



Wilderness Area Proposed

An expansion of the Sky Lakes Limited area to more than 103,000 acres, and a redesignation of it as a Wilderness area has been proposed by the Federation of Western Outdoor clubs and the Oregon Wildlife Federation.

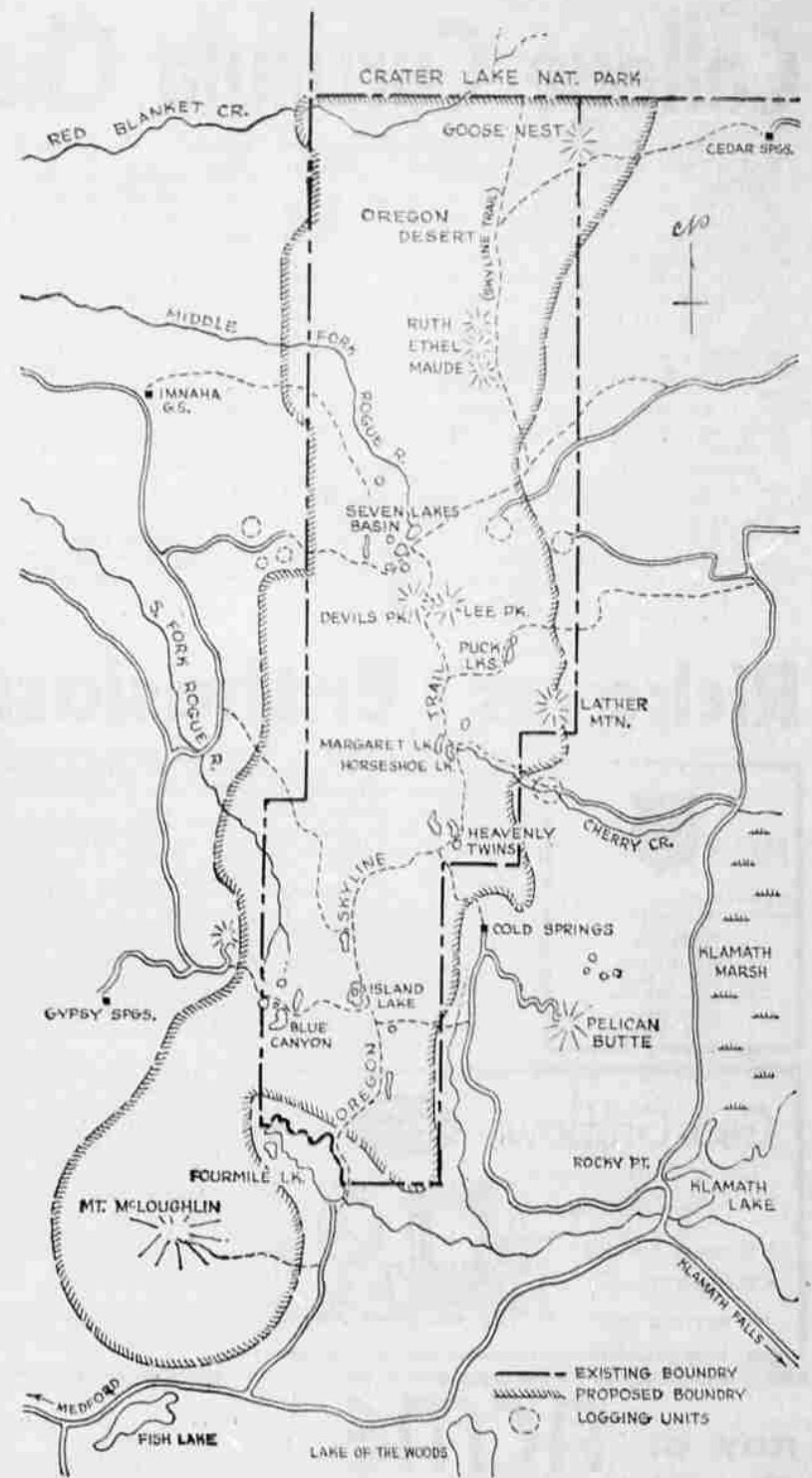
The picture to the left shows part of the northern portion of the Limited area, from near the summit of Devils Peak, looking in a north westerly direction. In the middle distance at the right is the upper portion of the gorge of the Middle Fork of the Rogue river, with Boston Bluff above it. In the foreground is part of the Seven Lakes basin, with Middle lake and North lake showing. South lake and Cliff lake are out of sight behind trees in the foreground. Alta is off to the left and Grass lake is off to the right.

Lake Ivern, just to the left of Boston Bluff, is hidden by trees.

The map to the right indicates the region proposed for inclusion in the Wilderness area. The area enclosed by the shaded line is the proposed new boundary; the area enclosed by the heavy broken line is the boundary of the existing limited area.



Left to right, Lyle Anderson of the U.S. Forest service's Medford office, Dr. Elbert L. Little, head dendrologist from Washington, D. C., Oliver Matthews of Salem and Eugene L. Parker of Medford pose in front of the Miller peak tree, which is about to relinquish its title as world's largest Brewer Weeping Spruce. (Parker photo)



Features

Sports

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Tree Classification

A Medford man's hobby has resulted in a study by the U. S. Forest service to definitely define the proper classification of the noble and Shasta red firs in the Rogue River National forest.

