

# MOUNTAINS TO *Sound*

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*Photo Nancy Keith*

**The new Cedar River Watershed Education Center at Rattlesnake Lake recently opened to the public. The 90,546-acre watershed supplies two thirds of the Seattle area's water. The new center at the edge of the forested watershed is planned to support education programs for 30,000 school children and 10,000 adults annually. See story page 2.**

## A Main Attraction:

# New Seattle Watershed Education Facility Opens

Sunlight bounced off Rattlesnake Lake and the bright colors of fall leaves punctuated the green forests of Rattlesnake Mountain as Seattle Mayor Paul Schell, Snoqualmie Tribal leaders, and a hundred guests celebrated the opening of the Cedar River Watershed Education Center on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jim Ellis, founding president of the Greenway Trust told the crowd that the center will be a jewel among the visitor attractions along I-90.

"This is a perfect place to educate young people and their parents about the role these forests play in our clean water supply," he said, "but I have to say that the design of this place, the way these buildings fit so beautifully into this Northwest setting, is just a joy to see. It's magnificent."

### Natural Materials Dominate

Four new wood and stone buildings include a large interpretive hall, laboratories for science studies, a conference center and a research center housing a collection of artifacts left by Native American populations that used the Cedar River basin for centuries. The buildings are laced together around a "forest court" by walkways topped by sod roofs, sprouting ferns and forest flowers. At ground level, a rocky streambed snakes through the complex with water that is part of the fire suppression system.

The 9800 square foot complex of buildings and landscaping was designed by Jones and Jones Architects and Landscape Architects of Seattle, working under the leadership of Marie Ruby of the watershed

staff. Nancy Rottle headed the landscape design team for Jones and Jones. Lorri Nelson and



*Nancy Rottle, left, oversaw landscape design for the interpretive center and Annette Laico, right, led Friends of the Cedar River Watershed in raising nearly \$1 million in private financing. An unidentified guest congratulated them at the facility opening.*

Photo Nancy Keith

### Paul Olson designed and oversaw buildings. Art On All Levels

Two major art works by Seattle artist Dan Corson are part of the project. In the central display hall, the weathered roots of three Douglas fir trees hang from the ceiling, with illuminated neon roots woven into the natural mass. Outside among native plants in the courtyard, sound is the art medium in the rain drum project. Copper tubing

concealed in the vine maples and ferns drops water to make rain music at any time of year.

### Schell and Pageler Lead City's Commitment

The project was funded by \$4-million from the City of Seattle, supplemented with private fundraising by the non-profit Friends of the Cedar River Watershed. "The City began to look toward an education center back in 1989," says Project Manager Marie Ruby. "We began working on designs back in 1991, but it was hard to keep the project in the city's capital budget each year. When Mayor Schell was elected, he came out here to see the watershed. He learned about the education center idea and he just became a strong advocate. It was the Mayor's support

and that of Council Member Margaret Pageler that really saw us through all the ups and downs," Ruby says. Schell told the crowd that Pageler turned the corner, saying at one point, "Let's just get this thing built!"

Pageler explained, "This facility is nearly 40 miles from the city limits of Seattle and some people might wonder why we chose to fund a center out here. Well, to keep the water as clean as it is, we have to keep the public out of the watershed. But in the long term, our water customers need to know and appreciate where their water comes from and how we manage this land."

Guided tours of the watershed are in constant demand by school classes, Pageler

*See next page*



*The "Rain Drum" courtyard.*

Photo Nancy Keith

added. The new facility will enable the Seattle Public Utilities' award-winning watershed education program to quadruple its capacity, bringing up to 30,000 schools

students a year to the center.

### City Joined by Private Supporters

Because the City could not commit funds to build the entire center, the non profit group Friends of the Cedar River Watershed was formed to raise additional money.

Annette Laico headed the Friends' campaign and raised nearly \$1 million. The group is now focused on raising a second million that will fill the large interpretive hall with educational displays.

Lead gifts to the project were made by Friends board members, the Russell Family Foundation, Boeing, the Bruce and Jolene McCaw Fund, the Seattle Foundation and Microsoft.

Greenway founder Jim Ellis noted that when people first began to envision a protected natural Greenway along Interstate 90, the huge forest preserve and wildlife habitat in the watershed was the first big landscape building block. The Seattle City Watershed is a 90,546-acre forest preserve nestled in the Cedar River drainage south of I-90 from North Bend eastward. It is one of six water supplies in the US clean enough to provide drinking water without massive filtration. The area can be visited only on guided tours. In 1998, Mayor Schell led the City in a commitment to end all timber harvests in the watershed and give priority to preservation of the forests for wildlife habitat, downstream water quality and salmon recovery in the Cedar River which flows into Lake Washington.

