**Dawn at MINERAL KING VALLEY**

Yes, that really is this book’s title! So maybe it *dawned* on Congress that snow *avalanches* are real, and that national parks really are “*America’s best idea*.” Both these *dawnings* might partly explain Daniel Selmi’s 2022 title, and how *Mineral King* got added to *Sequoia National Park*. Anyway, his book exhaustively examines this long awaited 1970s *Supreme Court* case preceding, and bearing on the 1980’s *Early* *Winters* saga, up just east of *North Cascades National Park*. *Avalanches* of course were not Daniel Selmi’s forte, but he did examine them as part of the alternative bid to Disney’s, which the *Forest Service* dismissed. That bid was put together by a team, which included Dr. Edward LaChapelle from the *University of Washington*, and back then the leading *avalanche* academic. Ski mountaineer Dave Beck’s letter, advocating inclusion of *Mineral King* into *Sequoia National Park* is also mentioned, along with an account of the *avalanche* fatality he witnessed while doing *Mineral King* snow surveys for the *Disney* corporation. I know all this is accurate because our boss Dick Reuter, with lots of *avalanche*s at *Kirkwood Ski Resort* was also part of that alternative team, and Dave Beck often visited us. I also visited *Mineral King*, and talked with *Sequoia National Park* Superintendent Frank Kowski, who started and ran the *Albright Training Center* at *Grand Canyon National Park,* which I attended as a new ranger in 1965.

Christopher Stone’s influence on Washington State’s own Justice Douglas, and his famous dissenting opinion are also included, but not Stone’s 1974 book: *SHOULD TREES HAVE STANDING.* Neither ismy 1978 *avalanche* editorial in the then new *POWDER* magazine, nor my 2008 book: *SKI TRAILS AND WILDLIFE -Toward Snow Country Restoration*. Professor John Harper’s 1982 book: *MINERAL KING Public Concern with Government Policy* is featured and although outdated, is still the best account of what actually happened at *Mineral King* itself. It includes lots of even better maps and photos, but Doug Devin’s and Sally Portman’s books: *MAZAMA The Past 125 Years* and *SMILING COUNTRY,* are so far the best for *Early Winters,* still the only map of the actual mountain: Sandy Butte, is in my book*.*

Janet Leigh and Willie Shaeffler, on opposing sides, are only found in Selmi’s book - if you’d like some celebrities, which include Washington’s own Senator Jackson along with Interior Secretary Udall and Agriculture Secretary Freeman, discussing Washington’s *North Cascades.* They too are significantly applicable, because the 1980s and 1990s *Early Winters* defeat of lift skiing played such a significant role in ski development , with its later *Supreme Court* win and the subsequent explosive growth of *Methow trails,* with its highly successful *cross-country* groomed trail skiing on the east side of the *North Cascades*. For more history of *North Cascades National Park* go to *AmericanAlps.org -* or for all North West ski history, look up Lowell Skoog’s new book: *WRITTEN IN THE SNOWS.* Yes, *Mineral King* marked the *dawning* of a new era in ski history. It perhaps also *dawned* on the *supremely corporate* *court*, that the only way to salvage a little credibility, was to later finally side with the cardiologists, at *Early Winters.*