

VANCOUVER AREA WILDERNESS

It's time to save the few pockets left

Vol 7 #3 Western Canada Wilderness Committee's Quarterly Publication



Some of the oldest members of our communities can remember a time when old growth forests stretched from saltwater to horizon. By 1930 we were arguing over whether or not to preserve the last old growth stand in Surrey. We didn't. Today, in 1987, the staggering elimination of old growth forests has progressed far beyond Surrey. It's time to save the few pockets left.



Printed as a special mailout to:
Mountain Equipment Co-op Lower
Mainland Members



Printed as a supplement to:
The "Sierra Report," a quarterly
publication, Sierra Club of Western
Canada

A very warm thanks to all organizations providing distribution assistance. Some of these organizations are: Alouette Field Naturalist; Canadian Society for the Protection of Heritage Forests; Chilliwack Outdoor Club; The Federation of Mountain Clubs; Fraser Valley Hikers; Klister Outdoor Klub; Valley Outdoor Club.

POCKET WILDERNESS COALITION FORMED

Logging moratorium achieved in two areas

Early in 1987, a number of outdoor and environmental organizations banded together with local people to form the Pocket Wilderness Coalition of British Columbia (PWC). The PWC's aim is to ensure that some pockets of old growth forest are preserved in each and every one of the watersheds that surround the Lower Mainland. This was an idea whose time had come. Organizations like SPEC, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Valley Outdoor Association backed the coalition immediately. Within weeks of forming, Pocket Wilderness support grew to number several thousand—and with good reason. The people of Lower Mainland communities were sick and tired of seeing favorite weekend-accessible wilderness areas in the Chilliwack, Chehalis, Mamquam, Squamish and other local watersheds, succumb to clear-cut logging, one by one.

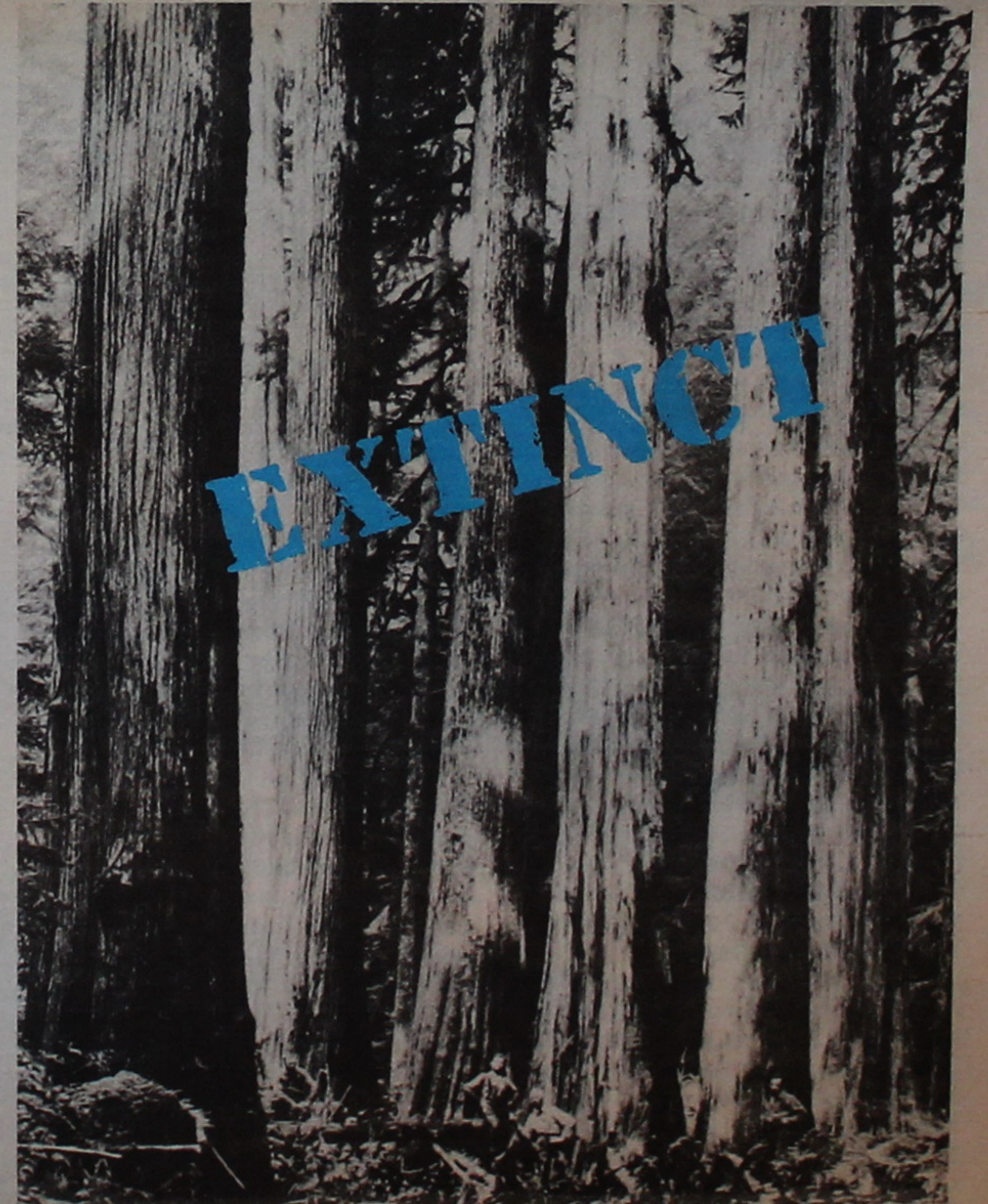
The coalition adopted a "Pocket Wilderness Concept" to show the B.C. Forest Service (BCFS), who controls logging in our local watersheds, how it's possible to preserve forested wilderness, while maintaining an acceptable level of timber supply to the forest companies. The Pocket Wilderness Concept is based on

the use of natural land forms, associated with mountainous areas, to preserve and "insulate" small areas of highly valued wilderness, while allowing logging to proceed in adjacent areas.

Forested bowls containing small lakes or valley-ends make excellent pocket wilderness candidates, providing the opportunity to preserve a self contained wilderness retreat. Small side valleys and forested ridges may also have wilderness insulating qualities, and may be used to link several pocket wildernesses together. Such a network of pocket wildernesses differs from true wilderness found in major areas like Garibaldi Provincial Park, Stein Valley or Manning Provincial Park, in being much smaller and more numerous.

Pocket Wildernesses, though permanently preserved, should not be considered parks, and are not meant to take their place. Rather, they are a means to preserve forested wilderness ecosystems outside of parks much in the same manner as fish or wildlife resources are preserved outside of parks. 1200 year old yellow cedars, 500 year old firs or

Cont'd on page 2



North Vancouver virgin forest, circa 1918. All old growth forests below 1,000 feet elevation in the Lower Mainland, like this one, have been eliminated.
Photo: Vancouver Public Library Archive photo no. 5928



Some of the last giant Douglas firs ready for the mill. Big Silver Creek log dump, Harrison Lake, B.C. January 1987.

Photo: Paul George

COALITION FORMED

8,000 year old wilderness forest ecosystems should not be completely eliminated from any local watershed, any more than should mountain goats, deer or trout.

Pocket Wildernesses are meant to be enjoyed by people. While many forms of worthwhile outdoor recreation take place on previously logged land in second growth forests, wilderness recreation and enjoyment require a natural environment, relatively unaltered by man and his machines. Pocket Wildernesses provide a means to preserve the wilderness destinations people rely on for this special form of outdoor recreation.

Because of logging road access, Pocket Wildernesses can be enjoyed in day or weekend trips and are often suitable for family outings. Hiking towards a Pocket Wilderness through second growth can be a pleasant build up to the moment when a hiker steps into the ancient world of the old growth forest.

After completing a preliminary survey of important local pocket wilderness areas, the PWC went to BC Forest Service District Offices in the Vancouver-Fraser Valley region to see which areas were in imminent danger of being lost to logging. A proposal to postpone logging in six endangered potential pocket wildernesses, until a case could be made for preservation, resulted. This proposal was then forwarded to the Maple Ridge Forest District Office and circulated amongst conservation, outdoors and environmental groups. The proposal was endorsed by the Stein Alliance, Canadian Society For The Protection of Heritage Forests, Steelhead Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, North Shore Hikers, Silva Ecosystems Consultants Ltd., Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, Valley Outdoor Association, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and many concerned people throughout the Lower

Mainland.

As a result of the Pocket Wilderness Coalition's proposal, the Maple Ridge District Forest Service placed a logging moratorium on some of the pocket wilderness candidate areas.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN, near Buntzen Lake, north of Port Moody, was to have been clear-cut in 1988. Logging plans have now been set back until 1991, giving time for the community to lobby for permanent preservation of this much used and loved wilderness area.

