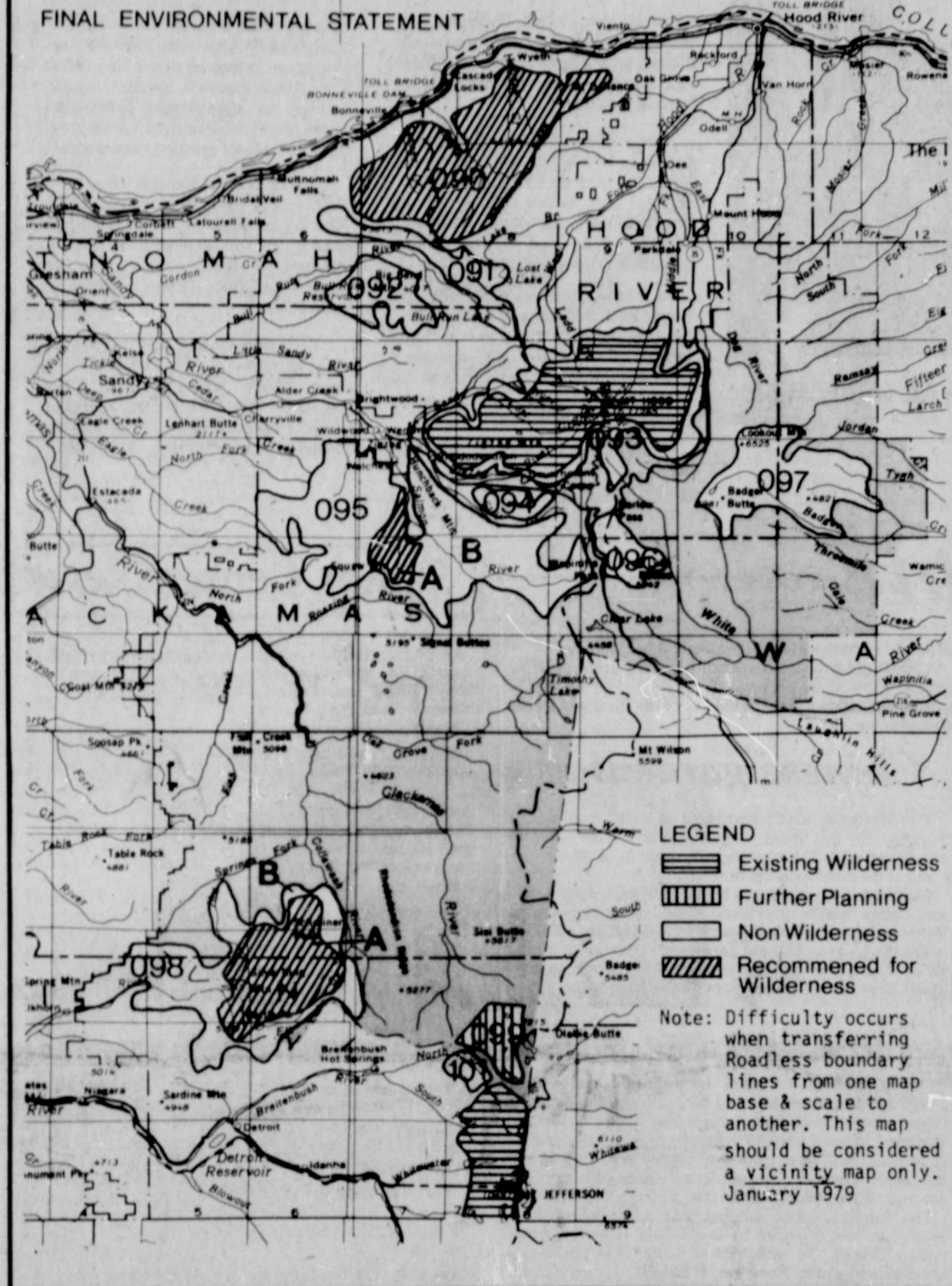


RARE II affects several Mt. Hood forest areas

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST
RARE II AREAS
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT



by CAROL THURLKILL
Post Correspondent

Note: This is the second of two parts in a story about the Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, phase II.

Forest Service RARE II wilderness proposals for Mt. Hood National Forest may affect several areas close to Sandy.

Throughout the nation "roadless areas" were categorized as wilderness, non-wilderness, or needing further study. On Mt. Hood, 76,300 acres were classified as wilderness, 162,746 acres non-wilderness, and 8,673 acres for further study.

