

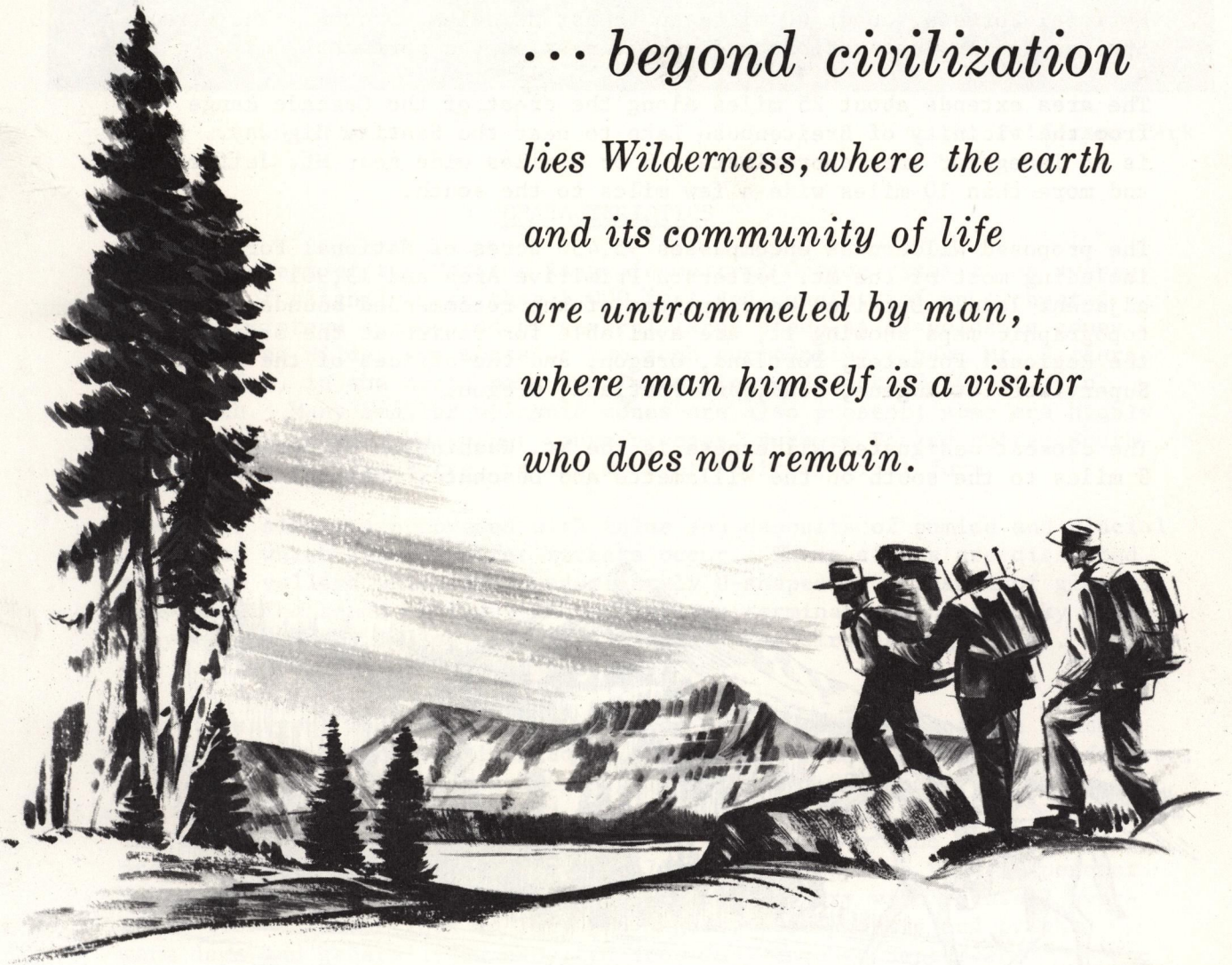
A Proposal

Mt. Jefferson Wilderness

Willamette • Deschutes • Mt. Hood
National Forests of Oregon

... beyond civilization

*lies Wilderness, where the earth
and its community of life
are untrammelled by man,
where man himself is a visitor
who does not remain.*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



