

Cascades Recreation Area Urged Rather Than Park

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The Washington State Winter Sports Council Thursday urged a National Recreation Area instead of a National Park as recommended by the North Cascades study team report.

Hearings on the 21 recommendations made from a 2½-year study begin in the Olympic Bowl of the Olympic Hotel at 9 a.m. today. Another will be held in the Williamsburg Room at 9 a.m. Saturday. Some 186 witnesses have asked to be heard.

The Sports Council voted for a recreation area after hearing from Dr. George Selke, 78-year-old special consultant to Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman and a dissenting member of the study team. Selke favors multiple use of the North Cascades.

DR. SELKE explained why he and Arthur Greeley, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, oppose a national park and favor creation of a set of recreation and wilderness areas which, he said, would benefit the most people interested in various outdoor activities.

Dr. Selke said he and other members of the study team were surprised to learn that a special report, outside the study area, was to be made by Fred Overly, regional director of outdoor recreation, when the team report was presented here January 6.

Overly recommended the boundaries of Olympic National Park be changed, despite the fact the area had not been studied by the team.

AND. DR. Selke said that the study just started by a congressional team headed by U.S. Rep. Wayne Aspinall of Colorado should be waited

before "any big parcels of land" are changed or turned over to new management.

The Sports Council, made up of representatives of winter sports participants of all kinds, recommended a recreation area to be provided with first class facilities. It pointed out that existing winter sports facilities are taxed to capacity now and that at least two more major ski areas will be needed by 1980 when the four central Puget Sound counties alone are expected to jump from 1.7 million to 2.4 million people.

THE COUNCIL expressed concern but did not include in its formal resolution a study team recommendation creating an Alpine Lakes Wilderness area. The region contains some of the best winter sports potential in the entire state, it was pointed out.

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