**The Watershed Interpretive Center will be open to the public during winter months from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays. A summer schedule will include weekends.**

# GREENWAY VOLUNTEERS WORK ON ROADS, TRAILS

In 2001, Greenway summer work projects involved more people, gained new sponsors and diversified to include trail maintenance. Road removal work and trail improvements attracted 128 volunteers including 89 young people. For 11 volunteer groups, work included a 5-10 day camping experience in the Cascades.

Supervision of volunteer work crews was provided for the seventh straight year by EarthCorps, a non-profit organization that trains people between the ages of 18 and 24 to manage outdoor restoration projects. "This partnership with EarthCorps has been crucial in helping us build this program," says Greenway Field Project Director Doug Schindler. He says a grant from the Spring Family Foundation made possible a significant trail maintenance project on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Trail.

For the second straight year, Greenway volunteers were able to work on U.S. Forest Service lands, to remove abandoned logging roads south of I-90 and restore natural slopes, vegetation and stream courses. Funding for the road-removal program comes from the King County Wastewater Treatment Division as part of the Biosolids Forestry Program, inaugurated in 1995.

Participants in the summer work included the Youth Volunteer Corps, EarthCorps, Friends of Youth Griffin Home, SCI International Voluntary Service, YouthCare and many individuals. Summer intern Janie Wilkerson provided project support and Greenway Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Kirkland recruited and oriented participants.



*Volunteers remove an abandoned logging road in the Alice Creek drainage.*



*Biosolids compost and hay retain soil moisture.*



*Natural slope features restored.*

Photo: Nancy Keith



*Seattle Mayor Paul Schell praised the design of the new watershed education center.*

## Agreement clears way for Big Changes in Kittitas County

In late September, contending parties in a proposal for a new master-planned resort and urban growth area near Cle Elum announced an agreement that makes development of the resort more likely in the near future.

A local citizens' group, RIDGE, reached agreement with Trendwest Resorts, the proponent for two types of development on 7400 acres of former forest land, north of I-90 between Cle Elum, and Roslyn. Trendwest has proposed the 6200-acre MountainStar Master Planned Resort on land west of Bullfrog Road, from I-90 to Roslyn. The company also proposes a 1200-acre urban growth area along I-90 on the western edge of Cle Elum. The Cle Elum River flows through the planned resort and joins the Yakima River where Bullfrog Road meets I-90 at Exit 80.

The agreement scales back development within the resort, provides for additional open space buffers to existing communities and extinguishes legal appeals against the planned resort made by the citizens' group RIDGE. Terry Wallgren, Greenway Board member from Kittitas County, says that while the developments will bring big changes to the character and population of Roslyn and Cle Elum, they should also bring much-needed economic growth.

### Disappearing Jobs Affect Local Tax Base

The resort proposal surfaced in 1996, when Trendwest acquired 7400 acres of Plum Creek Timber lands for \$15 million. "At that time," Wallgren says, "Kittitas County had a 17% unemployment

rate and a diminishing base of family-wage jobs from natural resource industries like logging and mining. Local governments had a hard time funding basic needs like domestic water and sewer services, roads, parks, and other public facilities. When our kids grew up, they had to leave to find employment."

"People also looked at those forest lands and worried that if those 7400 acres were sold off in small lots with individual wells and septic systems, it could have all kinds of detrimental impacts. It looked like it might be better to have development on a large enough scale to enable clustered development with centralized urban services."

