

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE JULY 5, 1968

NORTHERN PACIFIC LAVA CAVE LAND EXCHANGE IN FINAL STAGE

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The Northern Pacific Railway Company and the United States Forest Service have announced that an exchange of lands in the Mt. St. Helens "Ape Cave" area has entered the final completion stage. Ross Williams, Supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is holding a public information meeting on this exchange July 18th at 10:00 AM in Room 201 of the Cowlitz County Courthouse, Kelso, Washington.

The land exchange under consideration for a number of years has been approved by the Chief of the Forest Service and by Northern Pacific's Board of Directors. It will be a step forward in consolidating National Forest and Northern Pacific lands in Skamania and Cowlitz Counties. Northern Pacific will acquire 1,456 acres of Forest Service land south of Swift Reservoir. The Forest Service will acquire 2,170 acres north west of Swift Reservoir.

The lands acquired by the Forest Service are located in the Mt. St. Helens Lava Cave area and will be managed for the optimum use of all forest resources under the Forest Service's Multiple Use Management Program. Supervisor Williams has indicated that this exchange would also permit Forest Service development of the recreational facilities at "Bat Cave" and other unusual geological features. Williams emphasized that development of these features will take place as soon as



GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

500 W. 12th (P. O. Box 449)

Telephone 695-3481

Vancouver, Washington 98660

funds become available.

S. G. Merryman, Manager of Timber and Western Lands for Northern Pacific, Seattle Office, has indicated that the lands they will acquire will become part of their Lewis River Management Unit.

Williams and Merryman stated that detailed appraisals made by their respective organizations indicated that there will be decided advantages to both units upon completion of this exchange.

This exchange is one of a series of land exchanges planned to consolidate checkerboard ownerships within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION
Proposed Land Exchange
Northern Pacific Railway Co.
Lava Cave OR-1629 (Wash.)

The Northern Pacific Railway Company has formally offered to exchange 2,170 acres of land and timber in Cowlitz and Skamania Counties for 1,456 acres of National Forest land and timber in Skamania County. This proposed exchange is part of a long-range ownership consolidation plan between the Railway Co. and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This is the second of eight proposed exchanges that have been in progress for a number of years.

All of the lands in this exchange are located within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Each party made its own examination and appraisal of both properties. Overall values of both timber and lands to be acquired by Northern Pacific are in balance with the values of the timber and lands to be acquired by the National Forest. The Forest Service appraisal was made by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest personnel and was reviewed and approved by the Regional Forester and the Chief of the Forest Service.

This exchange should promote more efficient forest management programs through the consolidation of lands presently owned by both the National Forest and the Railway. Access road construction, timber sale layout, fire protection and the reduction of property line maintenance are examples of programs that can be accomplished at reduced costs.

The present annual allowable timber cut of the Gifford Pinchot Forest is 381-million board feet. The minor reduction of 30.7 thousand board feet, shown on the attached data sheet is calculated on the basis of a planned land use classification changes. Lands of increased recreation values will be acquired through this exchange.

All lands obtained by the United States through this exchange will be managed for the optimum use of all forest resources for the public benefit under the Forest Service Multiple-Use Management Program.

The attached map shows the location of both the Railway offered lands and the proposed selected National Forest lands.

SUMMARY SHEET - NORTHERN PACIFIC LAVA CAVE EXCHANGE

Offered Lands - Lands to go to United States

Cowlitz County	880.00 Acres
Skamania County	1,290.47 Acres
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TOTAL	2,170.47 Acres

Selected Lands - Lands to go to Northern

Skamania County	1,457.69 Acres
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Reduction or Increase in National Forest Lands (25%)

Cowlitz County	+ 880.00 Acres
Skamania County	- 167.22 Acres

Net effect on Allowable Cut

Reduction of .008%	30.669 MBF
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