BONZAI LAKE, northeast of Mission, was to have been clear-cut this year. Logging plans were completely cancelled.

Negotiations continue on all the other proposed logging sites, except one, EAGLE CREEK, in Chehalis country, northwest of Harrison Hot Springs. The request for postponement of logging, due to start this summer, was flatly denied.

Eagle Creek reminds us of the situation faced in Surrey in the 1930s, where after a period of argument, the last stand of old growth forest in the area was logged. The Stanley Park sized stand of old growth forest contained in the bowl shaped valley of Eagle Creek is the last remaining valley bottom virgin forest in the vast region between Stave and Harrison Lakes. This huge area of typical cut over valley bottoms, with its second growth forests interspersed with poorly regenerated or recently cut "moon-scapes," is 800 square kilometers in size, larger than Surrey, Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver combined.

The case of Eagle Creek illustrates the great political power of the major forest companies. Even though the Forest Service may have wanted to preserve this last remnant of rare valley bottom wilderness forest, they had to give in to pressure from the forest company involved, CanFor.

At this writing CanFor is quickly preparing to bulldoze a road up the little valley before the public can be notified.

Such is the nature of the logging industry today. In some ways little has changed since 1930, except, of course, the forested wilderness. There's a lot less of it!

The Pocket Wilderness Coalition feels that the BC Forest Service is receptive to the idea of a network of small wilderness preserves located in the local watersheds. Such a plan could come under BCFS's newly announced "Integrated Resource Management Plan for Provincial Forests" and the rumoured legislative change in the Forest Act, both of

which provide for preservation of wilderness by the Forest Service.

The PWC is in the process of forwarding Pocket Wilderness Proposals to the Chilliwack and Squamish Forest District Offices. Intense public pressure is needed to counteract industry's behind the scenes political manipulations. Forest companies appear to think they alone own the public forest land. They have clearly demonstrated their intent to clearcut all local old growth forest into extinction.

THE FOREST SERVICE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU And we want them to listen to you, too

If you have concerns about some of your favorite wilderness areas, phone up, write or visit your local Forest Service Office and tell them so. It is important that you express your views. The B.C. Forest Service has a policy which encourages public involvement in forest harvesting decisions. Because You Care...

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Maple Ridge Forest District
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Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 3E3
(465-7161)

B.C. Forest Service, Chilliwack
Forest District
9850 South McGrath Road
Box 159
Rosedale, B.C. V0X 1X0 (794-3361)

B.C. Forest Service, Squamish
Forest District
42000 Loggers Lane
Box 1970
Squamish, B.C. V0N 3G0 (898-9671)

Co-published by Lower Mainland Pocket Wilderness Coalition, 20901-88th Ave., Langley, B.C. V3A 6X5, 888-8148 and Western Canada Wilderness Committee, #103-1520 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6J 1R2, 731-6716

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Editing - Paul George and Adriane Carr

Writing and design - Joe Foy

Centre fold map - Weller Cartographics

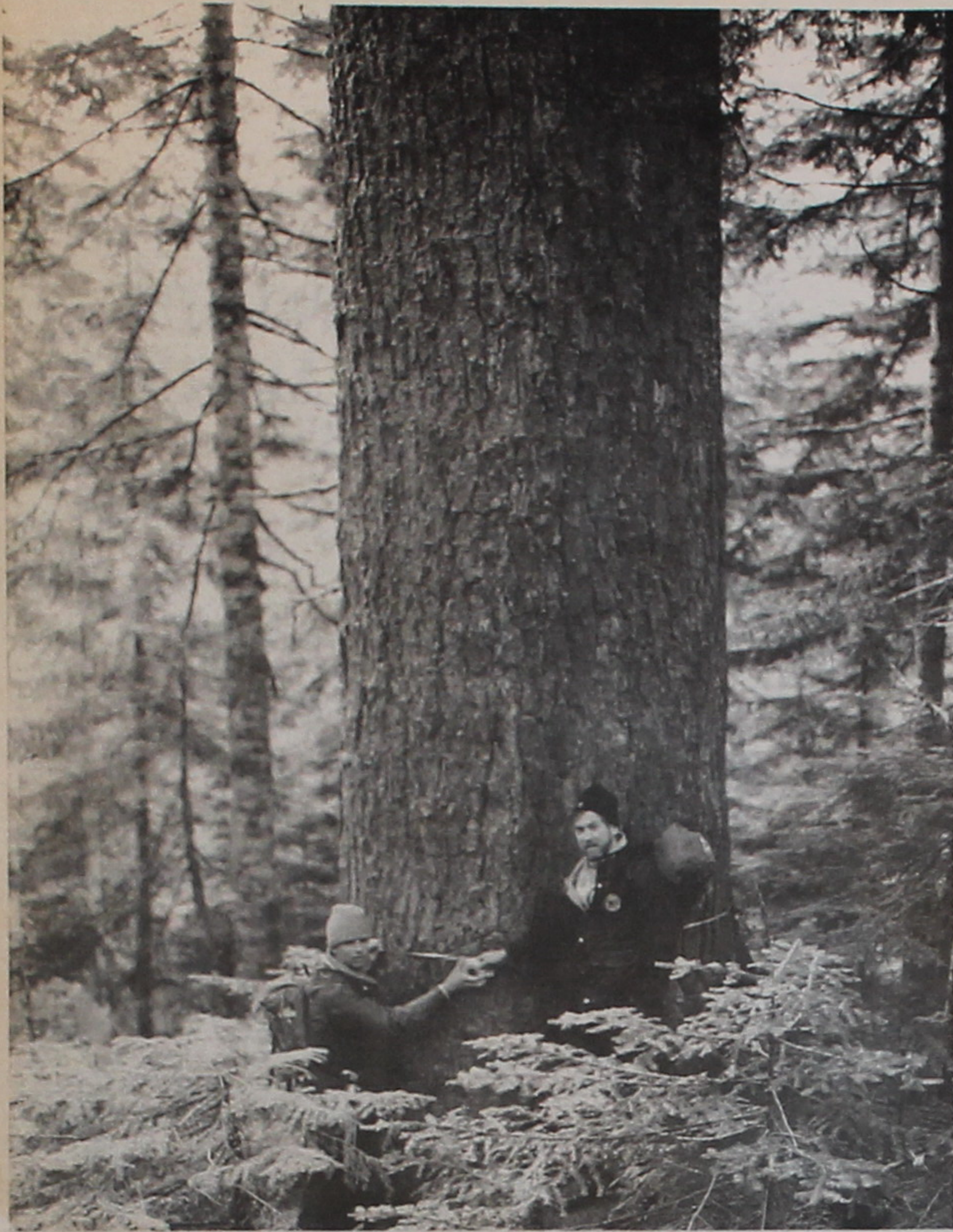
Typesetting - Claudia Casper

Paste-up - Calvin Wharton

"Fair Share" design - Pat Walker

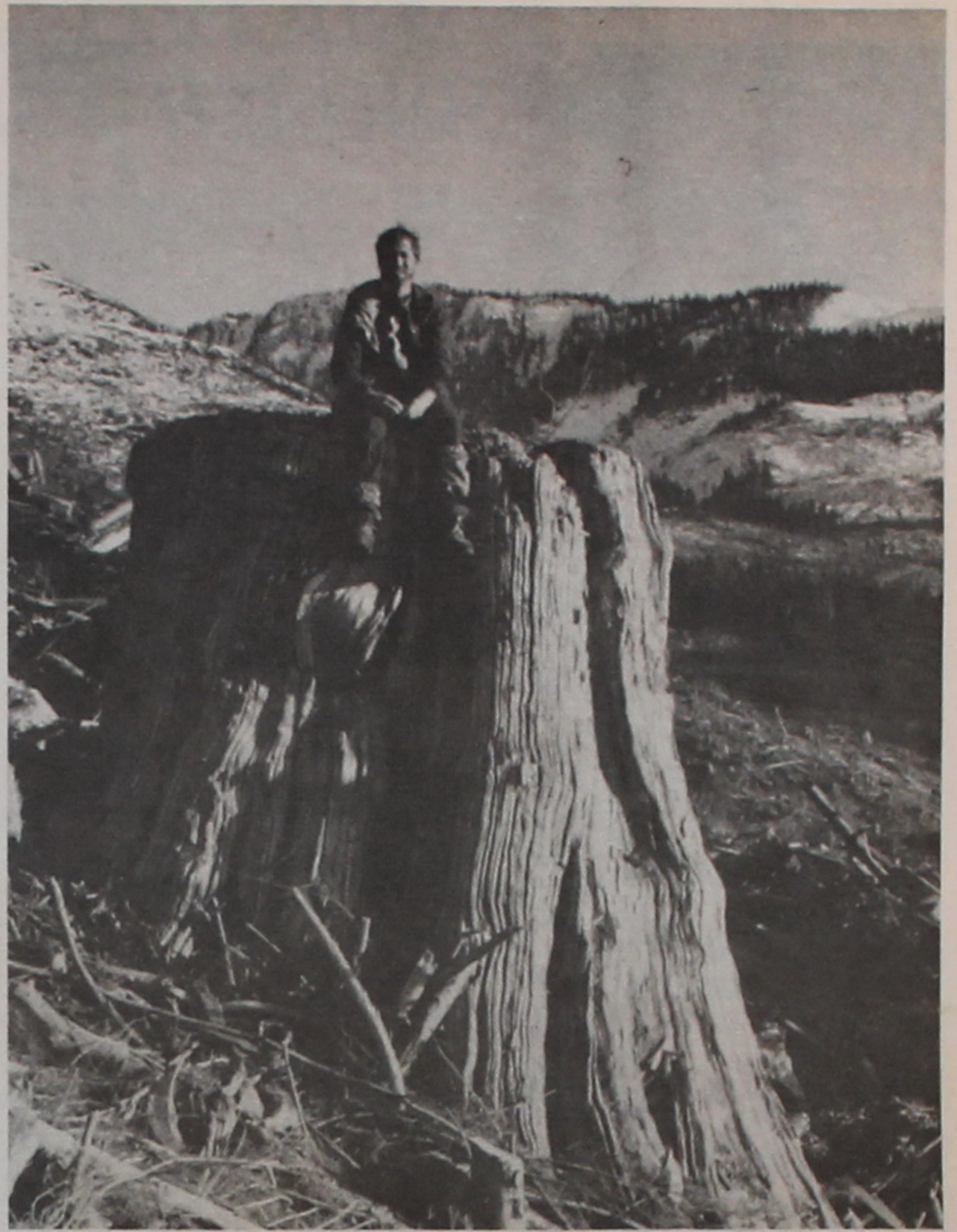
Production run 50,000. Cost per paper approximately 8 cents