RECOMMENDATION

The Forest Service proposes that the Secretary of Agriculture recommend to the President the establishment of a 95,450-acre Mt. Jefferson Wilderness as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area would consist of 81,549 acres of the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area and 13,901 acres of adjacent land, all within the Willamette, Deschutes, and Mt. Hood National Forests, State of Oregon. It would be administered in accordance with all provisions of the Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577, dated September 3, 1964, and the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, C.F.R. 251.70 - 251.84.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Mt. Jefferson Wilderness occupies parts of Jefferson, Linn, and Marion Counties within the Willamette, Deschutes, and Mt. Hood National Forests, about 60 miles southeast of Salem, Oregon. The Warm Springs Indian Reservation borders the area on the northeast.

The area extends about 25 miles along the crest of the Cascade Range from the vicinity of Breitenbush Lake to near the Santiam Highway. It is an irregular area approximately 3 or 4 miles wide near Mt. Jefferson and more than 10 miles wide a few miles to the south.

The proposed Wilderness encompasses 95,450 acres of National Forest land, including most of the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area and 13,901 acres of adjacent land. Detailed descriptions of the recommended boundary, and topographic maps showing it, are available for review at the office of the Regional Forester, Portland, Oregon, and the offices of the Forest Supervisors at Eugene, Bend, and Portland, Oregon.

The closest designated Wilderness is the Mt. Washington Wilderness about 5 miles to the south on the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests.



Hunts Cove



Jefferson Park

CHARACTERISTICS

The main crest of the Cascade Range in central Oregon rises to an average altitude of slightly more than 5,000 feet and consists of an elongated volcanic plateau surmounted by several large steep-sided volcanic cones. The proposed Wilderness contains two such surmounting cones, Mt. Jefferson (10,497 ft.) in the north part and Three Fingered Jack (7,841 ft.) in the south. Many smaller volcanic cones are also present; some are highly modified by erosion but other younger cones, such as Forked Butte, South Cinder Peak and Red Butte, retain much of their original form.

The lower slopes are covered with talus and deposits of pumice and glacial debris on which dense conifer forests occur. These slopes are dissected by stream valleys which are predominately U-shaped as a result of glacial erosion. The heads of the U-shaped valleys terminate in bare rocky basins, many of which are filled with small lakes. The cirques high on Mt. Jefferson contain several prominent glaciers.

Elevations vary from about 3,000 feet on Jefferson Creek and the South Fork of the Breitenbush River to 10,497 feet at the summit of Mt. Jefferson. The small lakes and meadows lie largely between 5,000 and 6,000 feet.

The area is dominated by the maritime air-mass most of the year. Annual precipitation averages approximately 75 inches with more than 50 percent in the form of snow. The summers are relatively dry with rainfall averaging less than one inch in July and August. Cool nights and bright warm days can generally be expected from July through September.

U.S. Highway 20 extends along the southern boundary, and State Highway 22 parallels the west side. Good Forest Service roads extend from the highways to near the west, north, and east boundaries of the proposed Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Recreation. This area is relatively close to Portland, Salem, Albany, and many other central and western Oregon communities. It is well suited for Wilderness and, except for trails and at places where visitors have camped, there is little evidence of man's activities. There are nearly 160 miles of trails, including 35 miles of the Oregon Skyline Trail. The proposed Wilderness is ideal for hiking, riding, photography, mountain climbing, and ski touring.

Studies of potential winter sports sites within the proposed Wilderness have found the areas to have only marginal characteristics necessary for a commercial ski development. Wilderness values exceed values for winter sports development. Expansion of existing winter sports areas and development of potential sites elsewhere in the Oregon Cascades can accommodate winter sports needs for the foreseeable future.

Timber. Approximately 60 percent of the area is classified as productive forest land with an estimated volume of 1.3 billion board feet of commercial timber. Another 28 percent is noncommercial forest land. The timber production potential at lower elevations is good, but it is relatively poor at higher elevations because of the shallow, rocky soils and the short growing season. There would be no commercial timber cutting within the area.