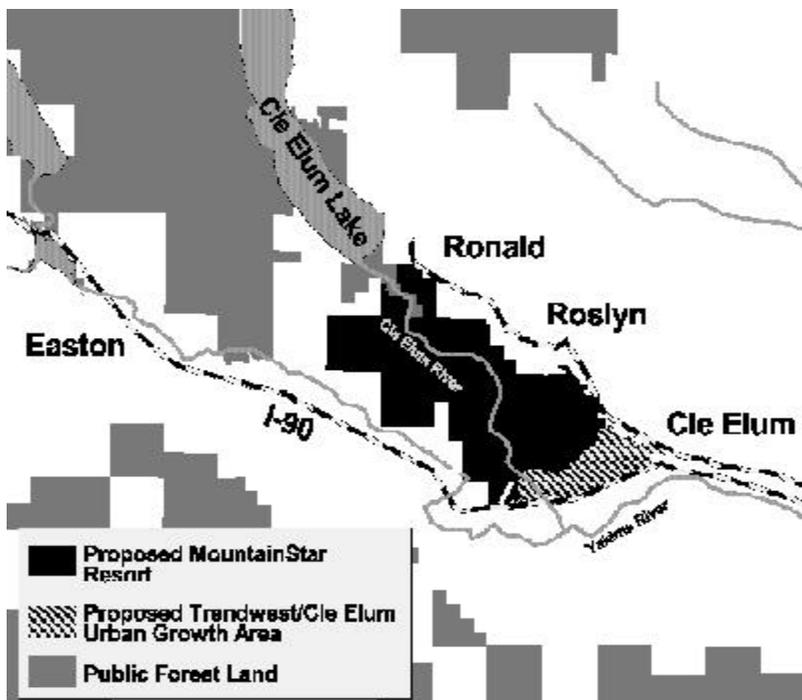
In its plans, developed since 1996 with the cities and the county, Trendwest met many of those goals. However, RIDGE took several appeals of the plans to the Growth Management Appeals Board on the basis that the planned development is too big and out of scale with the surrounding communities. In the new agreement with RIDGE, Trendwest adds new open space to the development and reduces the number of dwelling units to be built. In the resort, dwelling units will drop from 4,650 to 3,785 and 438 acres of new open space will be added. In the urban growth area, 112 acres of open space will be added. Trendwest had already committed to a total of 80% open space in both areas. "This should really help protect critical riparian areas and wildlife corridors for migration of elk and other mammals," Wallgren says. Trendwest's plans also show a 150-foot forested buffer along the edge of I-90 and Bullfrog Road.

### Changes Will Affect Scenic Corridor

Currently, most of the Trendwest property is forested including the edge along I-90. Since 1997, Greenway Trust staff and Board members from both sides of the mountains have talked with Trendwest and local citizens about ways to meet Greenway goals in the area including wildlife connectivity, open space preservation, scenic view protection and the economic viability and historic character of the two towns. There are currently 15 Kittitas representatives of the Greenway Trust Board of Directors and their concurrence is required whenever the Trust works on Kittitas area projects.

In comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Greenway Trust said, "We believe that the concept of a master planned resort for this area is an appropriate use of the land and, if done with careful design and environmental protections, can offer significant enhancement of economic and social opportunities for Upper Kittitas County." Similar comments were made on the DEIS for the Cle Elum Urban Growth Area.

"As I understand it, there are still some things to be resolved between the resort and the communities," Wallgren says, "and Trendwest still needs state approval of their plans to provide water to both these areas. But this agreement is a great example of the way people with seemingly divergent interests can sit down and find enough good things to give and take to finally make a project work for both."



## Greenway Trust Board adds new Directors

After 10 years as the founding President of the Greenway Trust, **Jim Ellis** stepped sideways in September to become the Immediate Past President, a new officer position on the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Board. **Sally Jewell**, Chief Operating Officer of REI, has been elected President.

Five new people were elected to the Greenway Trust Board of Directors, bringing the total number of board members to 71. New board members are **Doug MacDonald**, Secretary of Transportation; **Louis Musso**, Coal Mines Trail Commission in Kittitas County; **Lloyd Olson**, Cle Elum civic leader; **Peter Spiro**, Microsoft Corporation; and **Doug Sutherland**, Commissioner of Public Lands. The Board meets six times a year.

The Greenway Trust has recently produced a new brochure, **The First Ten Years: 2001 Report to Donors**. The 24 page, full color brochure summarizes 10 years' worth of accomplishments of the many partners in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust coalition, and is available, free, by contacting the Greenway office.

# HIGHWAY PROJECT TURNS AWAY FROM JOHN WAYNE PIONEER TRAIL

In 2000, the Washington State Department of Transportation announced plans to expand and improve Interstate 90 between the Snoqualmie summit, eastward to Easton. One alternative proposed that part of the state's main east/west highway would pass through the Hyak residential area and down the wild, western side of Lake Keechelus. Resistance to this "split route" alternative came from many quarters and WSDOT planners have now dropped the split route from the list of possibilities, according to WSDOT Project Manager Randy Giles.