Printed with the hopes that Lower Mainland wilderness supporters will donate their "fair share" to help pay for this newspaper and the Pocket Wilderness Coalition's further efforts.



Near record-sized western hemlock discovered in the St. Benedict-Seven Lakes Pocket Wilderness. Tree recently spray painted by timber cruisers in preparation for logging.

Photo: Greg Stoltmann



Big stumps are easier to find than big trees.

Photo: Ken Lay

FOREST SERVICE CHANGES DIRECTION

“Multiple use” replaced by “Integrated Forest Management”

After decades of blatantly pro-logging decision-making, the B.C. Forest Service is finally showing signs of seeing the light. For the first time in its 75 year history, the B.C.F.S. has publicly stated that local forest management plans “may exclude some areas, such as a highly valued wilderness, from a timber harvest...” This statement appeared in a recently published brochure entitled, “Integrated Forest Management [IRM] of Provincial Forests.”

While many environmentalists are skeptical that this is merely window dressing on the same old scorched earth policy, others see it as a new, sincere

willingness to accommodate the growing public demand for improved wilderness protection.

The Forest Service was badly burned on the notoriously inadequate “Multiple-Use” policy, which gave all forest values equal consideration providing they didn’t interfere with logging. In direct contrast, the new IRM brochure openly admits that logging “can reduce the quality of a recreation experience by reducing the forest’s scenic value,” and that as a result, “forest managers may keep some areas from being harvested to offset negative effects!”

The pamphlet even invites concerned forest users to “become involved in IRM,

contact the Forest Service District or regional manager in your area. Ask to review tentative plans. State your concerns. Offer information.”

However, all may not be rosy. The brochure makes no mention of whether much-needed new legislation will be introduced that provides for actual preservation of wilderness areas in Provincial Forests. Without such legislation, exclusion of areas from harvest are still only temporary deferrals at the discretion of local forest managers. And as veteran conservationists know, the old BCFS public participation process was nothing more than a trap designed to exhaust the participants and to shield politicians and civil servants from

discomforting confrontations.

It will require concerted pressure from wilderness user groups, not only to ensure that the Forest Service lives up to this new promise, but also to support the Forest Service in resisting the excessive political power of the logging companies, who will, undoubtedly, oppose any moves to preserve even small areas of old growth forest. Concerned groups and individuals will have to visit their local BCFS District Offices to view logging plans and submit wilderness preservation proposals. With determination and persistence, wilderness users will secure a small forested land base in their local watersheds for themselves and future generations.



Cascade Creek, northeast of Mission B.C. Entire valley and ridge tops clear cut. Note all the mudslides caused by logging. The resulting flash flooding in the lower part of the creek caused a great deal of damage to homes and property. Photo: Ken Lay



Do You Know A Pocket Of Lower Mainland Wilderness Needing Protection?

In the pages that follow six of the most important pocket wilderness areas, prime candidates for preservation, are profiled in one page. In the centerfold, 20 pocket wilderness areas found in the Lower Mainland-Fraser Valley, including the six considered in depth in this paper, are presented on a full-spread map. None of the areas have any form of protection from industrial development and all commercial forests within them are scheduled to be logged-

if not next year, eventually. Scarce timber, high market demands, and future advances in logging technology will make even the scrubbiest and remotest forests economic to log.

This list of Pocket Wildernesses is based on brief research by a small group of volunteers, and is by no means complete. Many other valuable areas worthy of protection exist in our local watersheds, and all concerned groups and individuals need to be involved in identifying them and bringing pressure to bear on the Forest Service to protect them. Contact the Pocket Wilderness Coalition if you know of a place that should be protected and preserved.



Ancient old growth forest on Eagle Mountain, north of Port Moody B.C., threatened by logging.

Photo: Johnnie Murray

PROPOSED: EAGLE MOUNTAIN POCKET WILDERNESS

DESCRIPTION

Eagle Mountain Plateau and ridge is situated on the height of land between Indian Arm and Coquitlam Lake. After being told by Maple Ridge Forest District in 1983 that the area would never be logged because it was economically inaccessible, Halvor Lunden of the North Shore Hikers single handedly built a first class hiking trail into this pristine mountain wilderness.

It soon became a popular year-round hiking and cross-country ski area, but last year hikers were amazed to discover the all-too-familiar flagging tape marking a clear-cut boundary, and the spray paint of timber cruisers defacing the ancient old growth forest. Without warning, and with no consultation with the hikers using the area, this high

elevation forest with marginal timber values is now scheduled to be logged under the Forestry Small Business Program, in which the government (i.e. public taxpayers) pays for the logging road construction.

Although Eagle Mountain was originally slated to be logged in 1987, the Pocket Wilderness Coalition requested and obtained a two year deferral of logging. This reprieve provides time to build public awareness of this important area and lobby for its preservation.

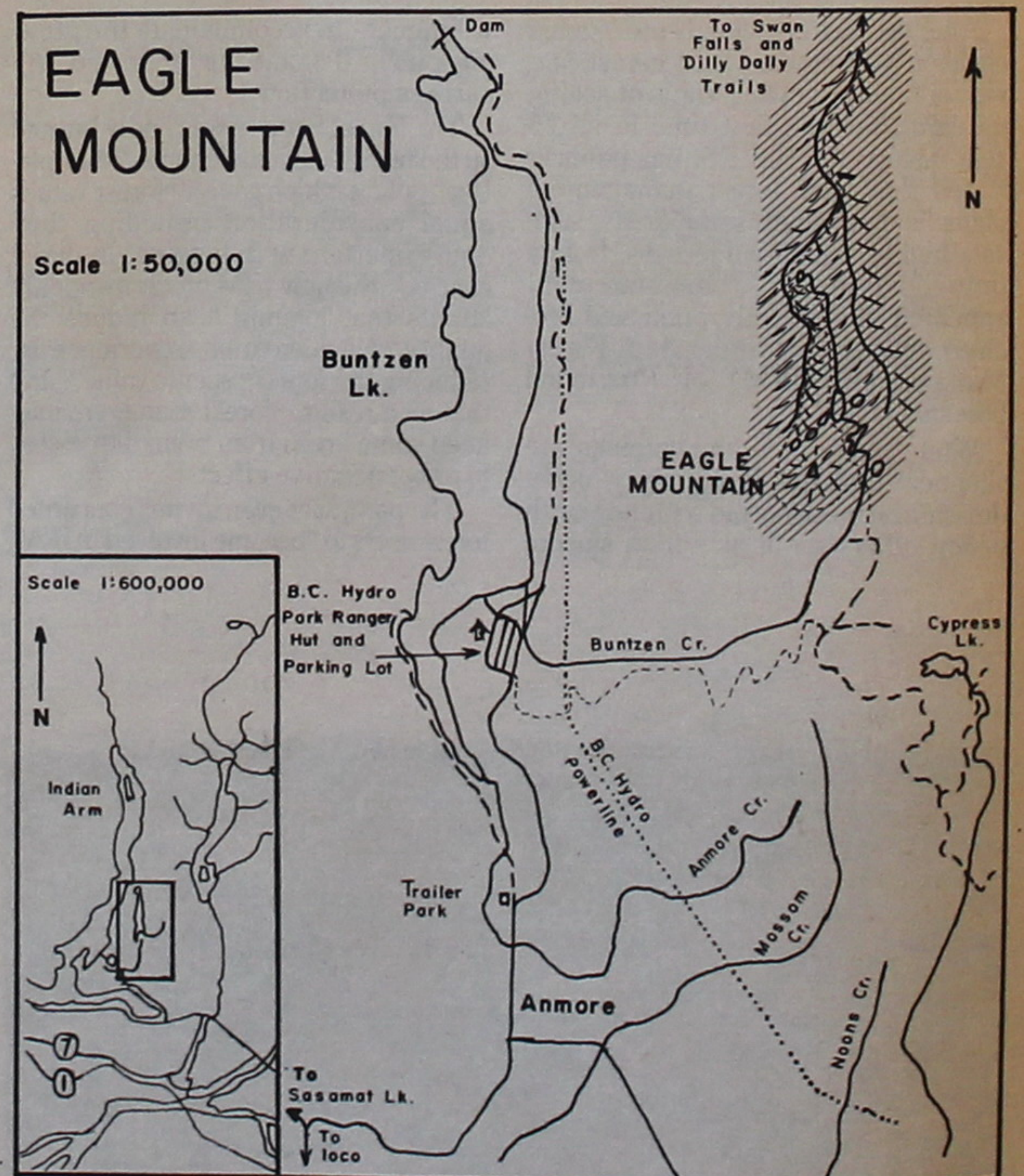
Unique features of Eagle Mountain include a relic aqueduct from the 1920s shake block heyday, a popular well marked hiking trail leading through ancient old growth forest and past spectacular viewpoints over the Lower Mainland, and a forested hillside overlooking a scenic subalpine plateau dotted with lakes.