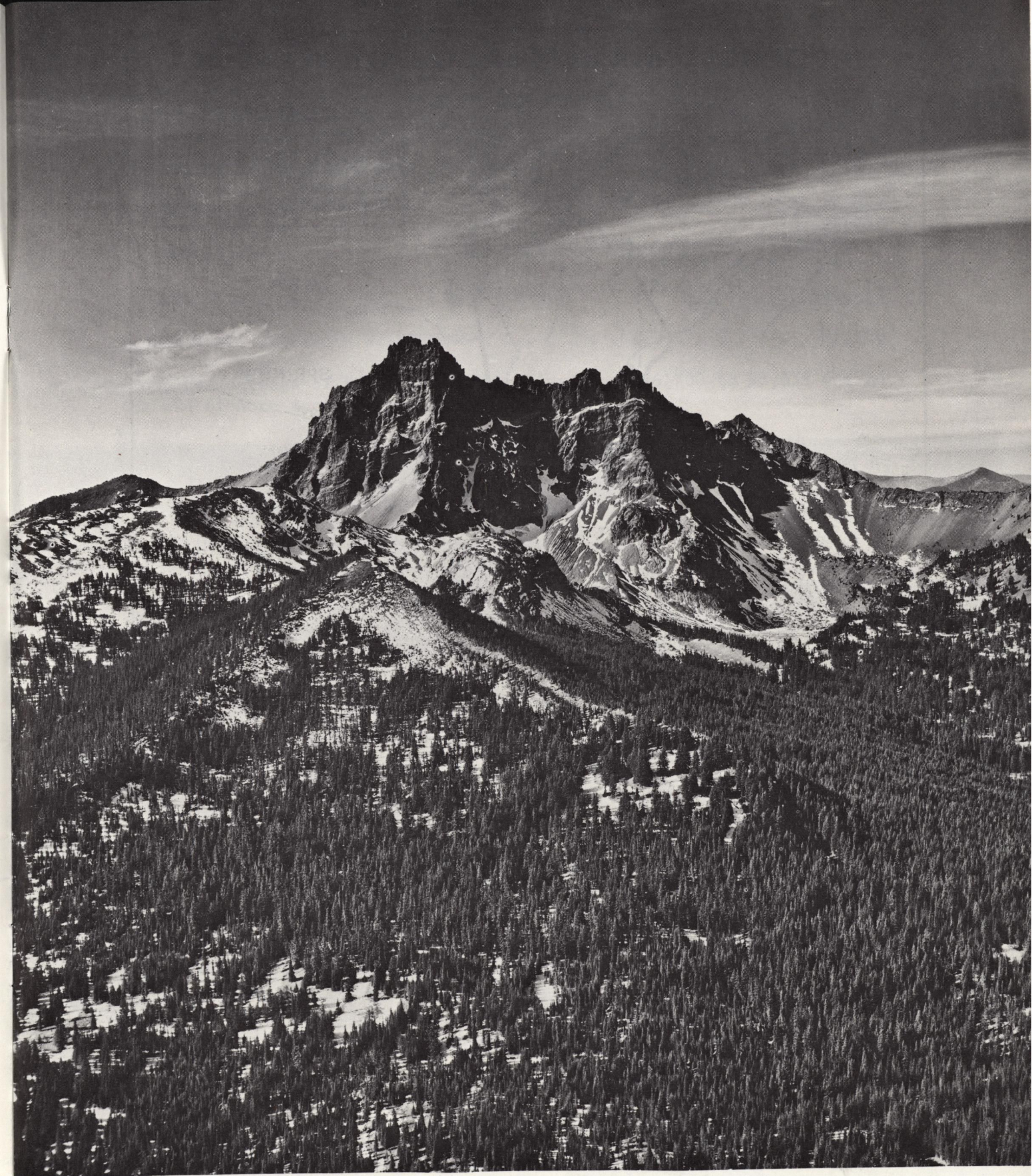
Forage. Grass production is largely limited to the scattered meadows. Forage for pack and saddle stock is limited and use must be carefully managed. No cattle or sheep are permitted to graze within the area.