The split route would have surrounded the man-made lake with traffic, just east of Snoqualmie Pass, putting highway noise and air pollution right next to the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and Iron Horse State Park. During the first phase of environmental impact study, the Greenway Trust, State Parks and Hyak residents were among many groups that urged DOT to find a better way to add 2 additional lanes to the current 4-lane highway.

East of the Pass, I-90 is plagued by winter snow slides, high traffic and deteriorating pavement, explained Giles at a briefing for Greenway Trust Board members from Kittitas County on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Cle Elum. Giles was greeted by exclamations of relief when he announced that the split lane alternative had been studied and found to have too many adverse environmental impacts.

However, Giles added, while the split lane alternative is no longer being considered, another alternative is being studied that would move all six lanes of I-90 to the west side of the lake. "We

are required to describe and study all possible ways to add to the highway," he said, "but it is highly unlikely that the second alternative would be retained."

### Road Project Presents Challenges and Opportunities

During previous presentations on the I-90 improvements, Greenway Board members have suggested tunneling through the rocky slopes next to the current highway or building causeways at the edge of Lake Keechelus. Some have noted that I-90 disrupts a major north-south wildlife migration corridor when it cuts across the Gold Creek drainage into the lake. A rebuilt highway at that location could provide for longer, higher bridges that allow wildlife passage underneath. Some have suggested that highway planning dovetail with a current Bureau of Reclamation project to reconstruct the Lake Keechelus dam, offering a chance to dredge a deeper lake at the dam end and rebuild and re-vegetate a forested wildlife corridor at the northwestern end near the Gold Creek passage. Low water in late summer months reveals a broad sandy beach dotted with rotting stumps.

Greenway Board member Hartwig Vatheuer of Cle Elum notes that, whatever the eventual highway design, construction ought to be a great opportunity to get the ravaged stumps out.

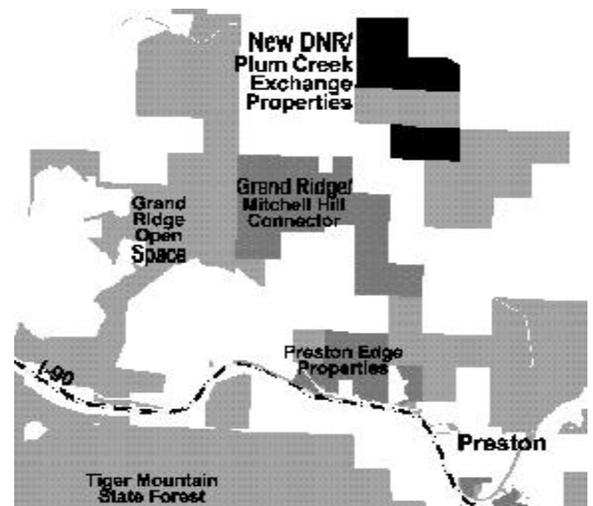
Giles announced an aggressive schedule for the EIS process for highway expansion, but admitted that the current tight budget for transportation projects, statewide, might mean significant delays in expanding I-90 lanes from Hyak to Easton.

# DNR Swap Protects Another Close-in Forest

A recent land exchange between the State Department of Natural Resources and Plum Creek Timber Company has added 260 acres to public forest ownership on Mitchell Hill, north of I-90 and behind the rural village of Preston, 22 miles east of Seattle. Plum Creek received equal value DNR lands near Morton in the exchange.

"The State owned 440 acres up there," explains Greenway Special Projects Director Ken Konigsmark. "By adding the adjacent Plum Creek lands, this assembles a big, 700-acre block of land just to the north of the Mitchell Hill connector. Without the exchange," he adds, "the Plum Creek parcels could have been sold off in 5-acre lots. Under DNR it will continue to be managed as forestland." The Mitchell Hill connector is a 435-acre swath of protected forest that links King County open space lands at the east edge of Issaquah Highlands to county and state public lands above Preston.

"If we can find a way to protect two other parcels up there," Konigsmark says, "we'll be able to link over 3,000 acres for a very significant trail and wildlife corridor on the north side of I-90."



Another beautiful Washington autumn has arrived, and all along I-90 deciduous trees are redecorating for the occasion. One of the more common and attractive examples



## TREES

of fall color can be found in the red and gold leaves of the vine maple, *acer circinatum*. But this tree is much more than an ornamental. Many native peoples and animals along the Pacific Coast have depended on this tree for tools and food to prepare for the cold winter months ahead. Squirrels and chipmunks eat the seeds, often removing the hull and wing before storing them in caches.