ACCESS

Drive to loco on the north side of Burrard Inlet north of Port Moody, and follow the signs to the Buntzen Lake B.C. Hydro Recreation Area. Park here, and find the hiking trail that leads east

into the woods at the gate at the south east corner of the parking area (where the main road into the area veers left into the parking lots). Follow the markers and signs 6 km up the trail to the Eagle Mountain Pocket Wilderness.

Topographic Map Reference
1:50,000 scale 92G/7 Port Coquitlam



Long-time trail builder Halvor Lunden, reactivating his trail through recent clear cut.
Photo: Joe Foy



Sixty year old tree blaze beside historic aqueduct on Eagle Mountain.
Photo: Earl Chambers

PROPOSED: WIDGEON LAKE POCKET WILDERNESS



Widgeon Lake, popular canoe-hiking destination, north of Pitt Meadows, B.C.

Photo: Dave Markowski

DESCRIPTION

Widgeon Lake is a unique Pocket Wilderness on Vancouver's back doorstep. This spectacular cirque lake has long been a popular destination for hikers, and has the added bonus of a leisurely 45 minute canoe paddle from Pitt Polder as part of the outing.

Despite their high recreational values, neither the lake nor the last stretch of trail through old growth forest have any protection whatsoever from logging or other development. In 1980 the Greater Vancouver Water District proposed to build a dam on Widgeon Lake, to divert its water to the Coquitlam Lake Watershed for sale to B.C. Hydro as hydroelectric power (via the tunnel to Buntzen Lake and thus the Indian Arm Power House). This machiavellian scheme would have involved an expensive 2 km tunnel through the mountains, permanent closure of Widgeon Lake to the public, and reduced water flows for the Widgeon Creek salmon stream and canoe route. Public opposition put a temporary halt to the project, but it may still be re-proposed in the future.

on Dewdney Trunk Road for 5 km, then left on Neaves Road (208 St.). Drive north on Neaves all the way to the public boat launching ramp at Pitt Lake. After this point a canoe or kayak is required for the leisurely 45 minute paddle up Widgeon Creek to a Forest Service campsite, and from there signs will direct you on the 9 km hike to Widgeon Lake following old logging roads and trails.

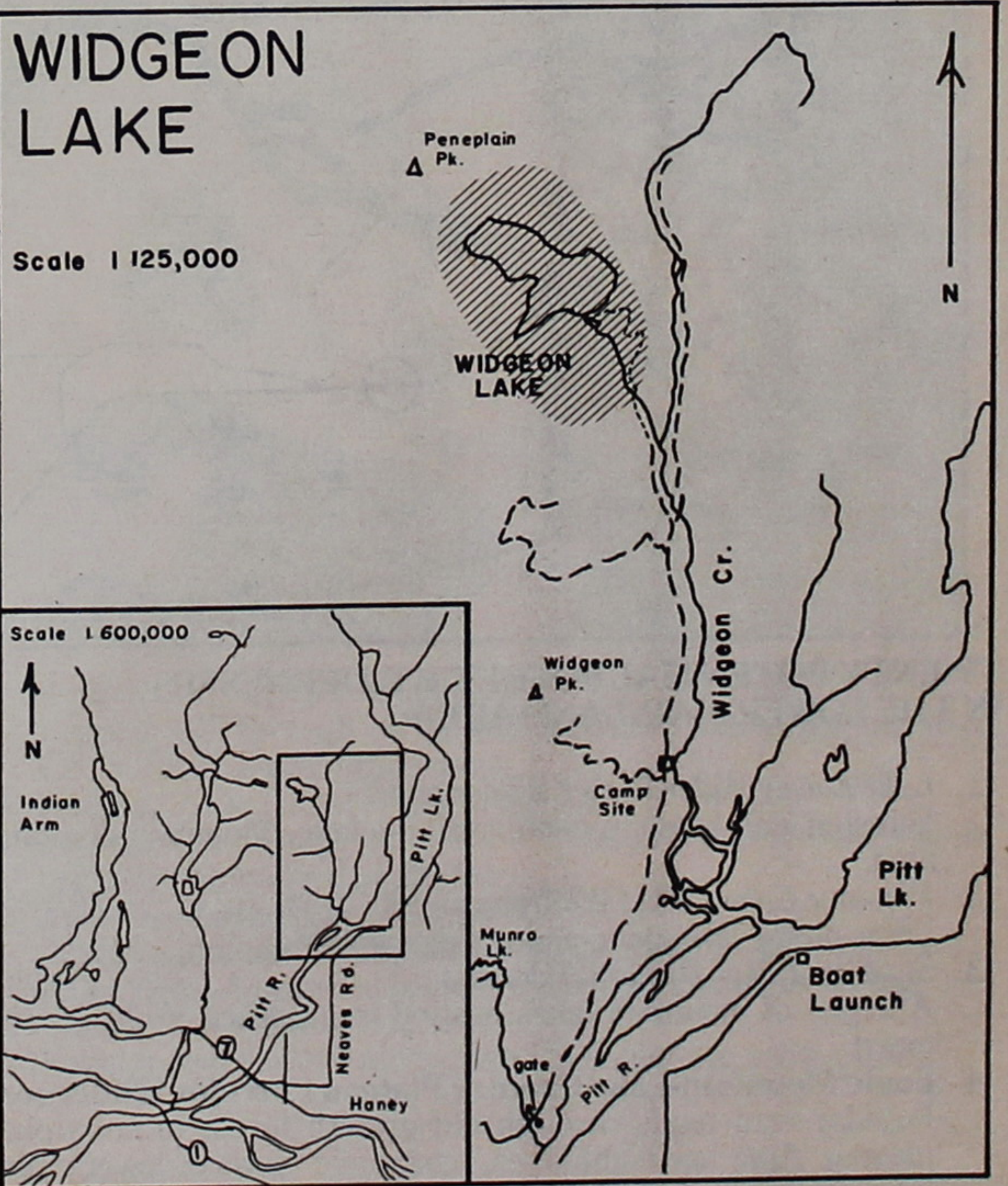
Topographic Map Reference
1:50,000 scale 92G/7 Port Coquitlam

**Become a
Pocket
Wilderness
Shareholder**

(See back cover for details)

ACCESS

Drive east on the Lougheed Highway past the Pitt River bridge and turn left at the Harris Road traffic lights in Pitt Meadows. After driving north on Harris Road for approximately 2 km, turn right



TWENTY LOWER MAINLAND POCKET WILDERNESSES — ISLANDS OF GREEN IN A GROWING SEA OF CLEARCUTS



TWENTY POTENTIAL POCKET WILDERNESSES IN THE LOWER MAINLAND AREA

1. **Lake Lovely Water Pocket Wilderness**
Forested trail leads to popular alpine lake. Mountain climbing area.
2. **Pinecone Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Large alpine lake, good alpine ridge walking.
3. **St. Anne Lakes Pocket Wilderness**
A triplet of mountain lakes nestled in a pocket of old growth forest.
4. **Eagle Mountain-Lake Country Plateau Corridor Wilderness**
Popular trail leads through old growth forest to subalpine plateau. Area has eight lakes, panoramic views of lower mainland. Threatened by logging.
5. **Widgeon Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Large mountain lake, trout fishing, popular canoe-hiking destination.