Salmon Huckleberry is the closest of the proposed wilderness areas lying directly south of Hoodland on the Zigzag Ranger District.

During the RARE II process, public opinion was evenly divided between wilderness and non-wilderness use, and the area was placed in the further study category, according to Ann Heisler, Forest Service public information officer.

BACK COUNTRY USE

If Forest Service proposals for the area are adopted, the easterly portion of non-wilderness land along the Salmon River will be managed for backcountry use, emphasizing the area's scenic wildlife and recreational values, Heisler said. The heavily-used Salmon River Trail runs through the area.

While timber could not be intensively harvested, logging for fire prevention, insect disease or any other catastrophe would be permitted.

The Huckleberry portion to the west, on the other hand, would be managed for a variety of uses including timber harvesting, said Roger Deaver, Zigzag District Ranger. Three commercial timber sales are planned in select areas within the next few years if Forest Service proposals are approved, he added.

The 27,382-acre Badger Creek roadless area received a strong public support for wilderness, according to Heisler. However, the Forest Service recommended the area for non-wilderness because of economic reasons. Bull of the Woods area, northwest of Mt. Jefferson, was divided between wilderness, with 26,800 acres, and non-wilderness, with 32,500 acres. Heisler said the interior portion became non-wilderness because it is high in mineral value.

The remaining wilderness has in-

significant mineralization. There is no real timber value in either area, Heisler added.

Eagle, the 41,200-acre area near Bonneville Dam, is well known for its scenic qualities, said Heisler. It was designed for wilderness in its 1976 land use plan.

Both environmentalists and the timber industry are dissatisfied with Mt. Hood National Forest's wilderness proposals, and will be dickering with legislators over these key areas.

MAXIMUM HARVEST ASKED

Portland-based timber representatives will be asking Congress for the maximum amount of acreage for harvesting. Industrial Forestry Association, which represents 30 local lumber companies in the area, said they are opposed to all three wilderness proposals on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

All of the Bull of the Woods roadless area, with 474,000 cubic board feet of timber, could be commercially logged if it becomes non-wilderness, said Mike Sullivan, IFA public affairs director.

He said it has a high incidence of lightning and needs the fire protection available under non-wilderness.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARGUE

A number of Portland-based environmental groups argue that wilderness values are more important than economic values on certain pieces of land. The Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Wilderness Coalition, Portland Advocates for Wilderness, and the Sierra Club all said they would like to have more acreage added to the wilderness system than is now proposed.

Several of the groups said that the remaining portion of Salmon Huckleberry has a valuable stand of old growth timber on it which needs to be protected.

The non-wilderness portion of Bull of the Woods has a lot of wildlife, old growth timber, and streams, according to John Platt of the Oregon Environmental Council. He said the scenic area is very popular for recreation and is a strong wilderness candidate because it is close to an urban area.



Illustration by Karin Grisso

Law office sponsors dinner, public meeting

Oregon Legal Services, which provides free legal services for low-income persons, is having a free spaghetti dinner and public meeting tonight at Oregon City View Manor, Administration Building, 200 Longview Way in Oregon City.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Free child care will be provided and car pooling can be arranged.

Oregon Legal Services, located at 704 Main St. in Oregon City, is a law office representing low-income persons in Clackamas County on non-criminal matters.

The law office, formerly known as legal aid, has in the past focused on legal issues concerning housing, welfare, food stamps, consumer and domestic relations.

OLS has a client advisory council which acts as a liaison between the community and the law office, according to David Nebel, director.

All low-income persons in Clackamas County are encouraged to attend the dinner and help OLS decide what kinds of legal problems they will deal with in the coming year, Nebel said.

The client advisory council is just starting to develop, and anyone interested is encouraged to join the council. For more information call 655-2518.

Two file for board slots

Two Welches residents filed for vacancies on the Welches School Board. This year's only election for board members will be held on April 3 at the Lion's Club in Wenme.

Alan Jensen filed for position five, which involves a four-year term. He has served on the board for the past four years. Richard Claus filed for position one, a one-year term. He has never served on the board.

Those persons not on the ballot who still wish to run may be elected by write-in. Clackamas County Clerk George Poppen suggested that write-in candidates should be able to explain how to mark the ballot properly.

Interested persons may contact the county elections department in Oregon City at 655-8537 for those directions.

Man sentenced for incest

A 41-year-old Eagle Creek resident has been sentenced to the maximum 10-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to two charges of incest. The sentencing was carried out last week by Judge Charles Sams in Clackamas County District Court.

Edward Westberg was arrested in December, 1978 for the incidents, involving two female minors, which occurred in March and May, 1977.