Black-tailed deer and elk enjoy the vine maple's abundant foliage during the summer, and because it grows at low elevations, elk also browse the stems and bark when they move to winter ranges. This same bark was boiled by Native Americans to make a tea for colds. The twisted and flexible branches of its namesake made it useful for bows, frames for fishing nets, snowshoes, cradle frames, drum hoops and cooking tools. The durable wood was also used by pioneers to make cart shafts, tool handles and yokes. Even after the round toothed leaves have fallen, vine maples are identifiable by their smooth, gray, winding limbs and lightly hairy opposite buds.

- Kelly Kirkland

"Cah-cah." There is that unmistakable nasal "cah-cah" and guttural croak hear from a distance. Then another and still another. Before too long, the source



## ANIMALS

of these sounds makes an appearance, sometimes singular, sometimes small groups and sometimes large flocks looking for a roosting or resting spot - the crow. Crows have become one of the most common and numerous birds in some neighborhoods, parks and urban areas.

Before dismissing crows as just another urban pest, spend time observing their antics. Crows are thought to be among the most intelligent and social birds. Biologists have observed them making leaf and twig tools to catch insects for snacks, hiding food in tree bark and rock crevices, learning how to access food sources by playing with their food (clams on a beach) and watching others, including humans, in their daily routine. Close observation can reveal games of toss or hide and seek between pairs; cooperative efforts among a group of crows - sometimes referred to as a "murder of crows" - to harass or mob a predator such as a cat, fox or bird of prey in their midst; or persistent efforts of trial and error by an individual crow to investigate a container.

Take another look at the next crow you see and appreciate its unique personality.

- King County Park System Interpretive Programs Office

# Greenway People:

In 1996, the Greenway Trust had a grant from Puget Sound Energy to support a community project at the Snoqualmie summit area. Summit residents wanted something that would proclaim to travelers and skiers that there are year-around residents at the Pass, people who take pride in the unique mountain environment and the hardships of heavy winters. A centrally located orientation and interpretive kiosk was the favored idea, so Greenway staff began to look for a partner from the community to carry the project forward. "It was a stroke of good luck," says Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith, "that Patti Murphy and her husband Tim had moved into the small, unincorporated community just a year earlier.

"My Mom is always wondering where I got this habit," Murphy says, "but wherever I've been, if I see some problem or need, I like to get involved and see if we can put together a solution." When kiosk planning in the first year was stopped by an early snowfall and the second year's work envisioned a champagne kiosk on a lemonade budget, Murphy began showing up at the planning meetings with cookies and sodas. Treats nurtured a can-do attitude. Then she rolled up her sleeves and became project manager, rallied local builders to volunteer, bargained for construction materials and got the kiosk structure up just ahead of the next winter snows.

Patti Murphy is a self-trained community organizer. "When I had my second child and started back to work, I couldn't find a place to take care of the children, so I got some moms together and started a part-time daycare organization. It's still there after 17 years. When Dad had Alzheimer's disease, I decided to start an adult daycare and that's now been going for seven years."

The Murphy-effect on Snoqualmie Pass has other dimensions. When ski area managers considered converting the small A-frame community chapel into a video room, Patty worked with others in the community to save St. Bernard's Chapel and her teacher husband Tim stepped forward to lead ecumenical services there each Sunday. "We're all pretty well scattered in the woods up here," Patti says. "It's great to have regular services to give cohesion to the community."

"At the pass, we just have two groups to give us some civic coordination," she explains. I joined the Women's Group soon after I arrived because their goal is to beautify the pass area and provide social activities for families. The Women's Group has done tree and flower plantings, although it's difficult sometimes to get things to grow well up here because you've got deer eating everything and then huge snowfalls followed by summer droughts."

## GRANTS SUPPORT VARIED GREENWAY PROJECTS

The Greenway Trust volunteer program and an art project at Snoqualmie Pass each received a boost in September from grant awards. Recreation Equipment Inc., the outdoor gear co-op with headquarters in Seattle, donated \$20,000 to support the Trust's Volunteer stewardship program. The Wilburforce Foundation also assisted volunteer work with a grant of \$2500.

