Photoweek Northwest
for the week of IX.7.2009
“(Lost) Glacier Peak”
photos & texts by Cliff Crego
picture-poems.com
Glacier Peak with the Benson Ice Field, seen from Eagle Cap
This slideshow includes some 90 images made in the heart of the Eagle Cap “4 Passes” area (VIII.2009), with a special focus on—from its summit and on all its sides—Glacier Peak.
An historic 1920 photograph by Harley Richardson of the Benson Glacier. Because of retreat, it lost its status as a glacier in 1937.
An historic 1920 photograph by Harley Richardson of the **Benson Glacier**. Because of retreat, it lost its status as a glacier in 1937. The red line shows the c.1850 *moraine*, ie., the huge pile of unsorted rocks the ice left behind as it slowly pulled back.
Glacier Peak, morning light VIII.25.2009—vestigial
Benson Ice Field
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Glacier Peak, afternoon light VIII.25.2009—vestigial Benson Ice Field (view from above Glacier Pass with the “7 Dragon Teeth”)

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(Lost) Glacier Peak—With Climate Change, ice world-wide is disappearing at an ever-accelerating rate. If Lewis & Clark would have entered the Wallowas just 200 years ago, they would have seen small glaciers and ice fields in all the high cirques and hanging valleys. Since the end the Little Ice Age (c. 1850), these ice fields have all but vanished. Over the same period, the average temperature has increased by 0.7°C, snowpack has decreased by 50%, and most importantly, atmospheric CO2 has risen by 30% from 250 to over 380 ppmv. Because CO2 holds warmth, this is like the Earth putting on an ever-thicker down coat. By 2020, the Benson—a telling relic of a different climate—will most likely also be gone.
On the Benson, view of Eagle Cap . . .
Glacier Lake eastside, with its charming rock islands, stonepines & spire firs...
Glacier Lake—the glacier-carved upper & lower lakes, with view of Glacier Pass . . .
Eagle Cap trail, view south with Krag Peak . . .
Prospect Lake, with Cusick Mountain top left.
Hidden Lake, first light . . .
The Benson ‘B’ ice field with ice middle, and lingering snow from winters 07, 08, & 09
Hidden Lake, from the Glacier Peak
“7 Dragon Teeth” . . .
East Eagle—granite / water flowform
Hidden Lake Cirque, the circle of granite peaks carved thousands of years ago by massive glaciers . . .
Holly Brook with wild onions . . .
Summer flowforms . . .
Glacier Lake eastside, from above . . .
Butterfly & Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) most notorious weed of the West.
Explorer’s or Bog Gentian
(Gentiana calycosa)
Dwarf Alpine Groundsel (Senecio fremontii) at 2750 m.
Dwarf Alpine Groundsel (Senecio fremontii)
leaf detail . . .
Alpine Spring Beauty (*Claytonia megarhiza*) at 2750 m.
Evening Ridgelines, *view north over the Lostine* . . .
Seep Monkey Flower
(*Mimulus gutatus*)
Yellow Monkey Flower
(Mimulus tillingii)
Moth on camera tripod—
textures . . .
Leaf Form, skyview—sessile, opposite, smooth margins (Penstemon spp.) . . .
Pink Mountain Heather, *urn-shaped flowers* (*Phyllodoce empetriformis*) . . .
From Glacier Peak—a perfectly preserved c. 1912 moraine (rockwall line center image). This is what the Southern Alps (Ticino) will look like once the glaciers are gone.
Fringed Grass of Parnassus—*close-up with fly & two stamens* . . . (*Parnassia fimbriata*)
Leaf Forms, *Sitka Alder* (*Alnus sitchensis*)
Dunhead Sedge (Carex phaeocephala)
East Eagle—Rolling Thunder Falls . . .
Hidden Lake, *last light*
(c. 1850 glacier moraine top right). . .
Holly Brook, above Hidden Lake
Western St. John’s Wort—a native species
(Hypericum scouleri var. nortoniae)
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Krag Peak, from East Eagle . . .
Pop Creek Pass, from Hidden Lake
Minam Lake, from Hart Butte
c. 1982 Avalanche chute, from Hart Butte
Stonepine Snags, from Pop Creek Pass
Eagle Cap, north face with evening light; Notice the lack of snow, which evidently is falling later & melting sooner . . .
Eagle Cap, north face with evening light; Notice the lack of snow, which evidently is falling later & melting sooner . . . This is ‘snow central’ of the High Wallowas, receiving on average c.12.7’ m (500 in. compare Cornucopia at c. 6.3 m. / 250 in.)
Source of Eagle Creek, view of Krag Peak, just under Horton Pass . . .
Hidden Lake, last light . . .
Mountain Sorrel—a circumpolar alpine species (Rumex acetosella)
Stonepine or Whitebark Pine on granite—signature species of the Wallowas above 2200 m,, and, like glaciers, having difficulty dealing with Climate Change (Pinus albicaulis)
Sunclipse *at Pop Creek Pass* . . .
The “Matterhorn” west face—
the Martin Bridge limestones & marbles of an extraordinary mountain, in search of a better name . . .
View southwest from Eagle Cap, over Neede Point...
Eagle Cap, evening light . . .
Alpine Aster, *skyview* (*Aster alpigenus*)
Grouse Huckleberries—a tiny bright red huckleberry
(Vaccinium scoparium)
Fieldwork on the Benson ...
Fieldwork on the Benson, view from on top of Glacier Peak.
Buddhist Prayer Flag, (Lost) Glacier Peak . . .
Fieldwork on the Benson, view east & source of the ice that carved Wallowa Lake...
Glacier Peak & Eagle Cap Cirque, first light . . .
The sound of disappearing glaciers is not the sound of raging torrents, or of thundering cascades.

It is the faint murmuring sound of a thousand rivulets and rills flowing ceaselessly, day and night, day and night, with each turn of the Earth:—
The sound of disappearing glaciers is not the sound of raging torrents, or of thundering cascades.

It is the faint murmuring sound of a thousand rivulets and rills flowing ceaselessly, day and night, day and night, with each turn of the Earth:—a thousand more.
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Daniel Murray, Lamplight Cafe at Hampton Station (pop. 11)
35 new images & texts
made in the winter
High Wallowas—
by Cliff Crego

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