says that small undeveloped parcels near the highway are often the most difficult to protect. “Preserving large forest tracts makes a lot of sense for public land management agencies,” he explains. “They know how to manage them for sustainable forestry and recreation. But we’re very lucky that the Arboretum idea came along and gave a unifying public vision to these smaller parcels. It would be a shame if the Greenway idea had preserved large forests that people couldn’t see through buildings on the edge of the road.”

For People We Will Never Know

In May, members of Seattle's Bullitt family were honored as Seattle First Citizens by the Seattle King County Board of Realtors, the Puget Sound Business Journal and other sponsors of the annual award. One of the Greenway Trust's founders and supporters, Priscilla Bullitt Collins, gave the family's response upon receipt of the award. A part of her response is printed here with her permission.

As we look at our wonderful community, it is tempting to imagine that our generation was so generous and clever as to have made it all ourselves. Or maybe it was just automatically here? In fact, it took many people a lot of hands-on work long ago. It took time, effort, vision, money and brains. Then, it was **given to us**. And if you just moved here yesterday, you belong here already and it was given to you too.

We owe such a huge debt to the Dennys, Colmans, Schultzes. You saw a photo of Judge Burke eating a picnic sitting in the mud – how did we get the Burke Museum? Who planted Volunteer Park? What of Dr. Fuller, what of the Garden Club ladies who

got the arboretum designed by the Olmsted Brothers and built by the Works Progress Administration? As you drive through the Arboretum, I hope you will salute some women who wore corsets and long black dresses and funny hats, who beautified our city – in their free time when they were not organizing a day care or a music school. Of course, they could not have invented Children's Hospital without the dedicated doctors who donated their time... Those early people had a compact with the future. After they died, their future grew up and became... us.

When my grandfather died and left stock to us children, he required nothing of us, but he expected a lot. He sent seven grandchildren to college, years after his death. That was an act of faith. He never asked, "Were we worthy? Would we use it wisely?" He gave freely to the unknown future. Of course, we never thanked him. We can never repay. But my father taught us that love descends and we do have one way to thank our parents and grandparents: that is, to give freely to our future to benefit people we will never know.

In our community, as in a family, we need to do for our future what our predecessors would expect of us. It will be the legacy of all of us here to work and give for libraries and parks, schools and colleges, playgrounds and places to hike and fish and camp and swim, for beautiful scenery and music, clean water, museums, safe streets, for science, for places to live, places to learn, places to play. It will be our gift that we will work for civil liberty, social justice, a courteous society, honest and prosperous businesses and freedom. That will be our thanks.

We were not born for ourselves alone, so we will serve our community and make it stronger for people we will never know, who will not even remember us. We will serve because we have a compact with the future. It is a partnership of trust and a great blessing.



Patsy Collins

Puget Sound Business Journal/Dan Schlatter

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Current Fundraising Campaign 2000-2002 Goal: \$1.1 Million over Three Years

\$100,000 and over

Microsoft Corporation

\$75,000 and over

Anonymous

The Boeing Company

Plum Creek Timber Company

Hunter & Dottie Simpson

Washington Mutual Bank

Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

\$35,000 and over

Osberg Family Trust

Puget Sound Energy

\$20,000 and over

Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

\$15,000 and over

James R. Ellis

Sally and Warren Jewell

Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas

Ted and Gretchen Thomsen

Under \$15,000

Arthur Anderson

CH2M Hill

HomeStreet Bank

Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson

Preston Gates & Ellis

Wilder Construction

Individual Friends of the Greenway will be listed in a later publication.



Photo Snoqualmie Pass Times

EASTON: Continued from Page 3

Members of the Easton Memorial Day Parade Committee and other local citizens have cleaned and improved the site. The Yakama Indian Nation stocked fish, donated topsoil and installed water circulation systems. The Department of Transportation donated sand for parking areas, hydro seeded new green areas and hauls trash away. Washington State Parks and private individuals donated picnic tables and benches. The Department of Fish and Wildlife paid for two toilets. Kiewit Construction donated pipe for a sprinkler system. And surplus wood playground equipment from a Seattle elementary school will soon be installed. In June they held the First Annual Easton Ponds Fishing Derby, with 160 people attending and prizes donated by Puget Sound Energy, Pautzke Bait and local agencies.

Thomas says volunteers will continue to improve the park. They still would like an entrance sign, interpretive signs, trees and landscaping, a pump house and covered picnic area.

Every year the Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery receive letters from young students who have visited the hatchery on field trips. Many of these 3rd, 4th and 5th graders call attention to complex issues.