Another grant, \$9,000 from the National Millenium Trails fund, will sponsor design and installation of art work near the community kiosk at the Snoqualmie Pass summit. The kiosk was built by community volunteers two years ago with support from a variety of Greenway partners. Located next to the US Forest Service building, the Kiosk stands at the

# PATTI MURPHY



*Patti Murphy*

The other community group at the pass is SNOPAC which brings people together to discuss land use issues, community problems and goals. Since the early 1990s, SNOPAC has taken a lead in addressing growth management issues in an area that includes parts of King and Kittitas Counties. In the late '90s, SNOPAC began discussing the question of design guidelines for community layout and development. Patti Murphy served as president during the heat of discussions which brought out divergent viewpoints. "It's ironic," she says. A lot of us move up here because we love the outdoors and some of us want to get away from all the rules and regulations of the cities. But really, the growth is coming, even up here, and if we don't decide on some goals about how that happens, we're endangering the very qualities that we came here for."

Murphy sees many signs of a growing community spirit at the pass. "We have a concert series going now and our pass newspaper is coming out more often with more news. And the ski area owners are also taking pride in the whole resort idea and making changes to beautify the buildings and the surrounding areas. And up here, whenever anyone is in need, the whole community rallies to help."

Meanwhile Patti Murphy is rallying a new phase of activity at the Summit Kiosk she helped to build. Working for the past several years coordinating arts projects at the Mercer Island Community Center, she spotted a potential grant for artwork related to Millennium Trails. She wrote a proposal and won a grant to put artwork on the kiosk plaza which sits atop the 2.3-mile tunnel of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail. No one doubts that it will one day materialize to make the pass a more interesting, attractive place.

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front of a small plaza. Snoqualmie Pass resident Patti Murphy wanted to add another viewer-attracting element to the kiosk plaza and latched onto the connection between hikers and bicyclists who use the nearby John Wayne Pioneer Trail. She proposed the artwork project to the State Arts Commission which submitted it for national funding.

The Greenway Trust Volunteer Stewardship Program attracts people of all ages to plant trees, build and maintain trails and restore damaged environments. During the past summer, REI announced the "Great Places 2001" grant program to, "focus on ensuring access to and protection of great places for muscle-powered outdoor recreation." They wanted projects that involve volunteers, particularly youth.

You see them almost everywhere: beside trails in the Issaquah Alps, on approaches to the Alpine Lakes, hidden in brush beside the freeway. The huge silver stumps are the relics, the monuments, the tombstones of the old forest. Sometimes new trees grow from them. Sometimes they are visibly crumbling back into the earth. Always they bear notches for the springboards on which men stood with axes and saws to cut the living trees. Those springboard notches are like the tracks of some extinct reptile, evidence of a life-form that vanished long ago.



## HISTORY

The notched stumps tell more than one story: if they evoke the vanished forest, they also evoke the vanished logging - the years, the decades, the generations of men balancing on springboards to fall some of the largest trees that people have ever seen. By now the almost complete disappearance of the ancient forest in the greenway corridor may seem tragic, but the cutting of those huge trees with hand tools was an act of enormous chutzpah and tenacity, a genuine epic of human labor...

For better or worse, logging is the history of western Washington. Coal mining paid the bills in Roslyn and Cle Elum, Issaquah, Renton and Newcastle. Farms filled most of the Snoqualmie Valley. But towns such as Preston and Snoqualmie wouldn't have existed without their mills, and the cities on and near Puget Sound all started out shipping logs or lumber.

- From "Mountains to Sound: The Creation of a Greenway across the Cascades," by Daniel Jack Chasan

Among the early day hardrock miners in the Upper Cle Elum River Valley, was a man named William McCasson, a black man affectionately called "Cascade Bill." He spent the greater part of his life driving a tunnel on his claim on Red Mountain. Bill was grubstaked (furnished supplies in return for a share in the mined ore) by several families of black coal miners living in Roslyn. A man who was in Bill's tunnel told me that if Bill had gone straight ahead he would have come out on the opposite side of the mountain; and if he had gone a little farther, he would have come out on the side where he started.



## ROCKS

Bill told me how he discovered his mine. He said, "I was standing on Sasse Ridge and I looked across the Cle Elum Valley and saw the sun reflected brightly off a rock on Red Mountain. I said to myself, 'There is my mine,' and the next day I went up there and found all of this rich ore."

Cascade Bill was quite elderly and was growing feeble during the last season at his mine. He started to come out from his mine in the late fall of 1933 when he got caught in a blizzard and died on the trail.

- Morris Jenkins

# MOUNTAINS to SOUND



**In the 1920s, loggers in the Snoqualmie Valley cut giant old growth trees with hand-held, crosscut saws. Photo courtesy of Weyerhaeuser Company archives.**

***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 in Washington State. Help make this human and natural heritage visible and accessible to all people.*

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