The hobby of Eugene L. Parker, 2326 Sunnyview lane, has taken him into the forests in the Rogue valley where he studied the various species of trees. The similar characteristics of these two species of fir-noble and Shasta red-were noted by Parker.

Thinking that the identification of the two species in the national forest overlapped, Parker contacted local forestry officials who also became interested.

Earlier this year, Dr. Elbert L. Little, Jr., Washington, D. C., dendrologist with the U. S. forest service, visited the Rogue River National forest, and with Parker and local forestry officials collected specimens and cones for study of the two fir species for common and different characteristics.

Recently, Dr. Little suggested to local forestry officials that a study of the wood properties and wood anatomy of the trees be made to definitely define the proper classification.

In his letter Dr. Little recommended that five questions be answered: These concern whether the woods of noble and Shasta red fir are sufficiently different in wood anatomy for separate identification and whether this difference is of economic importance to justify marketing separately and at different prices.

Asks Geographical Line

If separate marketing is justified, Dr. Little asked where is the geographical line of separation or the zone of overlap in characteristics, are the woods in this zone uniform or variable, and within the overlap area is the wood difference enough for field identification of trees and logs?

Local forestry officials said that wood and foliage samples of both species have been sent to the Forest Products laboratory in Madison, Wisc., for determination.

Parker believes that the more common of the firs in southern Oregon and the California Siskiyou mountains is noble fir on the basis of botanical characters of the needles and cones.

This thesis was confirmed by Dr. Little in various letters to Parker and has stated that the name Shasta red fir, as inclusively applied to all the of trees, is a misnomer.

Reviews Parker's Article

While in the valley, Dr. Little reviewed an article written by Parker on this study. He assisted him in arranging the material and the manuscript. "The geographic overlap of noble fir and red fir," was referred to Dr. John W. Duffield, Nisqually, Wash., editor of the "Forest Science" magazine, who sent it to the Society of American Foresters for publication. The magazine is a quarterly journal of research and technical progress and Parker's article is expected to be printed in early 1963.

In a letter to Parker, Dr. Duffield commented, "this manuscript makes a good straightforward story, and constitutes a real contribution to botany and forestry."

He also asked Parker for his assistance in a blister pitch study that is under way by the University of California Forest Products laboratory.



The cones of the Noble fir have long bracts which bend downward with long tapering points.



Perpendicular bracts with fine points are characteristic of the Shasta Red fir cone.



This photo shows the full length of the Miller peak Brewer Weeping Spruce, now surpassed by another three miles away for the honor of being largest of its kind in the world.

Giant of Category

Applegate — A new candidate for the title of world's largest Brewer's Weeping Spruce tree has been found in the Siskiyou National forest, just three miles away from the present titleholder in the category.

According to Oliver Matthews of Salem, who has discovered many "world's largest" trees in Oregon, the new candidate is at least two feet and a few inches larger in circumference than the Brewer's Weeping Spruce which previously held the title.

The old titleholder is located at Miller lake and for about 18 years has appeared on the American Forest's big tree list as the world's largest of its kind.

South of Grayback

The new champion is located just south of Grayback mountain, Matthews explained, about a 15 minute hike down the slope from the low saddle, about a mile south of Cold Springs on the Siskiyou National forest side of the Boundary trail in Josephine county.

It is growing about the 6,000 foot elevation, about the same elevation as the Miller Lake area tree, three miles air line to the southeast.

There is a second Brewer's Weeping Spruce in the area, not as large as the new champion, but larger than the old titleholder, Matthews added.

The newly discovered tree was found to be larger in the following manner:

Measurement Made

A measurement was made at a point 4.5 feet above the ground on the upper side of the tree, which showed the new champion to be 13 feet, 1 inch in circumference compared to the other tree's 11 feet even.

Then a second measurement was made at a point 4.5 feet above the ground on the lower side, with the new tree measuring 15 feet, 10 inches in circumference. The old tree measured 13 feet even at the same point.

Matthews then added the two measurements and averaged them by dividing by two. Thus the circumference of the new tree "with the contour of the ground" is 14 feet, 5.5 inches, compared to the former champ's 12 feet even.

Height of New Tree

Height of the new champion is estimated at 90 feet and spread at 30 feet.

The new champion could be a thousand years old, Matthews said. A downed tree of the same species at Miller lake was sawed open, and a ring count made to indicate that it took 125 years to grow four inches, Matthews explained.

Applying these figures to the measurements of the Miller Lake champion, Matthews figured it to be 885 years old. By the same figuring, the Siskiyou National forest tree is probably more than 900 years old, maybe 1,000, he said.



This tree is believed to be the largest Brewer Weeping Spruce in the world. Located in the Siskiyou National forest, it is at least two feet larger in circumference than the previous titleholder, located about three miles away.



No longer is this tree at Miller peak considered the world's largest Brewer Weeping Spruce. A larger one was found this year three miles away.



The Noble fir (left) has a thin bark with straight ridges while the bark of the Shasta red fir (right) has a more broken pattern. (Parker photos)