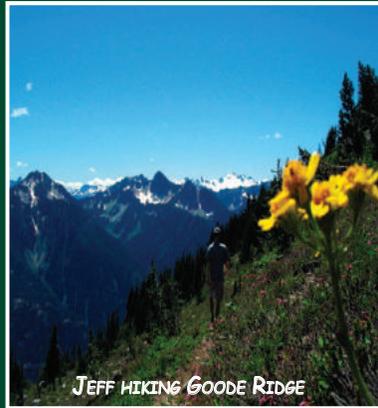


# DRINKING THE MOUNTAIN

~JEFF BILBRO~

THIS MORNING I WATCHED THE SUN  
RISE OVER RAINBOW MOUNTAIN  
TURN THE RIVER INTO RUNNING FIRE  
SET THE MOUNTAINS AGLOW

I STOPPED, TRYING TO FREEZE TIME  
AND WISHED FOR MY CAMERA  
BUT NO CAMERA COULD CAPTURE  
THIS VAST BEAUTY WELLING IN MY THROAT



OR THE FLICKERING LIGHT  
WEAVING ACROSS THE RIVER  
AS I WATCHED, THE COLORS FADED  
LIKE WATER DRAINED OUT

THROUGH TIGHT CUPPED HANDS  
SO I BENT AND DRANK DEEP  
AND TURNED TO GO AS THE LAST GUZZLED  
DROPS DRIPPED FROM MY CHIN

As a future visitor to the Stehekin Valley, I feel that my recreational use and enjoyment of this area has been greatly curtailed due to the closure of the Upper Stehekin Valley Road. I support the reopening of this road through legislation or administrative action that will result in no net loss of wilderness in the Stephen Mather wilderness overlay.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

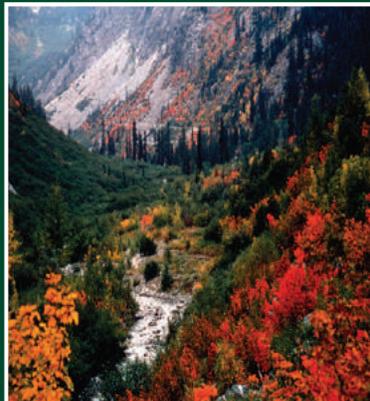
Return To ... Stehekin Heritage, PO Box 1, Stehekin, WA 98852

For Stehekin Valley Road Updates, include your email address and give us permission to keep you informed.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

"What the bill would not do is to keep the park visitor shut out of the park. All the existing transportation and development corridors would be excluded from wilderness designation. ... I believe the parks are there to provide recreation, as well as, the preservation of the natural ecosystem."

*Senator, Dan Evans, 1988*



"WE NEED TO HAVE COMMON SENSE IN OUR DECISION MAKING. A FEW MILES OF ROAD TO ALLOW SHUTTLE ACCESS TO MAGNIFICENT TRAILHEADS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A POSITIVE, IMPORTANT PART OF THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK."

*WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR  
MIKE LOWRY, 2008*