6. **St. Benedict-Seven Lakes Wilderness**
Wilderness hiking opportunities with overnight camping. Seven lakes, big-tree forests, forested and subalpine ridge walks. Numerous access points. Threatened by logging.
7. **Olive Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Hike through old growth forest to small mountain lake. Threatened by imminent logging.
8. **Guy-line Corridor Wilderness**
Long, broad high-country ridge. Subalpine forests, lakes, peaks. Well suited to winter wilderness recreation.
9. **Statlu Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail leads to one of the prettiest wilderness lakes in southwest B.C. Fishing, hiking, mountaineering.
10. **Upper Eagle Creek Pocket Wilderness**
Last remaining valley bottom old growth forest in area between Stave and Harrison Lakes. Virgin forests, waterfalls, world class mountaineering. Threatened by imminent logging.

11. **Clear Creek Hot Springs Pocket Wilderness**
Hike through old growth forest on old road to wilderness hot springs, mountain lake nearby up forested slopes. Cabin, creek, mountain goats.
12. **Stollicum Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Trail leads to forested fishing lake.
13. **Liumchen Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail leads to high-country lake. Flower meadows, peaks, ridge walks.
14. **Pierce Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail leads through old growth forest to wilderness fishing lake. Gateway to mountaineering routes.
15. **Ling Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Remote wilderness fishing lake guarded by virgin forests and slide alder valley. Flower meadows, good alpine ridge walking.
16. **Lindeman-Greendrop-Flora Pocket Wilderness**
Extremely popular trail through old growth forest leads to three wilderness fishing lakes. Threatened by logging.

17. **Radium Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail through old growth forest leads to subalpine lake. Cabin, mountaineering routes.
18. **Hanging Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail through grove of huge old growth cedar trees leads to glacier-fringed subalpine lake.
19. **Klesilkwa Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Last remaining old growth forested valley in popular Custer Ridge Area. A beautiful mountain lake now threatened by logging.
20. **Crescent Lake Pocket Wilderness**
Popular trail through old growth forest leads to fishing lake.

Note: None of these twenty areas are protected in any way from logging. Wilderness areas marked in bold face type are featured in this newspaper.



Sonny Lake, northeast of Deroche, B.C. Canadian Forest Products (CanFor) plans to eventually clear cut all the forest shown in this photo.

Photo: Joe Foy

PROPOSED: ST. BENEDICT-SEVEN LAKES POCKET WILDERNESS

DESCRIPTION

A chain of pocket wildernesses linked together by unlogged forested ridge top corridors, the St. Benedict-Seven Lakes area is a necklace of diamonds in the rough, just waiting to be discovered. Right now most of the Pocket Wildernesses that make up this 20 kilometre Y-shaped network, are seldom visited. That will soon change. When the old trapper trails which crisscross the area are cleared, marked and linked together, the St. Benedict-Seven Lakes Pocket Wilderness will become one of the Lower Fraser Valley's premier recreational destinations.

Seven pristine mountain lakes, semi-alpine parkland, big-tree forests and many access points combine to create a unique wilderness resource. Terepocki Pocket Wilderness in the northern section is the big-tree sanctuary, with numerous large cedars and one hemlock that measures 19 feet around. Sonny Lake in the southern portion is an untouched wilderness bowl. The waters of Sonny mirror hills covered with acre after acre of untouched old growth forest. Bonzai Lake with its strange little-tree forest is near the middle section. The lakes, hidden in their own pockets, are seven beautiful gems.

Like any necklace, the St. Benedict-Seven Lakes area is fragile. Once broken, it loses much of its beauty and value. Logging threatens the St. Benedict Wilderness in both the northern and southern sections. Negotiations are underway and the Pocket Wilderness Coalition hopes to see this unique wilderness resource gain the protection it deserves. In the Maple Ridge Forest Service Office are plans that show future logging in Terepocki and Sonny Lake Pocket Wildernesses. Let them know your concern.

ACCESS

Access may be confusing as routes

are unmarked and road systems are complicated and unsigned. The PWC intends to change all this in the coming summer with road signs and marked routes to the lakes. For now, topographic map 1:50,000 scale 92 G/1 and a compass are mandatory equipment just to find your way in the car.

Access points are in several different road systems...

1. Lost Creek road system

From Mission City go east on Highway No. 7 for 6.4 km., turn left onto Sylvester Road. Follow the paved then good gravel road 17 km to a small parking lot just north of Murdo Creek in Davis Lake Provincial Park. Walk back south across the bridge and pick up the trail leading to McKay Lake and the top of Mt. St. Benedict. This is the south of the corridor. There is no trail from here on out. Use caution. The route will be marked soon.

Back in the car, using a map, continue on the moderately rough logging road north, then southeast up a tributary of Lost Creek. Park when the going gets too rough and walk for one hour up an old road then through the open forest to the mushroom-shaped Bonzai Lake, not named on the topographic map.

Back in your car, backtrack to a road that runs near the eastern shore of Salsbury Lake. Continue around to the north side of the headwaters of Terepocki Creek. Park and walk south to the mouth of the north-south aligned valley below Mt. Kettley. This is a big-tree sanctuary.

2. Norrish Creek road system

From the village of Dewdney, take the Hawkins Pickle Road, which is paved but soon turns to moderately rough gravel where it becomes the Norrish Creek Forest Road. Using your map, locate Rose Creek Road and travel up it until it becomes too rough. Walk

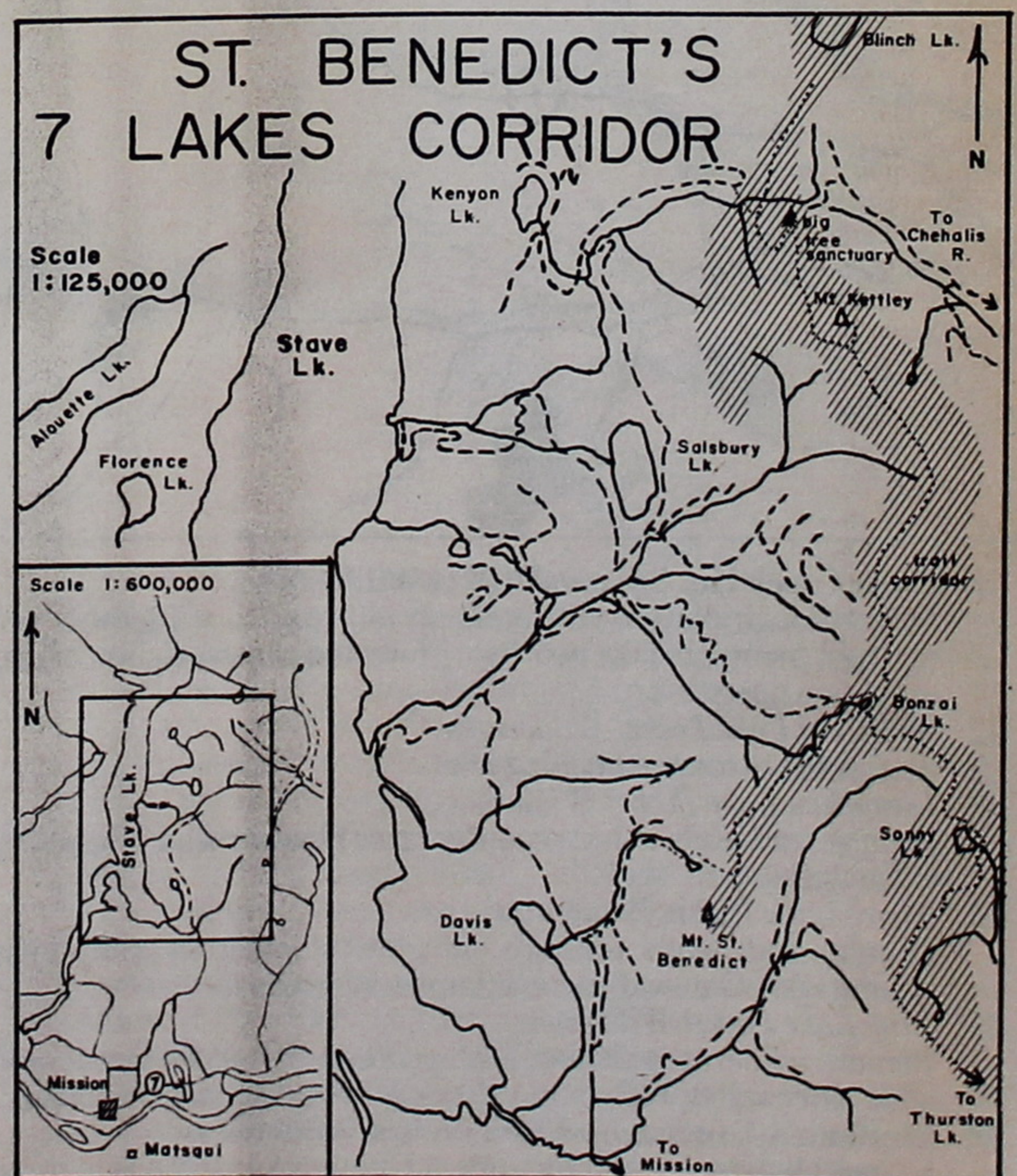
along the road to near its end then navigate up the slopes through open forest and salmonberry to Thurston Lake, the southern end of the Pocket Wilderness network in this area.