Water. A stable yield of high-quality water is an important benefit of the proposed area. Wilderness management would be compatible with the maintenance of proper hydrologic conditions. There are no existing or proposed water impoundments within the area. Power withdrawals are located in the North Santiam and Marion Creek drainages, but values for wilderness exceed the foreseeable value of possible reservoirs or other improvements within the area.

Wildlife. The area is used as summer range by the black-tailed deer, mule deer, and Roosevelt elk. In the fall, big game hunting is popular; small mammals and birds are also reasonably abundant.

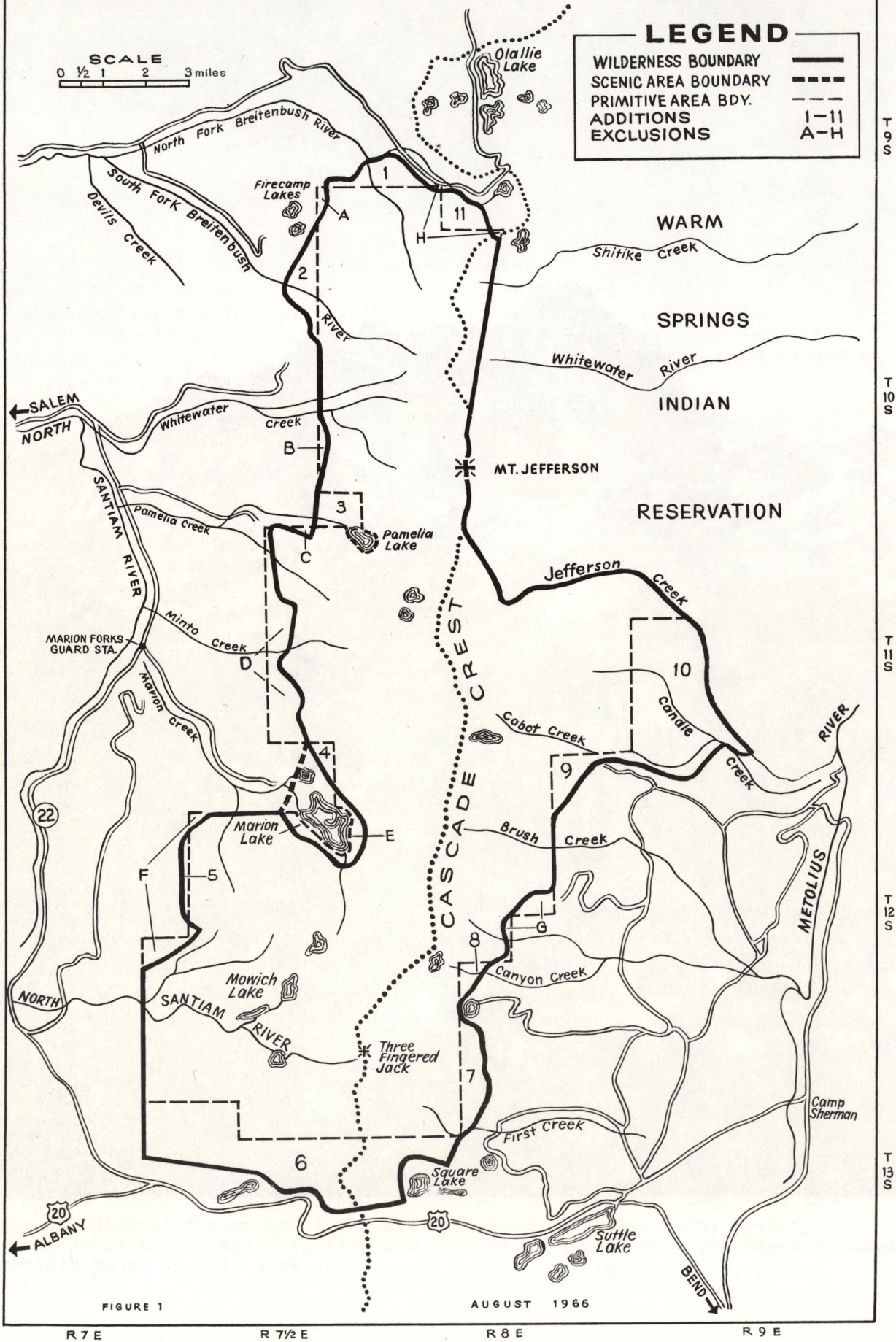
Fishing is a major attraction of the area. More than 50 lakes offer a wilderness fishing opportunity. Fishing streams are limited to the north part of the area.

