

Unprotected area included in timber sale

By JACK DESMOND
For the Emerald

Ever since the lines were drawn on the maps at the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) meetings during the summer of 1972, the Forest Service has kept logging and road building companies out of roadless areas. But before the RARE II process is finally completed, the Chucksney Mountain roadless area may fall to the bulldozer and chain saw.

On Sept. 14, the Forest Service awarded a timber sale on Chucksney Mountain. The timber sale represents the Forest Service's first attempt to log a previously identified roadless area in Oregon

since the RARE I process began. Chucksney Mountain lies five miles southwest of French Pete, the scene of wilderness battle that lasted 15 years. Chucksney Mountain was originally identified as a roadless area during the RARE I process. But the roadless area was excluded from the RARE II process because the Willamette National Forest had completed its land management plan.

Dale Rettman, timber sale officer of the Willamette National Forest, explains the Forest Service decision to exclude Chucksney Mountain from the RARE II process.

The ground rules had been ap-

proved for the management plan, and five or six years of planning went into the final decision.

Since the roadless area is no longer protected in the RARE process, the Forest Service has allocated 9,800 acres of the area to the Chucksney Mountain Undeveloped Roadless Recreation Area. In addition, 4,500 acres have been opened for logging and intensive management.

Mazuma Lumber was high bidder at \$7,166,300 for a 23 million board-foot timber sale.

Rettman says 23 million board-feet of timber would equal about 4,300 fully loaded logging trucks.

The Forest Service cannot officially deed the timber sale to

Mazuma Lumber until the road contract is awarded. Approximately nine miles of new roads have to be built and seven miles of old roads reconstructed.

"I don't have it within my grasp, but offhand, I would say nine miles of road would cost about \$1 million," says Phil Malone, forester on the Willamette National Forest.

"I think it's a crime to log the area," says Jon Kemp, president of Friends of the Three Sisters. "I suspect it isn't feasible because they have to build 9½ miles of road. I doubt the Forest Service will be able to pay for it from one sale."

Phil Mahone of the Forest Service indicates he is not aware of

any studies his agency has conducted on the economic benefits and costs of logging Chucksney Mountain.

"This sale indicates the direction the Forest Service would like to take with all the roadless areas," Kemp says. "This sale is to sew up any possibility for Congress to make changes."

"This is what is going to happen to any roadless areas that are not designated wilderness or further planning. The Forest Service will punch a road into the middle of the roadless area and then it's all over. It's extremely critical for people to respond by Oct. 1 to save these areas," Kemp adds.

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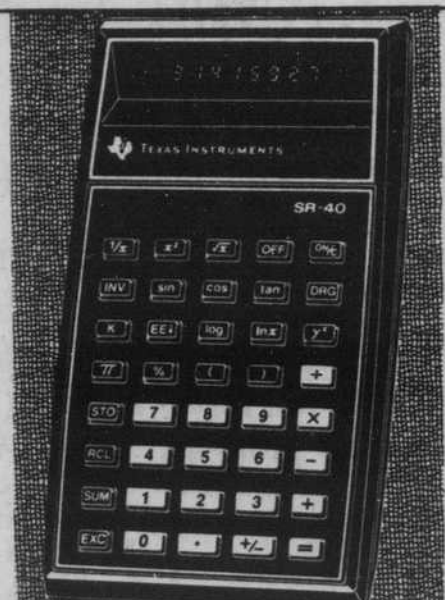
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