Westberg was sentenced to five year terms on each of the counts with the terms to run consecutively. Sams recommended that Westberg serve at least 2 1/2 years on each count before he is considered for parole.

Sams pointed out later that his recommendation is only a guideline, and the decision is under the sole jurisdiction of the parole board. However, the judge placed Westberg on a five-year probation for a lesser, misdemeanor charge of sexual abuse.

Should he be released before the recommended five-year term has expired, the probation will still be in effect. Westberg was also ordered to pay the cost of psychological counseling for the two victims, now aged 16 and 19.

The counseling was provided by the Clackamas County Mental Health Service, at a cost of approximately \$1,500.

Love of mountain led to planning

by CAROL THURLKILL
Post Correspondent

Maryann Hill has been a mountain resident most of her life and says she is personally committed to the way it is developed.

Her family began skiing on Mt. Hood during the early 1920s in the days before even rope tows were installed. Because of her father's ill health, Government Camp became her home in 1932 when Maryann was 11 years old, and she has lived there ever since.

During the winter, Hill hikes a snow covered Glade Trail to reach her house in the high mountain village. She owns additional acreage along Highway 26 and would like to build a condominium and hotel on it some day.

She says she loves everything about the mountain. The dynamic woman thrives on hiking, picking huckleberries, and especially alpine skiing. In 1947, Hill made it to the pre-Olympic trials in downhill and slalom racing, but a broken ankle prevented further competition. At 57, blonde hair cropped short, Hill says she still spends a lot of time on the slopes.

However, most of her time is spent on the Clackamas County Planning Commission, keeping a hand in land use decisions for the Mt. Hood area. Land use planning is now a way of life for Hill. County documents, a typewriter, and a phone are spread out on her kitchen table during the day.

Hill says she has been involved in Mt. Hood's planning process since it began eight years ago, and is ready to see it completed with rezoning.

She began as a member of the original Hoodland Planning Group which formulated the Mt. Hood Community Plan in cooperation with the county and the Portland office of Ch2M Hill (Cornell, Howland, Hayes, Merfield-Hill), a consulting

firm of engineers and planners.

The Hoodland Planning Group, a 13-member citizens' advisory group, was established in 1979 by the vote of property owners and residents to represent the area, Hill explained.

"I realized eight years ago that the planning was going to take place, and if I didn't get involved, I wouldn't have a voice in the planning."

"I was interested in the county adopting a Mt. Hood Plan that was basically done by the community, and wanted Government Camp planned as its neighborhood group chose," she added.

After a preliminary community plan was completed in 1972, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Forestry Dept., and Hood River and Clackamas counties put together an Environmental Impact Statement for the Mt. Hood Corridor.

Hill was one of three area residents to serve on the 29-member citizen's advisory committee for the document.

"I personally feel that the zoning ordinances were delayed for four years by the interagency study," she said of the Forest Service-County cooperative effort.

"If a zoning ordinance is not written, then that is a way to keep things in a moratorium. I don't think it should be delayed any longer."

Local input in both the Mt. Hood Community Plan and the EIS left a lot to be desired, Hill continued. For example, Ch2M Hill didn't follow some of the major recommendations of the citizen's advisory group.

Hill said that the Hoodland Planning group considered the restriction on building on lots with less than a 25 percent land slope too strict. She added that the public input surveys for the EIS were not

completely demographic.

With a tanned face and an easy smile, the planning commissioner is now in the precarious position of listening to her own friends' and neighbors' opinions on county zoning proposals.

The commission does not set policy but makes recommendations to the board of county commissioners based on public testimony. Hill says she was appointed to the commission in 1976 because of her familiarity with the area and the planning process.

After hearing public testimony on county zoning proposals, Hill said she feels that the majority of people who objected were interested in their own property. The zoning plan chosen (plan B, which allowed for more acreage devoted to recreational residential development) was what most of the people wanted, she said.

Hill acknowledges that some people are now disgruntled or confused by the zoning changes, and would like to have more time to think it over. The Hoodland Association, a newly formed citizen's advisory group, is requesting that the board of commissioners postpone any decision until May.

"Planners think they know what is right for everybody," reflected Hill. "I think they would have had a much better rapport with the citizenry if they would have involved them initially in zoning changes."

Some of the people who want the decision delayed were not involved in the planning process or are newcomers to the mountain. She emphasized that most of those who worked on the plan for eight years want rezoning hastened.

"I think you should be realistic when you move into an area," she said. "You should find out what the plan is and go to the meetings."



Staff photo