3. Chehalis River road system

From Sasquatch Inn on Highway No. 7 (also the turn off for the Hemlock Ski Development) head north up the good gravel Chehalis Road system. After

crossing Statlu Creek bridge stay left at the fork. Using a map locate South Statlu Road and take this road to access the logging roads that approach Sonny Lake. Several overgrown roads may be walked to within one half-hour of the lake. From the end of the roads its an easy bushwalk to Sonny Lake.

Access to the St. Benedict Network Wilderness should be improved vastly by the end of summer, 1987.



PROPOSED: UPPER EAGLE VALLEY POCKET WILDERNESS



Upper Eagle River Valley, north of Harrison Mills, B.C. Last remnant of Chehalis Valley bottom old growth forest, possible haven for the endangered Spotted Owl. CanFor plans to log early summer 1987. Photo: Paul George

DESCRIPTION

The Upper Eagle Valley is the last remaining unlogged portion of valley bottom in the entire 800 square mile area between Harrison and Stave Lakes. Protected from the chainsaw until now by its relatively long distance to the mills, logging is scheduled to begin in this 10 square mile Pocket Wilderness in late spring of 1987. Special features which would be lost forever include virgin valley bottom forest, natural year round clear flowing streams, at least two spectacular waterfalls, and a pristine wilderness corridor approach to the popular world class mountaineering destination of Grainger Peak.

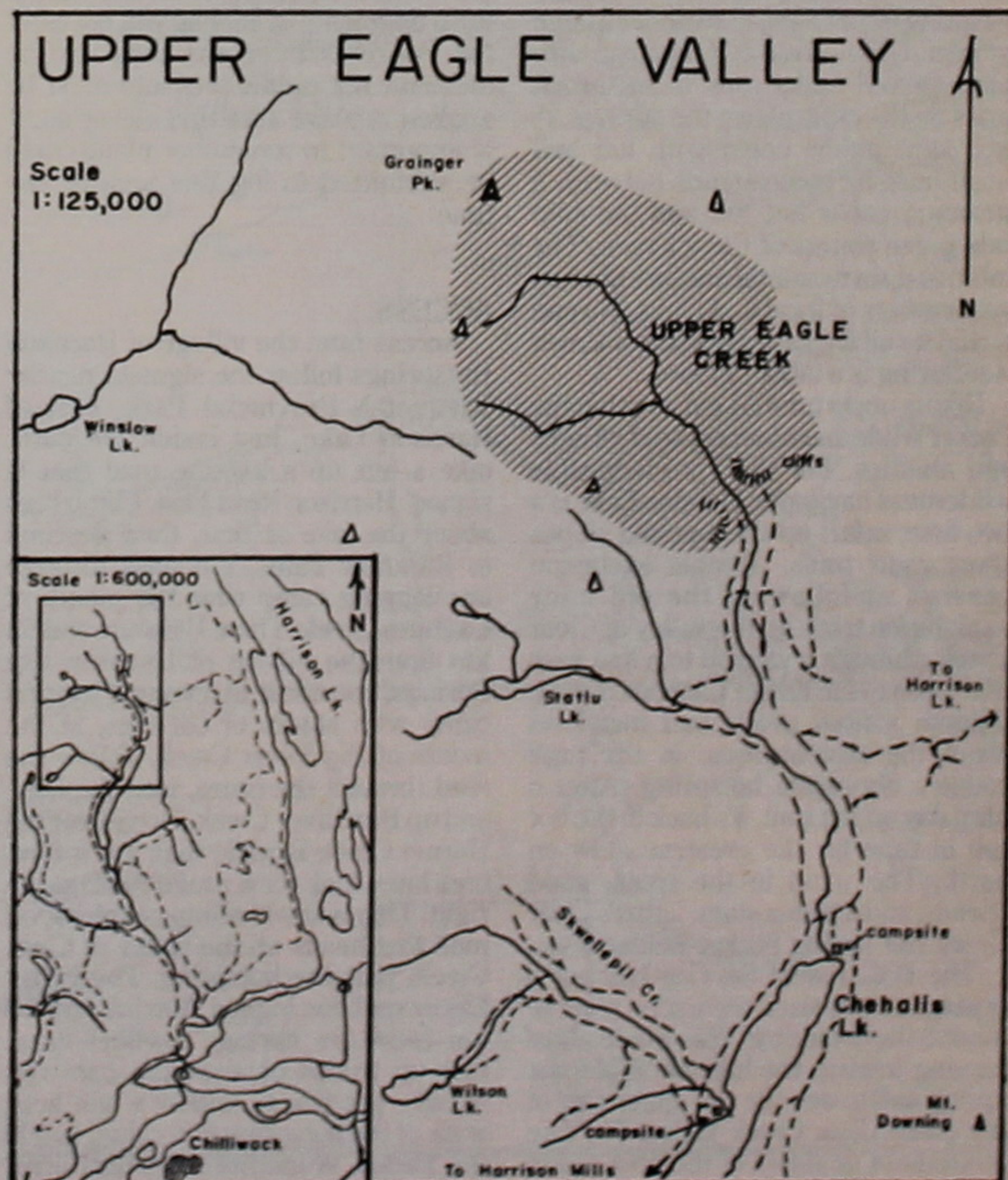
The old growth forest remnant at the top of Eagle Valley is essential habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, possibly including the elusive Spotted Owl. Official sightings of this species, one of the rarest in North America, were recorded in 1985 and 1986 at nearby Chehalis Lake. In the spring of 1987, a PWC expedition heard a Spotted Owl again at the Lake. Since this bird requires undisturbed old growth forest for its home, it would not be surprising if the ancient stands in Upper Eagle Valley still harbours a few Spotted Owls. The area has never been checked for this owl, yet at this moment Canadian Forest Products bulldozers are racing to build a road into the valley, to remove its trees before the public is alerted to the issue. The Pocket Wilderness Coalition requested a 2-year deferral of

logging in Upper Eagle, to allow time for recreation and wildlife impact studies, but was flatly turned down by Maple Ridge Forest District. Your support is urgently needed now to lobby for the protection of this priceless wilderness heritage.

ACCESS

Drive east on the Lougheed Highway to the Sasquatch Inn at Harrison Mills, and turn left here at the sign directing traffic to the Hemlock Valley Ski area. Take the first left on the gravel logging road leading past the Canadian Forest Products logging headquarters. Follow the main logging road 23 miles to the Forest Service campsite turnoff at the north end of Chehalis Lake. Make sure to make a right hand turn just past the bridge over Statlu Creek, 9 miles up the logging road from Harrison Mills. Beyond the north end of Chehalis Lake a sturdy 2-wheel drive truck or 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Stay on the main logging road for six km past the above mentioned campsite turnoff, cross the bridge over Upper Eagle Creek, and take the first road to the right. Follow this road to the end and you have arrived at the southern end of the Upper Eagle Creek Pocket Wilderness.

Topographic Map References
 1:50,000 92G/8-Stave Lake 92G/a-Stave River 92H/5-Harrison Lake 92H/12-Mount Urquart





On the trail to Clear Creek Hot Springs.

Photo: Ken Lay

PROPOSED: CLEAR CREEK HOTSPRINGS POCKET WILDERNESS



Hotsprings heaven.

Photo: Dave Markowski

DESCRIPTION

How about a Pocket Wilderness with hot and cold running water? Clear Creek Hot Spring is not the only hot spring in the Vancouver-Fraser Valley region, but it is the last remaining wilderness hot spring. Old growth forest with its thick carpet of bunch berry and moss surrounds the rocky clearing where the hot spring issues forth from under a large boulder. Gnarled old cedars point with wind carved spike tops to mountain goats on the cliffs above the springs. A well kept public cabin with loft and wood burning stove stands between a steaming cedar hot tub and the cold jade green waters of Clear Creek. The cabin and surrounding area are kept up by members of local 4x4 clubs. No one is paid for all the hard work. Clear Creek Hot Spring is a labour of love.

