This list of ten peaks, crags, and towers was compiled by Dallas Kloke, a prominent climber from Washington State. The basic criteria are that these peaks are the most difficult to climb, via the standard route.

Some may disagree with certain peaks being on the list and their ranking (Of which I’m one of those who does.) but this is neither the time nor the place for that debate.

The following table lists these ten most difficult peaks and Beckey’s climbing efforts on these peaks.

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| **Difficultly Rank** | **Peak** | **Description of Beckey's Climbing History on this Peak** | **First Ascent** | **New Route** |
| 1 | Middle Index | On August 12, 1950 Fred Beckey made the first ascent of Middle Index with Pete Schoening, via the Northeast Route. This effort was part of the first traverse of North, Middle and Main Peaks of Index from a north to south direction over two days.  Fred Beckey and Don Gordon established a new route on Middle Index, by scaling the West Face on June 12, 1960. | X | X |
| 2 | Lincoln Peak | In 1946 Fred Beckey did a reconnaissance of Lincoln Peak from the north side.  On July 22, 1956 a party of Fred Beckey, Herb Staley, Wesley Grande and John Rupley set off with the objective of climbing Lincoln Peak from the north side. However due to a huge chasm on the north flank of the peak, they ended up traversing around the west side of the peak and ascended the southwest route, to be the first climbers to reach the summit. | X |  |
| 3 | Nooksack Tower | Fred Beckey and his brother Helmy set off on June 28, 1941 to climb the East Ridge of Nooksack Tower. But they were stymied by a row of serrated rock teeth separated by unsafe couloirs.  On July 5, 1946, Cliff Schmidtke and Fred Beckey climbed the North Couloir of the tower to be the first climbers to reach the summit. | X |  |

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| **Difficultly Rank** | **Peak** | **Description of Beckey's Climbing History on this Peak** | **First Ascent** | **New Route** |
| 4 | Inspiration Peak | On September 1, 1940 Helmy and Fred Beckey were the first climbers to ascend Inspiration Peak via the West Ridge. As a warmup, earlier in the day they scaled the West Ridge of McMillan Spire-West Peak for a first ascent of that spire. The previous day they had reached Terror Creek Basin by bushwhacking along the banks of the creek. To quote Fred "I cannot recall a more tiring and unpleasant climb to timberline than along the waterfalls of Terror Creek".  In 1951 Beckey returned to climb Inspiration again, during which a film was made.  In early August 1958, Dave Collins and Beckey failed on an attempt to climb the East Ridge of Inspiration, due to bad weather.  On October 5, 1958, Dave Collins, Ed Cooper and Beckey succeeded in establishing a new route up the East Ridge of Inspiration Peak. | X | X |
| 5 | Hozomeen Mountain-South Peak | I could write a whole chapter on Fred Beckey's attempts to climb this peak. In fact, there is a chapter in *Challenge of the North Cascades* written about his efforts to climb it!  In October 1945 Wayne Swift and Fred Beckey couldn't reach their objective from the Canadian side via Allison Pass.  The next effort was in June of 1946 with Mel Marcus and Herb Staley, in which they hiked the 27 miles from Ross Dam to Willow Lake at the southwest base of South Hozomeen. The next day, severe weather moved in and thwarted their attempt.  For round three in May 1947, Fred was joined by Chuck Welsh, Jack Schwabland, Herb Staley, Duke Watson and "K" Molenaar, this time from the Canadian side. Again, the weather conspired against them.  Fred enlisted Melvin Marcus, Jerry O'Neil, Ken Prestrud, Herb Staley, Charles Welsh for the fourth and finally successful attempt on June 14, 1947. As with the previous approach, it was from the British Columbia side. They achieved a first ascent but ended up doing an unplanned bivy on a steep hillside in a steady rainfall on the descent. | X |  |

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| **Difficultly Rank** | **Peak** | **Description of Beckey's Climbing History on this Peak** | **First Ascent** | **New Route** |
| 6 | Mount Fury-West Peak | I found no evidence that Beckey climbed this peak.  However, he and Helmy climbed Mount Fury -East Peak on July 13. 1940, via the Fury Glacier.  On July 15, 1962 Dan Davis and Fred Beckey established a new route on the East Peak of Fury by ascending the North Buttress. |  |  |
| 7 | Hard Mox (Twin Spires-SE Spire) | At the risk of repeating myself, I could write a whole… never mind.  On Sunday, June 22, 1941, in a date that will live in infamy, Hard Mox was suddenly and deliberately ascended by land forces of Helmy and Fred Beckey. Therefore, achieving Chosseneering history, by being the first homo sapiens to reach the summit. At least they had the excuse of being the first climbers to ascend this pile of rubble, so they didn't know what they were getting themselves in for. | X |  |

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| **Difficultly Rank** | **Peak** | **Description of Beckey's Climbing History on this Peak** | **First Ascent** | **New Route** |
| 8 | North Index | In 1940 Helmy and Fred Beckey failed to climb North Index via the North Face.  In a re-match on June 1, 1941, with Jim Crooks and Tom Campbell, they failed. This time via the East Face.  Another attempt on July 19, 1941 with Tom Campbell also failed.  Walt Varney, Bob Craig, Helmy Beckey joined Fred for an attempt on May 16, 1942 and were unsuccessful again.  Finally, on July 1, 1945, Helmy and Fred ascended the North Face of North Index.  On August 5, 1950, Pete Schoening, Joe Hieb and Dick Widrig joined Beckey on an attempt to complete the first traverse of the three Index Peaks. The party got within 600 feet of the summit of the North Peak before turning around due to poor weather.  As mentioned earlier for Middle Index, on August 12, 1950, Pete Schoening and Fred climbed North Index via the North Face as part of the first traverse of the three Index peaks.  Pete Schoening and Fred Beckey paired up on June 24, 1951 to try to climb the East Face of North Index but failed.  Pete Schoening, Richard Berge, Jim Henry joined Fred on July 1, 1951 and succeeded in establishing a new route via the East Face. |  | X |
| 9 | Johannesburg Mountain | On September 16, 1956, Don Gordon and Fred Beckey climbed the East Ridge of Johannesburg. |  |  |
| 10 | Burgundy Spire | Michael Hane and John Parrott collaborated with Fred Beckey to be the first climbers to reach the top of Burgundy Spire via the North Face/North Ridge on August 17, 1953. | X |  |

Fred Beckey climbed all but one of the peaks, achieved a first ascent on seven of the ten peaks and established three new routes. Enough said!

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