WATER

Bethany J. writes: "My favorite food is salmon, and I'll try not to eat too much." This comment gets right at the confusion about the Endangered Species Act. For instance, naturally spawning Puget Sound Chinook are listed as "threatened" under ESA while their very close cousins in the hatchery programs may be harvested and barbecued. Who can blame people for being confused when they buy

salmon at the store and then hear news reports that salmon are "On the Brink"? Here at Issaquah any chinook that spawn naturally are listed as "threatened" while any that have eggs and milt taken for the propagation program are not. They are the same family of fish but there is a value distinction being made for those fish whose progeny are subjected to a full life cycle of natural selection.

Amy writes: "The female lays her eggs and spreads the gravel on the eggs. Then she will die and so will the dad after he does his job." Salmon eggs are laid in a nest or "redd" that a female digs in the right size gravel. After egg laying and fertilization salmon do die, if not before for the stressed ones, and contribute many valuable nutrients to the watershed and all its inhabitants.

- Steve Bell

Snoqualmie Pass is the boundary between two different climates, which were home to two very different Native worlds.



HISTORY

On the east side of the pass, the Kittitas had a society based on horses and spoke Sahaptin. On the west side of the pass, the Snoqualmie, a Lushootseed-speaking group, held sway over the prairies and rivers of the valley named for them. On maps and in anthropology texts, the line between these two societies is often drawn sharply. Indeed, the two

societies were quite different. However, drawing the line at Snoqualmie Pass ignores a long history of interaction between the coastal and interior Native peoples. Snoqualmies and Yakamas regularly crossed the pass to trade — it's thought that camas, for example, which is not native to Puget Sound country, may have been introduced through trade networks such as the one across Snoqualmie Pass. Networks of marriage and family also linked communities across the pass — in some Snoqualmie towns, one would have heard Sahaptin spoken as often as Lushootseed. Instead of a hard and fast line between ecosystems and cultural groups, then, we might think of Snoqualmie Pass as a corridor between communities, a fertile boundary between places and peoples.

- Coll Thrush

Greenway People:

She was dubbed "The Coffee Lady" and "The Bathroom Lady" within the same summer. And she was thrilled with both titles!

Deb Balogh has been an energetic volunteer in the Mountains to Sound Greenway for the past two years. She planted hundreds of trees in the 200,000 Trees in 2000 program, which brought volunteers to public forests in the Greenway to plant native conifer seedlings. As the Executive Assistant for the President of Starbucks, she became "The Coffee Lady" when she brought donated Starbucks coffee early each morning to participants in the 10th Anniversary Mountains to Sound March in July. Marchers, who trekked 130 miles in 10 days from Thorp in eastern Washington to the Seattle waterfront, gave a great cheer each morning when Deb appeared with steaming carafes of coffee.

Deb Balogh is also a folk dancer and folk fiddler. She dances about three nights a week, including Contra dancing, Scandinavian, Swing and Zydeco dancing. Last summer she went to Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp in the Catskill Mountains in New York on a bathroom cleaning scholarship. "It was at dance camp that I was dubbed 'The Bathroom Lady,'" she explains. "It was pouring down rain the first three days, and the bathrooms had white tile floors. I spent a lot of time washing those floors."

That dance camp gave her a chance to go back to her roots: she was born and raised in the Catskill Mountains. "I thought the Hudson River Valley was the most beautiful place in the world," she says, "until I came to the Northwest." She came to Seattle 10 years ago, never before having seen mountains with snow on them. "Even so, I felt at home here, between two mountain chains, the Cascades and the Olympics," just as she was in New York, between the Catskills and the Shawangunk Mountains. Growing up on a river, she has always appreciated rivers and forests.

Balogh attended a small college in Iowa, "as far away from mountains as you can get," she laughs. She majored in French and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. She has lived in Chicago, and she spent three years in Okinawa, Japan, as a medical transcriptionist for the US Navy. Then she chose Seattle.

Five years ago she started working for Starbucks. "It's exciting to be at a successful company that does something I'm proud to offer people. Coffee can be a respite in people's lives." She is also glad that Starbucks gives back to the communities they work in, including coffee-growing countries. "Starbucks' focuses are Literacy, AIDS and the environment," she explains.

New Guide to Cougar Mountain Published

An "Authoritative Guide to the Hiking Trails of Cougar Mountain," written by Charles McCrone, has recently been published by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. His work represents the fourth edition of a guide to the westernmost of the "Issaquah Alps," between Bellevue and Issaquah. Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen authored the original in 1981. McCrone's version blends the earlier work with a thorough update of trails and recreation sites in the 3000-acre park.