Minerals. There is no history of mining or mineral lease activities within the proposed Wilderness. Field investigation of the area was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines during the summer of 1965. Their findings show that no minerals have been produced from the area, and no mineral commodities known to occur within the proposed boundaries can be mined economically at present. Copies of their report, Mineral Resources of the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area, Oregon (Geological Survey Bulletin 1230 - D) can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.



East Side of Three Fingered Jack

PROPOSED MT. JEFFERSON WILDERNESS



ACREAGE SUMMARY

	Acres
MT. JEFFERSON PRIMITIVE AREA	85,033*
Additions 1 - 11	13,901
Exclusions A - H	3,484
Net Change	+10,417
Proposed MT. JEFFERSON WILDERNESS	95,450

*Computed acreage of Primitive Area revised from 86,700 to 85,033 due to the use of more accurate maps.



Mt. Jefferson and Marion Lake

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROPOSED MOUNT
JEFFERSON WILDERNESS AND THE EXISTING PRIMITIVE AREA

The recommended boundary has been located (a) to avoid conflicts with existing uses which would result in demands inconsistent with wilderness objectives; (b) where practical, to follow topographic features that are identifiable on the ground; (c) to include those areas which are necessary to provide the most effective protection of the wilderness environment.

The map shows the proposed Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, the existing Primitive Area, and the proposed Marion Lake Scenic Area. The proposed boundary adjustments are discussed below.

ADDITIONS

North Fork Breitenbush River - 491 acres (Map Area 1). Includes a series of waterfalls and several small lakes with high wilderness value.

South Fork Breitenbush River - 819 acres (Map Area 2). This area was added to maintain the wilderness character of the upper reaches of the river. Trails follow both the north and south ridges to Jefferson Park.

Pamelia Lake - 479 acres (Map Area 3). This addition includes Pamela Lake and about 1 mile of Pamela Creek. It provides a wilderness entry to the alpine areas through a dense stand of mature Douglas-fir timber.

Northeast of Lake Ann - 216 acres (Map Area 4). To place boundary on recognizable features.

Pine Ridge - 367 acres (Map Area 5). To place boundary on recognizable features.

Santiam Pass - 5,447 acres (Map Area 6). This major addition extends the boundary to identifiable features approximately 1/2 mile from the Santiam Highway. The alpine timber types and open meadows make this an ideal area for wilderness use. Because of the proximity to the Santiam Highway and need for future development sites in the vicinity of Square and Long Lakes, that area is not included in the proposed Wilderness.

Little Lake - 600 acres (Map Area 7). This addition is made to place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.

Canyon Creek - 229 acres (Map Area 8). To provide protection for wilderness values in the glacial cirque at the head of Canyon Creek.

Cabot Lake Trail - 903 acres (Map Area 9). This addition will protect wilderness values in the Cabot Lake - Carl Lake basin and provide a wilderness atmosphere along a primary access trail.

Candle Creek - 3,970 acres (Map Area 10). This addition includes the Jefferson Creek and Cabot Creek lava flows. These extensive lava flows surrounding an island of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and white fir trees contribute exceptional wilderness and scientific values to the area.

Pyramid Butte - 380 acres (Map Area 11). Added to include Pyramid Butte and more of the Oregon Skyline Trail, both having significant wilderness values.

EXCLUSIONS

Northwest Corner - 106 acres (Map Area A). Made to place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.