Hiking opportunities exist within the Pocket Wilderness for people of all ages and abilities. For the knowledgeable wilderness navigator, Hoodoo Lake is a two hour safari up the forested slopes along game trails. Another excursion consists of following the old mine exploration track up the valley of Clear Creek, through a canyon to a low pass that leads to the Fraser Canyon country. Seldom visited peaks and meadows await the adventurous, in the high country above the hot spring. After a hard day on the trail, it's back to the hot tub in time for the greatest show on earth. The wind in the trees, good friends, and a billion stars... that's Clear Creek Hot Spring Pocket Wilderness.

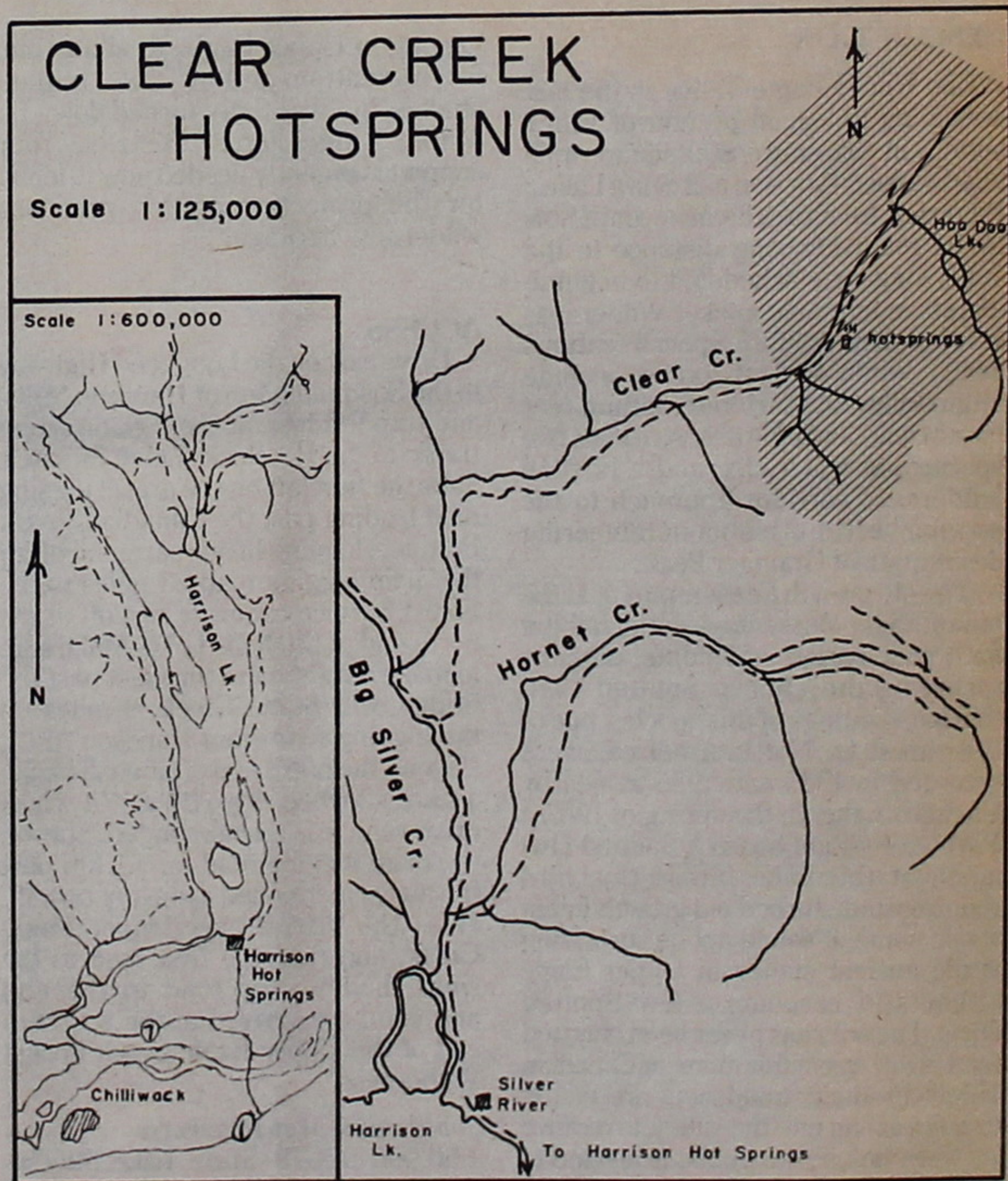
The B.C. Forest Service has put a postage stamp sized recreation reserve around the hot spring. This would allow logging to strip the hillside above the spring and to denude the upper part of the entire Clear Creek Valley. The rare wilderness qualities of the area would be wiped out. In fact the spring itself might be impacted by mudslides from

above and by flash flooding caused by clearcutting the upper valley. We have seen such things happen before.

For the moment, Clear Creek Hot Spring Pocket Wilderness is in no danger from logging. However, the lower part of the Clear Creek Road is being widened and upgraded in preparation for clearcut logging the lower valley. Road upgrading or logging will not enter the Pocket Wilderness area for the moment, but public pressure must be applied to make sure they never do. It is important to remember plans could be submitted to log this area at any time.

ACCESS

Access from the village of Harrison Hot Springs follows the signs to nearby Sasquatch Provincial Park, east of Harrison Lake. Just inside the park, take a left up a logging road that is signed Harrison Road East. Climb high above the lake at first, then descend to Rainbow Falls. You pass through one logging camp near the mouth of Cogburn Creek. Then, 1½ hours and 53 km from the village of Harrison Hot Springs, you come to a second logging camp with stacks of cut logs, at the mouth of Big Silver Creek. Follow the road through the camp, past the logs, and up Big Silver Creek. Drive over the Hornet Creek Bridge, then a few minutes later, look for a rough road on the right. This is an old mining exploration road that heads up the valley of Clear Creek, past the hot spring. The valley has never been logged. You are now 10 km from the spring. 2-wheel drive pick-up trucks or skookum cars can usually get you to within a one hour walk of the hot spring and cabin, inside the Pocket Wilderness. 4-wheel drive vehicles may at times make it all the way.



PROPOSED: LINDEMAN-GREENDROP-FLORA LAKES POCKET WILDERNESS



Parks Branch preservation proposal or Forest Service logging proposal? ... Greendrop Lake in the Chilliwack valley faces an uncertain future.

Photo: Sherri Foy

DESCRIPTION

The Lindeman-Flora-Greendrop Pocket Wilderness is the most well used of the 20 Pocket Wildernesses highlighted in this newspaper. Three fish filled Lakes, two trails, room to roam and an excellent road right to the trail-head are some of the reasons for this area's great popularity. The main trail (recently upgraded under the supervision of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC) winds through virgin forest of different tree size, type and age. An hour of easy hiking, well suited to young families, brings you to trout-dimpled Lindeman Lake. Parties looking for a longer hike may continue along the well cleared and marked trail for another two hours to Greendrop Lake. This well built trail is an excellent way to experience the west coast jungle, without actually getting into hand-to-bush combat.

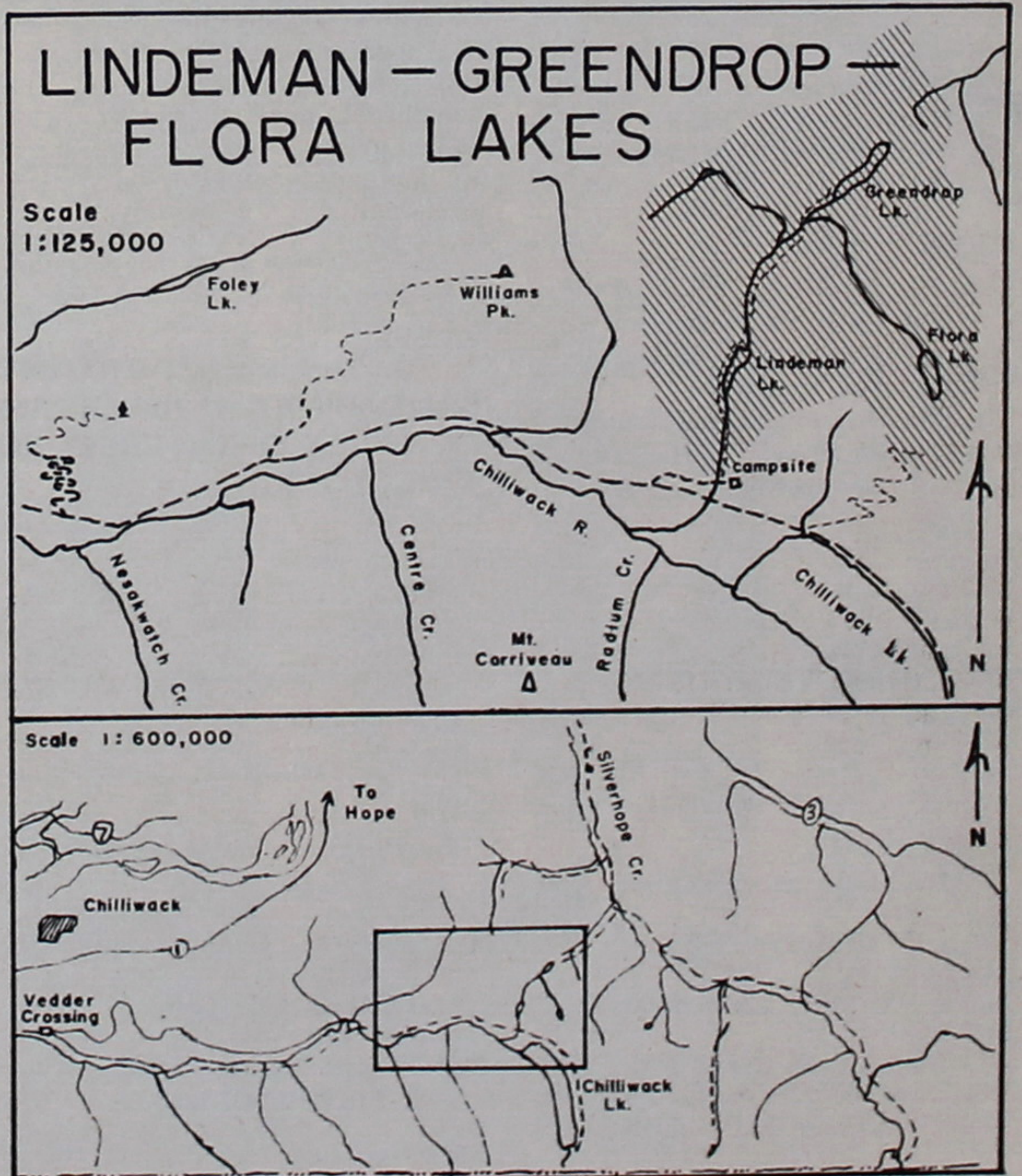
A second trail, for experienced hikers only, starts at the Chilliwack River Road and enters the Pocket Wilderness the hard way - up and over. Starting above the northwest corner of Chilliwack Lake, it zigzags up the slope to alpine country above Flora Lake. If you stare really hard you can just make out the fish leaping in the remote little lake below. A map, compass and back country know-how are mandatory for this trip. You have to navigate to the lake; the trail doesn't go all the way.

Lindeman-Flora-Greendrop Pocket Wilderness is a good choice for just about all types of wild country seekers, from young families on a day trip, to back country adventurers on safari. So,

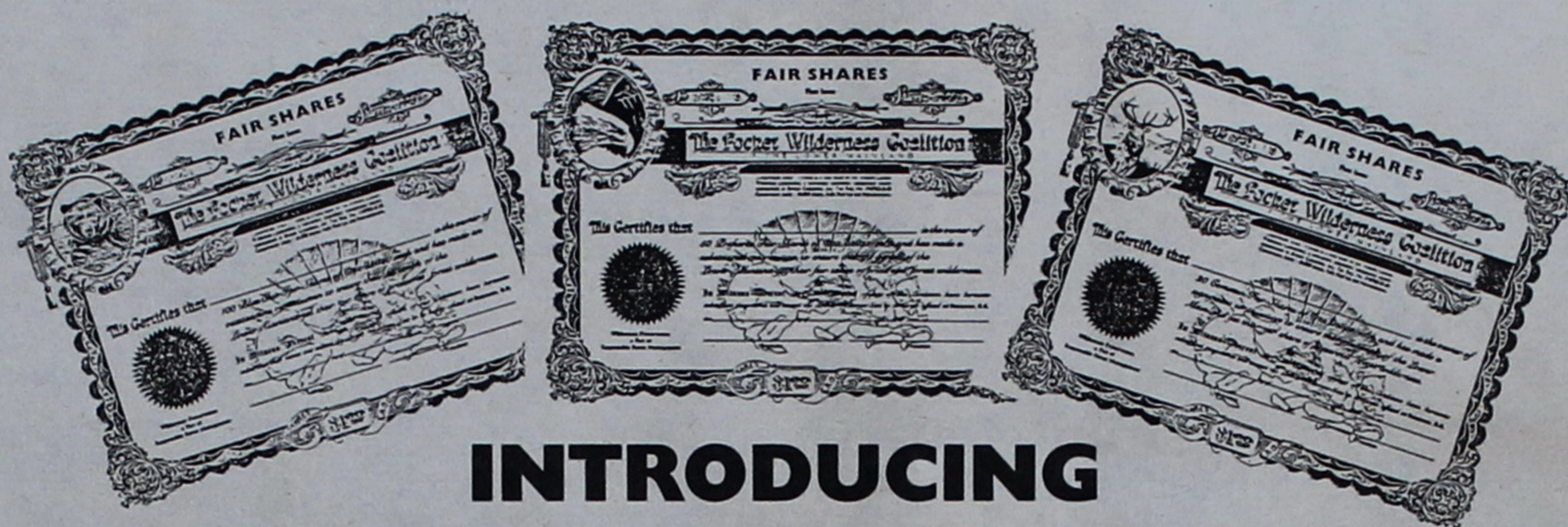
it may come as a surprise to hear that this Pocket Wilderness is threatened by logging. Chilliwack District Forest Service Office has logging plans on their map that show large clearcuts along the slopes above Greendrop Lake planned for 1989. If such logging were carried out it would destroy the best stands of old growth forest, degrade the wilderness quality, and create more pressure to log even deeper into this special wilderness retreat. The B.C. Parks Branch has submitted a park proposal that would protect this entire Pocket Wilderness, but the Forest Service is ignoring it. The Lindeman-Flora-Greendrop Pocket Wilderness proposal needs public support now to convince the B.C. government to accept the park proposal and reject the logging proposal. If you are one of the thousands who visit this area every year, please help save it now.

ACCESS

From Vedder Crossing, drive along the Chilliwack River road (paved most of the way, good gravel the rest) for about 24 miles, which is one mile short of Chilliwack Lake. Look for the sign that marks Post Creek Forest Service Recreation Site. Park your car at the side of the road and walk down to the picnic tables beside Post Creek. The main trail into the Pocket Wilderness is well marked, and follows Post Creek. About one mile further down the Chilliwack River road, just above the north west corner of Chilliwack Lake a second trail (for experienced hikers only) heads up to alpine country above Flora Lake.



Get Your FAIR SHARES



INTRODUCING

POCKET WILDERNESS COALITION OF THE LOWER MAINLAND

**WILDERNESS PRESERVATION
IS PART OF
RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**



1987 ISSUE OF FAIR SHARES

↑ ↑ ↑ FOR THE PEOPLE OF VANCOUVER AND THE FRASER VALLEY ↑ ↑ ↑

Forest Companies have been issuing shares for decades as a way of raising capital and power. The results on our forested wilderness heritage has been devastating. The Pocket Wilderness Coalition of the Lower Mainland (PWC) is working hard to see that a few pockets of local wilderness are handed down to our children. Can you help?

The PWC has issued "Fair Shares" in blocks of 20, 50 and 100. The shares come in three numbered, limited issues:

Common - \$20 ea., Preferred - \$50 ea., and Blue Chip - \$100 ea. Money donated for the share "purchase" is tax deductible and will go to PWC projects designed to bring about the necessary changes to ensure a secure wilderness user landbase that includes some for-

ested wilderness in each and every one of the local watersheds. Fair Share money will go towards getting a fair share of forested wilderness for our children. Projects in the planning stage for this year include improving a major 25 km trail affording recreational opp-

ortunities not found in even the local provincial parks, inventorying of old growth forest remaining in our Lower Mainland region, as well as continuing negotiations with Forest Service. "Fair Shares" holders will be kept up-to-date on progress, be considered lifetime members of the PWC and will have the satisfaction of knowing they acted when action was needed the most.

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
Fair Shares are suitable for framing.
Display them with pride.

★★★ IMPORTANT WARNING ★★★

B.C. CABINET MINISTERS SHOULD CHECK THIS WEEK'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST RULES BEFORE PURCHASING THIS STOCK.



Here is my tax deductible donation. I am in favour of preserving Pocket Wilderness areas in our local watersheds for all generations to come. Please send me my Fair Shares Certificates.

- 20 Common Shares - \$20 (500 Certificates issued)
- 50 Preferred Shares - \$50 (200 Certificates issued)
- 100 Blue Chip Shares - \$100 (100 Certificates issued)
- I wish to make a tax deductible donation under \$20 and also want to be placed on the Pocket Wilderness Coalition mailing list.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal Code _____

Please send donation, cheque or money order to: Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Pocket Wilderness Project, 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2

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