"What the book did for me was immerse my soul in Cougar Mountain, its history and nooks and crannies, transforming me in four years from an amateur to an aficionado," says McCrone. "I want that experience to be available to others; a map alone cannot instruct the hiker in the stories behind the Park and its trails."

DEB BALOGH



Photo Amy Brockhaus

Deb Balogh takes a lunch break and cools her feet in a stream near Snoqualmie Pass while hiking on part of the 10th Anniversary Mountains to Sound March in July.

Her first volunteer event in the Greenway was a rainy work day on a rocky, muddy trail near High Point, just outside of Issaquah. “I had a good friend who had died in a kayak accident,” she says, “and I wanted to do something permanent in his memory.” Volunteering in the outdoors made her feel connected to a larger community, and she found it to be great fun. She can be found in nearby forests, planting trees or building trails, on many weekend volunteer projects.

“Every so often, I stop to think a blessing on the little tree I’ve just planted and to wonder what it will look like 100 years from now,” says Balogh. “I’ll be gone, but I hope some of the trees I’m planting will still be around and that there will be volunteers from the 22nd century looking up to admire them and planting more.”

The 106-page guidebook includes a detailed map of trails within Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park as well as connector trails and public access points from surrounding neighborhoods. Each trail is documented with a list of features and history. The colorful history of the mountain and the effort that preserved much of it as County parkland is well-documented, including a forward by long-time trail writer Harvey Manning on “How We Got the Park.”

The “Authoritative Guide to the Hiking Trails of Cougar Mountain” by Charles McCrone is available at REI stores or from Issaquah Alps Trails Club by mail order. Information is available at 206-328-0480.

Fall is always a magical season in the lush forests along the Greenway, as crisp, cool nights and shortening days nudge deciduous trees toward their winter slumber. As a New England native used to dramatic displays of fall color, I’m always anxious to hit the trail during fall to witness the dramatic crimson colors of the vine maple, the brilliant yellows of the bigleaf maple, or the golds of the stately black cottonwood.

Just what makes trees turn color? Temperature, light, and water supply all play a part in the degree and duration of fall color. During the spring and summer, leaves serve as factories, producing most food necessary for a tree’s growth. This

food-manufacturing process takes place in cells containing chlorophyll, which gives a tree leaf its green color. This amazing chemical absorbs energy from sunlight, transforming carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates such as sugar and starch.

Tree leaves contain not only green pigment, but also yellow to orange pigments, which are usually masked by great amounts of green coloring. In fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature and climate, leaves stop their food-making process. Chlorophyll breaks down, allowing the yellow to orange colors in leaves to become visible. Other chemical changes in leaves may create additional colors, such as purple and red, all contributing to the palette of colors that abound along the Greenway during this wonderful time of year.

- Dave Wortman



TREES

Don’t be fooled by its name. The mountain beaver is in no way related to the beaver and does not live exclusively in the mountains. This endearing creature can be found in our northwest forests blindly waddling through skunk cabbage and ferns, chomping away in earnest. Equally fascinating about the mountain beaver is that it is only found in the Pacific Northwest, on the west side of the Cascade Mountains from British Columbia to California.



ANIMALS

The mountain beaver, *Aplodontia rufa*, is the oldest living rodent species in the world! This nocturnal mammal is around 14 inches long and covered with a short blackish brown fur. Its rounded snout is covered in whiskers and its sensitive eyes are tiny as green peas. It lives and stores its food in a series of connected tunnels which the mountain beaver excavates with its long claws. It is a strict vegetarian and eats shrubs, ferns, nettles and devil’s club; it’ll eat just about anything planted, including the labors of human gardens. If your garden is being eaten by a mountain beaver, we can offer non-lethal tips on dealing with this native northwest species. Please feel free to call the King County Wildlife Program at (206) 296-7266.

- Bridget McCollum and Kate Stenberg

MOUNTAINS TO Sound



In 1911 travelers faced a very different crossing over Snoqualmie Pass. This is the site of present-day Interstate 90 along the shore of Lake Keechelus, just east of Snoqualmie Pass. Photo taken by Asahel Curtis, courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Mission: Protect and enhance scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, historic communities and healthy economies in a multi-purpose Greenway along Interstate 90 from the shores of Puget Sound over the Cascade Mountains to the Kittitas Valley foothills. Help make this human and natural heritage visible and accessible to all people.

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