Woodpecker Ridge - 305 acres (Map Area B). Made to place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.

Grizzly Ridge - 156 acres (Map Area C). Made to place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.

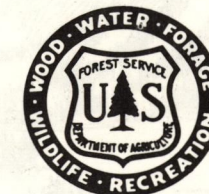
Minto Creek - 1,440 acres (Map Area D). This major exclusion includes parts of Lizard and Bingham Ridges. The area excluded has limited value for wilderness use. The highest public value for the area will be realized if it is developed for resources other than wilderness.

Marion Lake - 629 acres (Map Area E). This area would be included in the proposed Marion Lake Scenic Area as shown on the map. This new 1,430-acre Scenic Area will include Marion Lake, Marion Falls, and Lake Ann. Water-oriented recreation is the predominant value of this area. Management will provide for the protection of the natural environment. Additional campgrounds and boat storage facilities will be developed at several locations around Marion Lake. Access will continue to be by trail only.

Turpentine Peak - 270 acres (Map Area F). Made to place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.

Minto Burn - 522 acres (Map Area G). This excludes an old burn with limited wilderness values. The primary public value of this area is the future production of timber.

Skyline Road - 56 acres (Map Area H). These two small changes will exclude the existing Skyline Road and will place the boundary on recognizable topographic features.



PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on this proposal will be held at 9:00 a.m., October 26, 1966, in basement rooms 6 and 7, State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon.

Persons wishing to express their views on the proposal are invited to appear at the hearing or submit written statements to the Regional Forester before November 25, 1966. Any questions not answered by this leaflet should be directed to one of the following:

Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest
745 Bond Street
Bend, Oregon 97701

Forest Supervisor
Willamette National Forest
210 E. 11th Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Forest Supervisor
Mt. Hood National Forest
340 N.E. 122nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
319 S.W. Pine Street
Portland, Oregon 97208

A public notice was issued August 5, 1963, and a hearing was held in Salem, Oregon, on June 2, 1964, regarding a proposal to establish the Mt. Jefferson Wild Area, with the same boundaries as now proposed for the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Views submitted as a result of that public notice will be included in the new hearing record.

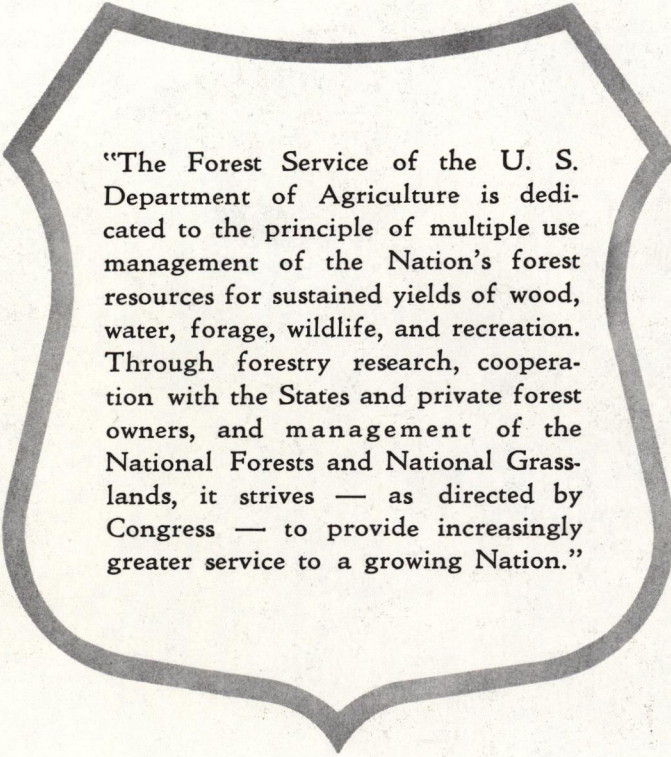
All views submitted will be forwarded with recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture to the President and to Congress.



Jefferson Park



Santiam Lake and West Side of Three Fingered Jack



"The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives — as directed by Congress — to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation."