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TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO

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OREGON'S HIDDEN WILDERNESS

WITHIN THE WILLAMETTE AND MT. HOOD NATIONAL FORESTS



CENTRAL CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
P. O. BOX 731, SALEM, OREGON 97308

A HIKER'S GUIDE TO

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Beargrass

All work on this Guide was donated by private individuals. It is hoped that the money generated from the sale of this Guide will cover printing costs and, perhaps, contribute something toward future revisions.

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Many people contributed to the production of the Hidden Wilderness Trail Guide. People hiked trails and wrote descriptions; people provided photographs, contributed editorial skills and research efforts. All these people deserve thanks. However, the dedication of this guide we reserve for Rose Pleydell to provide some paltry compensation for the hours upon hours and special skills she contributed to the preservation of the Hidden Wilderness.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.	7
ABOUT THIS GUIDE.	8
MAPS – An observation.	8
VICINITY MAP.	10
NORTHERN APPROACHES	11
# 1. Silver King Trail #546.	12
2. Bagby Trail #544 (Bagby Hot Springs Trail).	13
3. Pansy Lake Trail #551.	14
4. Bull-of-the-Woods Trail #550.	15
5. Dickey Creek Trail #553	16
6. Elk Lake Trail #559 to Battle Creek Shelter.	17
7. Welcome Lakes Trail #554	18
8. Mother Lode Trail #558	18
9. Schreiner Peak Trail #555	19
10. Geronimo Trail #557	19
11. Twin Lakes Trail #573	22
A NOTE ON WILDERNESS USE.	22
SOUTHERN APPROACHES	23
#12. Elk Lake Trail #3371 (Elk Lake to Battle Creek)	24
13. Bagby Trail #3370	24
14. Battle Axe Trail #3340	25
15. French Ridge Trail #3349	26
POLITICAL REALITIES OF WILDERNESS	27
WESTERN APPROACHES.	29
#16. Little North Fork Mining Trail (F.S. Road S80).	30
17. Whetstone Mountain Trail #3369 (West approach to Summit)	32
18. Whetstone Mountain Trail #3369 (East approach to Summit)	33
19. Ogle Mountain Trail #3357	34
20. Henline Mountain Trail #3352	35
21. Nasty Rock Trail #3356.	36
22. French Creek Trail #3349.	37
ADDITIONAL TRAILS.	38
#23. Burnt Mountain – Nasty Rock Trail (BLM).	38
24. Burnt Mountain – Whetstone Mountain Trail	38
AS WE WALK THESE TRAILS.	39

HIKER'S GUIDE TO A HIDDEN WILDERNESS

INTRODUCTION

This preliminary Trail Guide is intended to acquaint you with the proposed Hidden Wilderness. This 49,000-acre area lies athwart the boundary between the Willamette and the Mount Hood National Forests. It includes the 10,200-acre Bull-of-the-Woods Scenic Area and additional scenic features, such as: Battle Axe Mountain, Whetstone Mountain, the Gold Creek Basin, the Hot Springs Fork of the Collawash River and Dickey Creek canyon. Except for the Scenic Area, all the land in the proposed wilderness is subject to future roading and logging, and even the Scenic Area may be declassified by administrative action and put to these uses. The proposed Hidden Wilderness is all that remains of a 260,000-acre wildland tract which existed in the region as little as thirty years ago.

This Guide is published by a group of conservationists dedicated to the preservation of the region. Those interested in joining the preservation effort may write to:

Central Cascades Conservation Council
P. O. Box 731, Salem, Oregon 97308

Friends of Bull-of-the-Woods
130 N.W. 114th Street, Portland, Oregon 97229

Portland Advocates of Wilderness
1435 N.W. 30th Street, Portland, Oregon 97210

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Descriptions of the trails in this guide were made on the basis of references cited. "Survey" or "Partial Survey", followed by a date, indicate when the trail was surveyed on foot by one of the authors of the guide. The compiler's knowledge is incomplete, a defect for which we ask forbearance. We would appreciate reports on current trail conditions and unique features not covered by the text. The authors welcome any criticism of errors and discrepancies. However, the user accepts responsibility for himself in the wilderness. No guide book is infallible. The land and man-made features on it change.

The trail descriptions that follow are merely that. No attempt is made to plan trips for wilderness visitors. We suggest that the user first consult the map for interesting ideas, note the number of the trail or trails and then use the Table of Contents to find the appropriate trail description.

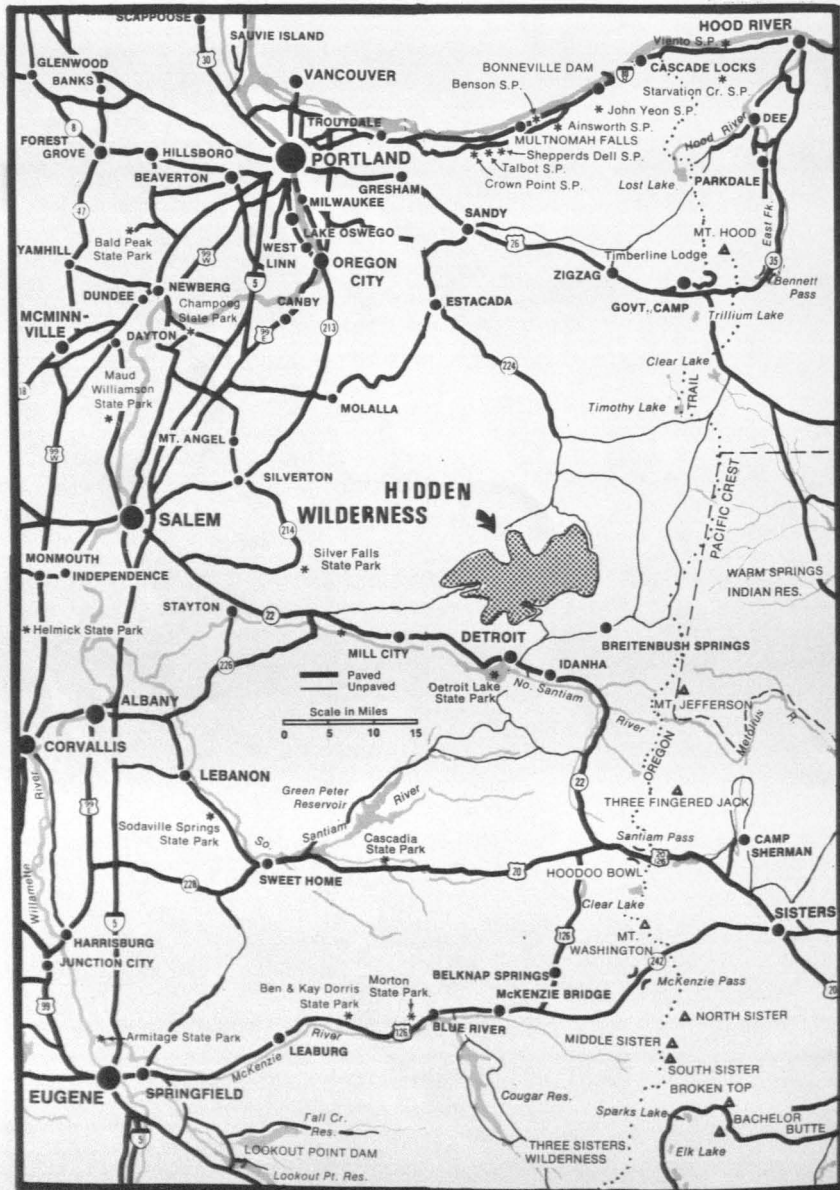
MAPS

The proposed wilderness is covered by U.S.G.S. Battle Axe and Mill City Quadrangle Maps. The scale is 1:62,500 and the contour interval is 80 feet. These maps should be supplemented with the latest recreation maps of the Mount Hood and the Willamette National Forests, since all U.S.G.S. maps are out of date in regard to current road and trail locations. A Forest Service brochure on the Bull-of-the-Woods Scenic Area includes a rough sketch of the major trails in that part of the proposed wilderness. A map detailing current road and trail information accompanies this guide.



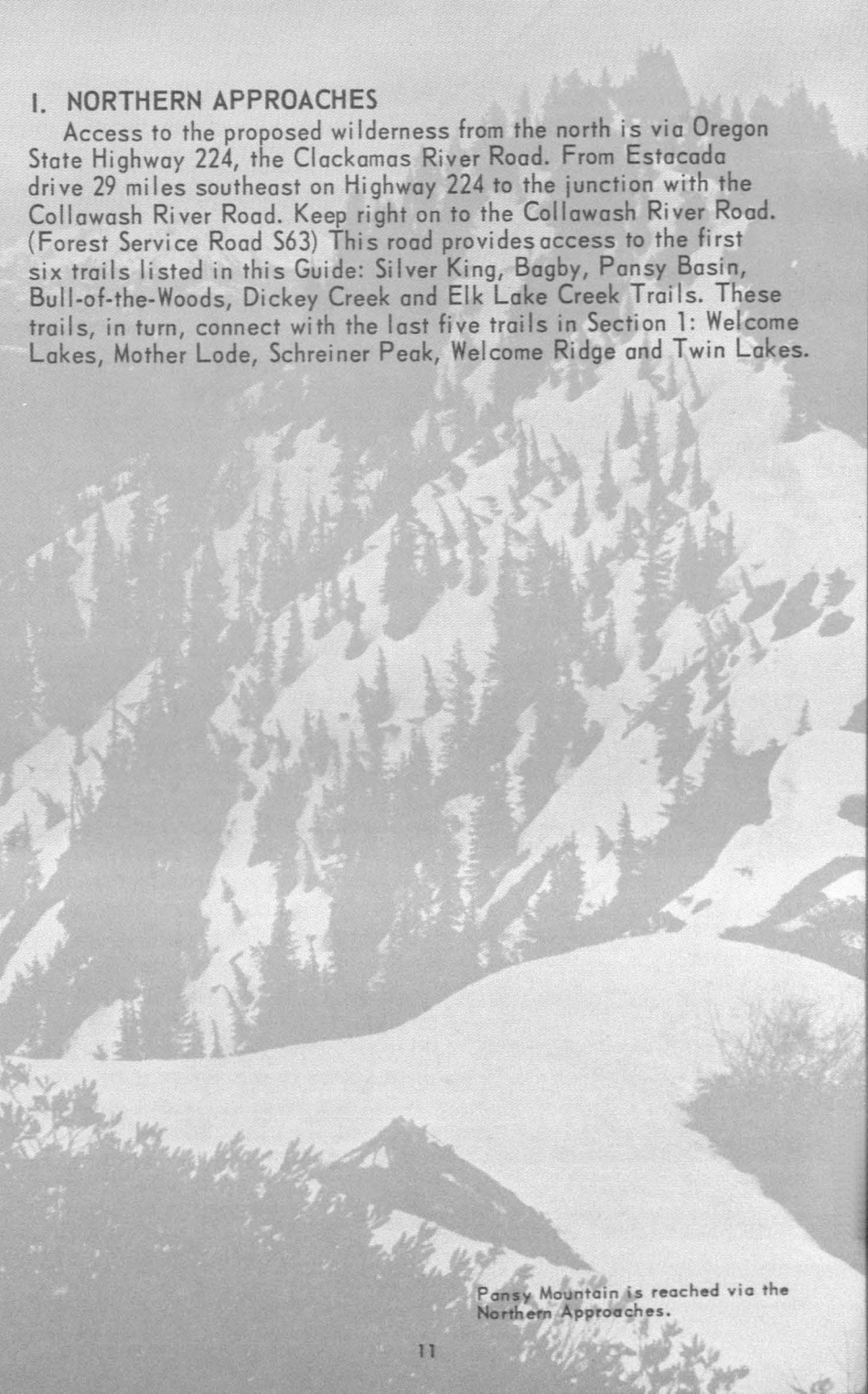
Henline Falls, the first of eight spectacular falls on Henline Creek.

HIDDEN WILDERNESS VICINITY MAP



I. NORTHERN APPROACHES

Access to the proposed wilderness from the north is via Oregon State Highway 224, the Clackamas River Road. From Estacada drive 29 miles southeast on Highway 224 to the junction with the Collawash River Road. Keep right on to the Collawash River Road. (Forest Service Road S63) This road provides access to the first six trails listed in this Guide: Silver King, Bagby, Pansy Basin, Bull-of-the-Woods, Dickey Creek and Elk Lake Creek Trails. These trails, in turn, connect with the last five trails in Section 1: Welcome Lakes, Mother Lode, Schreiner Peak, Welcome Ridge and Twin Lakes.



Pansy Mountain is reached via the Northern Approaches.

1. SILVER KING TRAIL #546

This trail provides access to Whetstone and Silver King Mountains. It traverses the ridge between the two peaks along a scenic route which affords magnificent views of the rugged country to the south and an occasional glimpse of the heavily clearcut Collawash River drainage. After the first mile, there is little water, so plan to carry a canteen. Some water can be found at the Silver King saddle near the junction with Trail #544.

Five miles south of the junction of the Collawash and Clackamas River Roads, turn west (right) onto the heavily traveled road (S70) which leads to Peg Leg Falls Forest Camp and the Bagby Trail. About 1.5 miles beyond Peg Leg Falls Camp turn south (left) onto Road S738. Follow this to its junction with S741. Stay left on S738, which ends abruptly at the base of a steep ridge. The trail, poorly marked with an aluminum sign begins on the east side of the road about one hundred fifty yards from the road's end.

Silver King Trail #546 drops through a clearcut to a flat beneath Whetstone Mountain. After swinging west, it contours past some swampy ponds and climbs toward the ridge. At 1.2 miles, Whetstone Creek is crossed and, .2 mile further on, the trail reaches the main ridge and a junction with the trail up Whetstone Mountain.

For a side trip up Whetstone Mountain, requiring 900 feet of climb, go west on the well-defined trail for about a mile ending with several switchbacks to the top. The view is well worth the effort.

To go on to Silver King Mountain, keep east (left) on Trail #546, which drops to the south side of the ridge and enters a magnificent Douglas fir forest. At 2.1 miles, is a junction with a trail to the Little North Fork Mining Trail. (See #16) Beyond this junction, the trail enters a young fir forest and returns to the ridge top. The trail now traverses a long rolling saddle through a pine forest and switchbacks up to the nose of the ridge. (3.2 miles) It then contours and climbs along the south side of the ridge. At 4 miles the tread becomes indistinct for a short way after switching back to the left. The trail soon switchbacks right, and then comes to a junction with the Bagby Trail (#544) at about 4.2 miles. From here Bagby Hot Springs, Twin Lakes and Elk Lake may be reached. To climb Silver King Mountain continue east along the ridge and climb 700 feet to the summit - about .5 mile.

Reference: Forest Service Survey Log,
1972.

Partial Survey: 1970 by Corkran

2. BAGBY TRAIL #544 (BAGBY HOT SPRINGS TRAIL)

Old growth forests, a beautiful stream, trail and vistas characterize the Bagby Trail. Popular Bagby Hot Springs is reached via this route.

Bagby Trail starts at Peg Leg Forest Camp. The trailhead is reached by the Collawash River Road and S70. (See Silver King Trail.) The first 1.5 miles are heavily traveled. The hot springs attract thousands annually. In the 1930's the CCC built a bathhouse which is now so heavily used that it is being destroyed. Camping has been forbidden in the area. The forest floor, once scraped bare by horse and human, has begun to recover. The old guard station, built in about 1915, is an historic landmark. Here, mice scurrying about in the rafters, used to shake dust down on wakeful forest guards waiting to be called out on lightning fires. Huge, old firs rise here and there about the building and the old campground. The 560 acres surrounding the hot springs have been designated as Forest Service Research Natural Area for the study of mature old growth Douglas fir.

From the guard station and the old campground just to the south, the Bagby Trail takes off beyond the remains of a huge decayed log. It crosses Shower and Spray Creeks, where early travelers were doused by the falls. Soon the trail begins to climb away from the still woods. Yearnings of generations of lonely forest guards and trail crews are commemorated by the names of the streams crossed: Doris, Ora, Alice, Betty. The forest here is sparse hemlock, white pine and Douglas fir growing in poor, rocky soil. Camping is available at Betty Creek (4.8 miles) where the trail returns to the Hot Springs Fork. Here water ouzel and Harlequin ducks may be seen, the latter in early spring. The trail crosses Hot Springs Fork in a ford at about 5.6 miles. This ford is extremely dangerous in periods of high water. Hunt for log jams on which to cross, or turn back.

The Bagby Trail continues up and away from the stream. At about 7.5 miles, is the junction with the Silver King Lake spur trail. The main trail switchbacks steeply up to Silver King Saddle (about 8.2 miles from the trailhead) where Mount Jefferson appears surprisingly close to the south. Here is the junction with Silver King Trail (#546) and connections to Elk Lake, Twin Lakes and Whetstone Mountain.

References: Mount Hood N.F. trail log 1942; William H. Moir, Chris Moser and Jerry F. Franklin, "Bagby Research Natural Area," Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Oregon 1973. Survey: 1953, 1956, 1958 by Corkran.

(Cont.) →

The Bagby Foundation is a group of conservationists concerned about the preservation of the historical character and natural charm of the Bagby Hot Springs Area. Their address is:

Friends of the Bagby Hot Springs Foundation
P. O. Box 42221, Portland, Oregon 97242

The Harlequin duck along with the western spotted frog and northern spotted owl are rare, threatened or otherwise endangered. These species all make the Hidden Wilderness their home.

3. PANSY LAKE TRAIL #551

Pansy Lake Trail leads to Pansy Basin, Pansy Lake and climbs to the saddle between Mother Lode and Bull-of-the-Woods Mountain where it joins the Mother Lode Trail #558.

Pansy Lake Trail is reached via the Collawash River Road and roads S708 and S739. Leave the Collawash River Road on S708 approximately 6.5 miles beyond the Collawash-Clackamas Roads junction. Follow S708 to its junction with the Pansy Basin Trail just before the road crosses Pansy Creek.

The trail climbs gently along a rocky tread filled with water in the spring and sometimes obscured by thimbleberry in summer. At .8 mile is a junction with the Dickey Lake Trail (#549) which climbs 1,200 feet over a rocky tread and 1.6 miles to the Bull-of-the-Woods Trail. Keep right on the main trail to Pansy Lake. (1.3 miles, camping) Pansy Basin was burned over years ago, and young trees are now crowding the once open meadow. The trail skirts the northern and western edges of the lake and proceeds to switchback steeply to the saddle above Pansy Basin. Here it joins the Mother Lode Trail (2.1 miles) with connections to Bull-of-the-Woods, Twin Lakes and Battle Creek Shelter. A pleasant loop hike may be made by continuing on to the Bull-of-the-Woods Mountain via the Mother Lode and Welcome Lakes Trails, returning to the roadhead by way of Bull-of-the-Woods Trail (#550) and Dickey Lake Trail. (#549) (Distance about 8 miles, climb about 1,700 feet.)

References: Mount Hood Forest trail logs,
1942 and 1973.
Survey: 1953, 1960 by Corkron.

4. BULL-OF-THE-WOODS TRAIL #550

Bull-of-the-Woods Trail leads to Bull-of-the-Woods Lookout. One of the most scenic viewpoints in the southern Mount Hood National Forest.

From the Collawash River Road take S708 (See Pansy Trail access description.) to its junction with S739. Go left on S708 and follow signs to Bull-of-the-Woods past confusing spur roads to a parking place and trail signs at the end of the road in the upper reaches of a clearcut.

The trail enters dense forest, passes a signboard and registration box, and continues up gentle slopes through mixed hemlock and silver fir. After skirting a bog, it climbs the north shoulder of North Dickey Peak and then contours along the mountain side about 400 feet below the summit. At 1 mile Terrace Springs is passed on the downhill side of the trail. The trail drops to the saddle between North and South Dickey Peaks and then climbs gradually to a junction with Dickey Lake Trail (#549) at 2 miles. (See Pansy Basin Trail (#551) for Dickey Lake Trail.) The Bull-of-the-Woods Trail now climbs a long switchback to the backbone of the ridge and ascends through alternating rocky meadows and patches of trees. Mount Hood appears to the north and impressive Dickey Creek valley drops away below. Ahead, occasional breaks in the trees afford a glimpse of the lookout tower. At the last saddle on this ridge, before the final pitch to the lookout, a faint trail leads east, down to an old mine shaft where water is available. The trail climbs steeply up the last 100 yards through huckleberry brush. Mount Jefferson comes into view on the southeast horizon, towering above waves of green ridges. From the top, (3.1 miles) clear days afford magnificent views in every direction. Do not camp in the vicinity of the lookout tower for the fragile vegetation has already been heavily impacted by hikers.

From the summit of Bull-of-the-Woods, Welcome Lakes Trail (#554) runs south to Welcome Lakes and connections to Lake Lenore, Big Slide Lake and Twin Lakes. (See below, Welcome Lakes Trail.) The Mother Lode Trail also connects here. (See description page 18.)

References: Mount Hood Forest trail log,
1942
Survey: 1973 by Corkron.

During the Willamette National Forest land use planning process, ninety-six per cent of the public comments were in favor of wilderness roadless preservation.

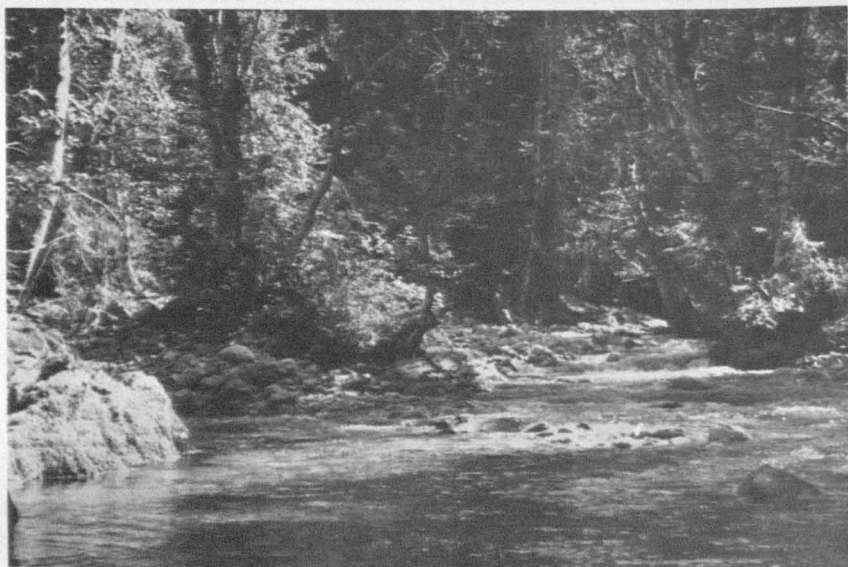
5. DICKEY CREEK TRAIL #553

This seldom-used trail passes through beautiful stands of virgin forest and under the cliffs of Big Slide Mountain on its way to Big Slide Lake and a junction with Schreiner Peak Trail.

Take S708 from its junction with the Collawash River Road. Go about 3 miles to a junction with S708A. Take S708A to its end, where the Dickey Creek Trail begins in a clearcut.

The Dickey Creek Trail follows a logging spur across the top of the clearcut. It drops through slumping, dissected topography to a pond and meadow (1.3 miles) and meanders on, beside the creek. (camping) (WARNING: heavy use and poor sanitation practices at Big Slide Lake upstream may have polluted Dickey Creek. Boil water before drinking.) Beyond the crossing, the trail switchbacks up on the east side of the canyon. At 4.4 miles, a stream is crossed near an old campsite – sometimes called Dickey Camp. With another 2 miles of steep climbing, a spur trail to Big Slide Lake is reached. The lake lies 200 yards north. (camping) The trail continues climbing to its end at Schreiner Peak Trail. (#555, 5.9 miles) From here, Schreiner Peak Trail connects with trails to Lake Lenore, Welcome Lakes, Bull-of-the-Woods and Twin Lakes. (See Schreiner Peak Trail #555.)

References: Mount Hood Forest trail log, 1973; "In Praise of Dickey Creek", *Earthwatch Oregon*, Newsletter of the Oregon Environmental Council (Jan. 1975, p. 20)
Partial Survey: 1973 by Corkran.



Ford across Battle Creek near confluence with Mother Lode Creek.

6. ELK LAKE TRAIL #559 TO BATTLE CREEK SHELTER

This trail runs from Upper Collawash River along Elk Lake Creek to Battle Creek Shelter. The trail continues to Elk Lake (See below), but only a portion between the Collawash and Battle Creek Shelter is described here. This trail has the easiest grade of any in the Bull-of-the-Woods area. Stream-crossings - there are three - can be hazardous, especially if the water is high.

Follow Collawash River Road (S63) about 13 miles beyond the Collawash-Clackamas River to its junction with S760. Stay right on S63, which crosses the Collawash River just above the confluence of the East Fork and Elk Lake Creek. Keep left to the road-head in a large clearcut with a single large sugar pine tree left standing. (This pine is near the northern extremity of its natural range, and is thus somewhat unusual. Why it was spared is unclear. Hopefully, it will seed a portion of the clearcut so that the "intensively managed" forests of the future will be graced by its noble progeny.)

The Elk Lake Trail starts in this clearcut, passes a waterfall in the creek, crosses Pine Cone Creek and reaches a junction with the abandoned East Fork Way. (about 1.6 miles) (Wanderers wishing to explore this old, steep trail to Janus Butte are advised to carry water. Janus Butte is one of the driest portions of the proposed wilderness area. Views from the top are limited by rhododendron and spindly hemlock stands.)

Elk Lake Trail proceeds to a junction with Welcome Lakes Trail (#554, 2 miles), crosses Elk Lake Creek and recrosses it at 3.7 miles. At 4.9 miles, Battle Creek is crossed and Battle Creek Shelter comes into view at 5 miles. (camping) Welcome Lakes, Bull-of-the-Woods and Twin Lakes may be reached from here after much climbing. To Elk Lake it is 4 miles and a thousand feet in elevation gain.

References: Mount Hood trail log (1942)
with 1974 notes: *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*,
Portland, Oregon; 1969, pp. 120-121.
Partial Survey: 1953, 1956 by Corkran.

The Hidden Wilderness is an excellent sample of old Cascades glaciation. Examples of rock polish, tarns, moraine lakes, glacial cirques and valleys can be observed near Bull-of-the-Woods Mountain, Battle Axe Mountain and Beachie Mountain.

7. WELCOME LAKES TRAIL #554

This trail connects Bull-of-the-Woods Lookout with the upper Collawash River via Welcome Lakes. It intersects with numerous other trails which give access to Big Slide Lake, Lake Lenore, Welcome Lakes, Twin Lakes and Battle Creek Shelter.

From the summit of Bull-of-the-Woods, (See Bull-of-the-Woods Trail #550) Welcome Lakes Trail drops south through woods to the junction with Mother Lode Trail, (.7 mile) which may be taken to Twin Lakes or Pansy Basin. After another .2 mile, the Schreiner Peak Trail #555 is reached, which should be taken if headed toward Lake Lenore, Big Slide Lake, Dickey Creek or West Lake. Welcome Lakes Trail, however, continues down a ridge to another junction with the old Welcome Ridge Trail, now called Geronimo Trail by the Forest Service. (1.8 miles) The trail next switchbacks east (down) to a junction with Welcome Lakes Way Trail #556. (See Schreiner Peak Trail, below.) and proceeds to the largest Welcome Lake (camping) at 2.5 miles. From here, the trail quickly descends to 1,600 feet in 2.7 miles to reach the Elk Lakes Trail #559 (See above) at 5.2 miles.

References: Mount Hood Forest trail logs, 1942, *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*, pp. 120-121. Survey: 1953, 1956, 1973 by Corkron.

8. MOTHER LODGE TRAIL #558

Mother Lode Trail provides the most direct link between Bull-of-the-Woods Lookout and Twin Lakes. On the way it passes through rock slides, marshes, ponds and some magnificent old growth forest.

The trail begins at its junction with Welcome Lakes Trail. (See above) It drops to Mother Lode Saddle and a junction with the Pansy Basin Trail (1.2 miles) and then turns south to cross the two forks of upper Mother Lode Creek. A modern guide indicates a campsite at the crossing of the north fork. (about 1.7 miles) The old (1942) trail log hints that, late in a dry year, water might not be available here. The trail descends toward the bottom of the canyon where the Twin Lakes Trail #573, takes off to the south (right), with Upper Twin Lake about 2.9 miles distant. The Mother Lode Trail continues descending past the Porcupine Mine site (3.6 miles) and crosses Mother Lode Creek at 5.2 miles. Shortly thereafter, the lower end of Welcome Ridge Trail (Geronimo Trail) is reached. (5.3 miles) From here it is another half mile to Battle Creek (no bridge), Battle Creek Shelter and Elk Lake Trail #559. (5.8 miles)

References: Mount Hood trail log (1942) and notes ca. 1974) Lowes; *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*; pp. 120-121 Survey: 1974 by George.

9. SCHREINER PEAK TRAIL #555

Schreiner Peak Trail is a key trail for access to the numerous lakes on the east side of Bull-of-the-Woods Lookout. It is reached by way of Bull-of-the-Woods and Welcome Lakes Trails and also via the Dickey Creek Trail. (See above) The last part of the trail is not maintained. Trail mileages are rough estimates.

Schreiner Peak Trail begins at its junction with Welcome Lakes Trail south of Bull-of-the-Woods. It switchbacks down to a junction with Dickey Creek Trail (See above) at about .3 mile. (Take Dickey Creek Trail if headed toward Big Slide Lake or Road S708A.) Schreiner Peak Trail continues on to a junction (about .5 mile) with West Lake Way Trail #556. West Lake Way leads to West Lake spur (.2 mile) and on to Welcome Lakes Trail at Welcome Lakes. (1.2 miles) Beyond the West Lake Way junction, the trail begins to climb Big Slide Mountain through an old burn now covered by lodgepole pine. It soon veers around the mountain and drops to a notch between Big Slide and Knob Peak at about 2 miles. Here a well-traveled spur drops to Lake Lenore. Beyond the junction with this spur, the trail is no longer maintained. It contours around Knob Peak, strikes the west ridge of Schreiner Peak and ascends to the top along the ridge at approximately 3.5 miles from the beginning of the trail.

Partial Survey: 1953, 1973 by Corkran.

10. GERONIMO TRAIL #557

This is the most direct connecting link between Bull-of-the-Woods and Battle Creek Shelter. It is reached via Welcome Lakes Trail or Elk Lake Shelter.

From its junction with the Welcome Lakes Trail (See above) on the ridge southwest of Welcome Lakes, this trail drops with determination through forest and an old burn partially regenerated in bear grass. At 2 miles are the remains of an old cabin. The trail ends at its junction with Mother Lode Trail (2.2 miles) about .5 mile from Battle Creek Shelter. This trail is extremely steep at some points and is subject to erosion. Use care while descending and, if you have the time, take a different trail.

References: Mount Hood trail log (1942)
Lowe, *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*, pp. 120-121.
Survey: 1953 by Corkran, 1974 by George.

Twelve lakes dot the Hidden Wilderness. Fishing is excellent and catches include: golden, eastern brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout.

A panoramic view of the Hidden Wilderness from Pansy Mountain.

MOTHER LODE MOUNTAIN

SILVER KING MOUNTAIN

BATTLE AXE MOUNTAIN



11. TWIN LAKES TRAIL #573

Twin Lakes may be reached by this trail from either Mother Lode Trail (See above) or Bagby Trail #3370. (See below) Access is usually from Elk Lake via Bagby Springs Trail. (See Southern Approaches)

From its junction with the Bagby Spring Trail on the southern ridge of Silver King Mountain, the Twin Lakes Trail descends gently along an open east-running spur ridge. After a mile it turns north and switchbacks down steeply to Upper Twin Lake. This is a rough trail, with many ups and downs and some grades to 50%. (1.5 miles, camping) It then skirts the west edge of Upper Twin Lake, passes a spur trail to Lower Twin Lake, proceeds around a pond and climbs the lower slopes of Mother Lode Mountain. It then turns north and drops to Mother Lode Trail in the beautiful old growth forest near Porcupine Mine. (About 4.2 miles)

Survey: 1974 by Carlson and George.

A NOTE ON WILDERNESS USE

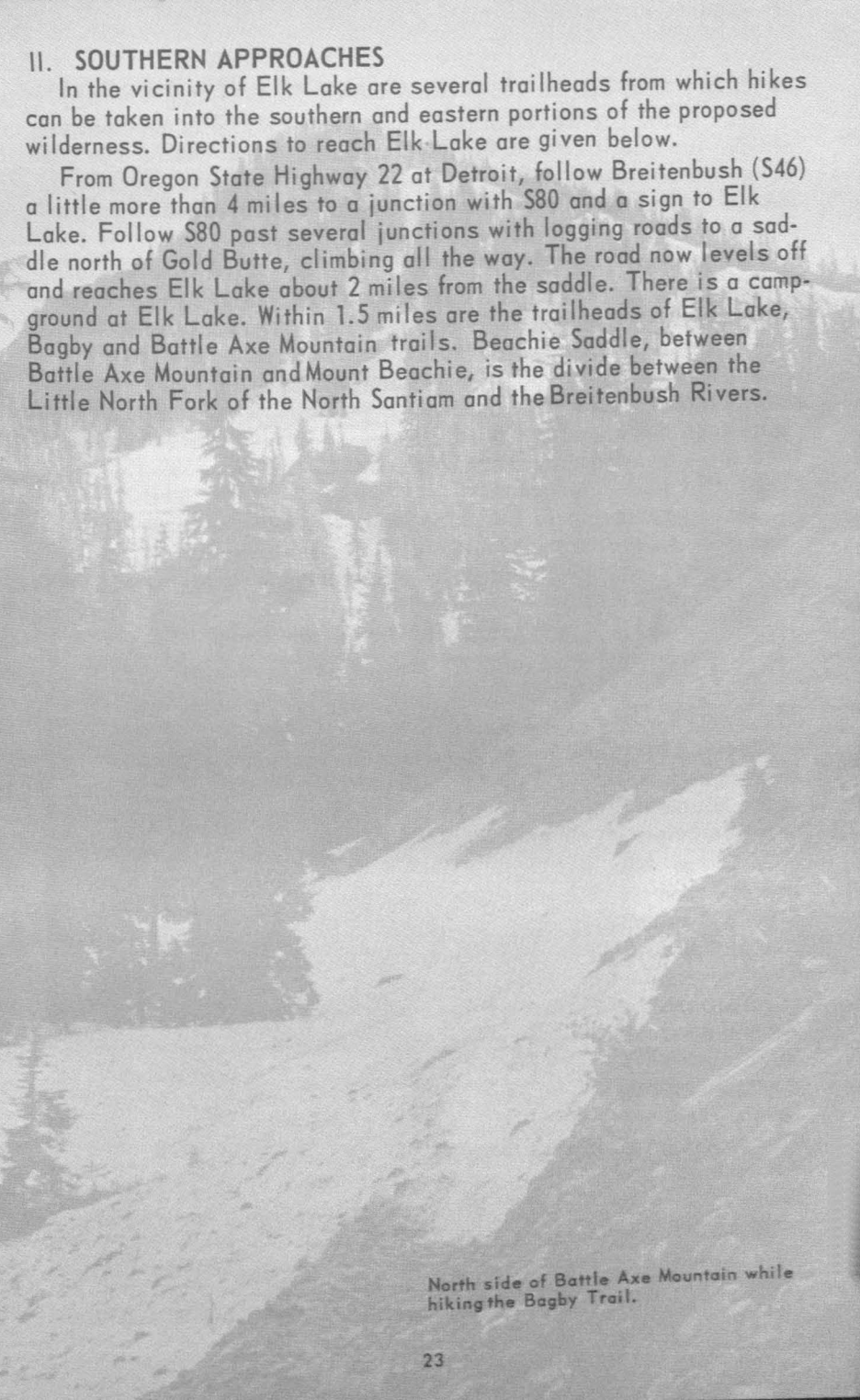
Wilderness is a fragile resource and the proposed hidden wilderness is no exception. Please make your impact minimal.

- Use established campsites wherever possible, but make sure your camp is more than one hundred feet away from bodies of water.
- Camp in lower forested areas or high on the rocks. Avoid fragile meadows and easily-trampled vegetation.
- The trenching and excavation of bed and tent sites is a destructive practice.
- Conserve wood by using only dead and down wood, building only small fires and using small stoves in alpine camps or where wood is scarce.
- Deposit fecal material more than one hundred feet from bodies of water after digging a hole six to eight inches deep. This should then be covered with loose dirt.
- Do not contaminate streams, lakes or snowfields. Keep wash water out of water bodies by washing more than one hundred feet from streams and draining wash water into absorbent soil or a fire site.
- Pack out ALL garbage, including leftover food, to avoid contaminating wildlife.
- Do not cut live trees or dead standing timber.
- Stay on trails and do not cut switchbacks.

II. SOUTHERN APPROACHES

In the vicinity of Elk Lake are several trailheads from which hikes can be taken into the southern and eastern portions of the proposed wilderness. Directions to reach Elk Lake are given below.

From Oregon State Highway 22 at Detroit, follow Breitenbush (S46) a little more than 4 miles to a junction with S80 and a sign to Elk Lake. Follow S80 past several junctions with logging roads to a saddle north of Gold Butte, climbing all the way. The road now levels off and reaches Elk Lake about 2 miles from the saddle. There is a campground at Elk Lake. Within 1.5 miles are the trailheads of Elk Lake, Bagby and Battle Axe Mountain trails. Beachie Saddle, between Battle Axe Mountain and Mount Beachie, is the divide between the Little North Fork of the North Santiam and the Breitenbush Rivers.



North side of Battle Axe Mountain while hiking the Bagby Trail.

12 ELK LAKE TRAIL #3371 (ELK LAKE TO BATTLE CREEK)

This is the southwestern portion of Trail #559. The northeastern section from Collawash River Road to Battle Creek Shelter has been described above. (See #6) This portion of the trail gives access to Mother Lode Trail, Welcome Lakes and Bull-of-the-Woods from Elk Lake.

Elk Lake Trail begins on road S80 about .2 mile after the road crosses Elk Lake Creek. After running for 2 miles over level terrain through an old growth forest, it drops to Battle Creek Shelter. (4 miles) From here, Bull-of-the-Woods, Twin Lakes and Welcome Lakes may be reached after climbs of 1,000 to 2,500 feet. Starting points for these trips are the Mother Lode Trail, which takes off northwest of the shelter. (See Trail #8) The Collawash River Road is 5 miles away to the northeast via Elk Lake Trail #559. (See Trail #6)

Survey: 1974 by Ambler, Coffel and George.

13. BAGBY TRAIL #3370

Besides being the most popular route into Twin Lakes, the Bagby Trail leads to paths to Silver King and Whetstone Mountain. It is the southern portion of Trail #544, the Bagby Trail, which it joins one mile before Silver King Saddle.

This trail begins at road S80 about .3 mile beyond the junction with the road to Elk Lake Campground. From here, Bagby Springs Trail switchbacks up to the ridge east of Battle Axe Mountain. It contours in a northerly direction around the headwaters of Battle Creek for the next two miles, ducks over to the west side of the ridge overlooking Battle Axe Creek, and then returns to the ridge top and a junction with Twin Lakes Trail, which starts here. (4.1 miles) (See #11, Twin Lakes Trail.) The trail now strikes out along the contour of the west slope of Silver King Mountain, reaching the saddle west of Silver King about 5.2 miles from the Elk Lake Road. Here is the junction with Bagby Trail #544 (north 7 miles to Bagby Hot Springs; 8.4 miles to Road S70) and Silver King Trail #546. (West 3.8 miles to Whetstone Mountain (approximate); 4.2 miles to Road S738.)

References: Lowes, *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*, pp. 118-119; Mount Hood trail Survey, 1973.

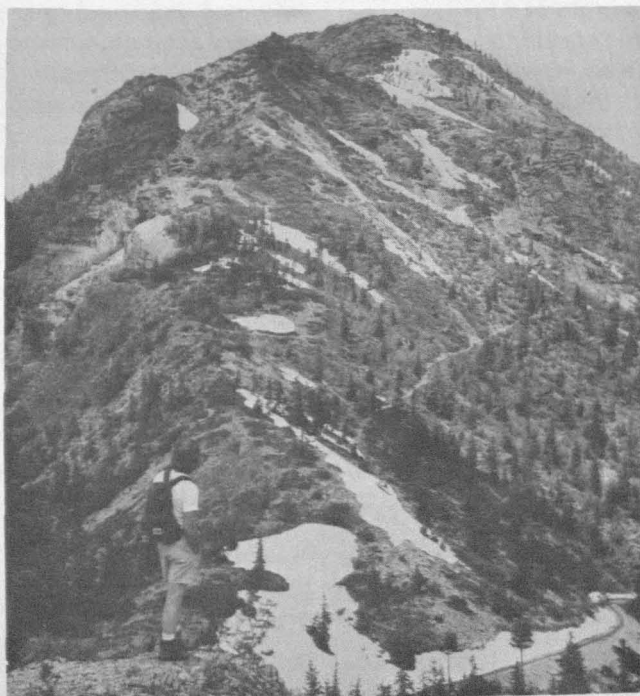
14. BATTLE AXE TRAIL #3340

This trail leads to the top of Battle Axe Mountain from which there are excellent views of the high Cascades.

Forest Road S80 beyond Elk Lake provides access to the Battle Axe Trail. The poor condition of this road makes it necessary to park short of the trailhead. Walk up the road to Beachie Saddle, where the trail takes off on the north side of the right of way. The trail switchbacks to the top of Battle Axe. (2 miles)

Under the proper conditions, Battle Axe may be climbed as part of a winter cross-country ski tour. From snowline on S80, ski along the road past Elk Lake to Beachie Saddle, or snow camp at Elk Lake and climb the next day. Leave skis at Beachie Saddle and follow the trail to the summit. The trail usually becomes lost in deep snow for the last mile. CAUTION: STAY AWAY FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN WHERE STEEP SLOPES AND ICE CREATE EXTREME HAZARDS. Exercise caution on top also, where cornices give way beneath the unwary. This winter climb should be made only under good weather and snow conditions.

References: Lowes, *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*, pp. 116-117; Doug Newman and Sally Sharrad, *Oregon Ski Tours*, (Beaverton, Oregon, 1973, pp. 48-49.)



View
up
Battle
Axe
Trail

15. FRENCH RIDGE TRAIL #3349

The biggest challenge offered by the Byars Peak approach to French Creek Ridge is finding the trailhead. From Salem, one travels east on Oregon State Highway 22 to a point just west of the bridge crossing the Breitenbush arm of Detroit Reservoir. Turn left here on Forest Service Road S915, the French Creek Road. Proceed about 2 miles and then turn right on road S919. This road crosses French Creek and then climbs slowly from the canyon bottom through an area of clearcuts and spur roads. At a point about 5 miles beyond the bridge, S919 becomes Road S919A. In about 1.5 miles past this point the road swings around the main ridge and heads directly north into a large clearcut that extends downslope across a major cliff system to the bottom of Canyon Creek. The trail starts above the road in the northwest corner of this clearcut. The trailhead is not marked. It is also likely that the roads will not be marked either. We advise, therefore, that the hiker stop at the Detroit Ranger District office and acquire more complete directions.

The point where the trail leaves the clearcut is marked by a large orange sign painted with a black X. This sign is not visible from the road. Here the trail enters the forest and slowly follows the ridgeline upward toward Byars Peak. Since this trail is seldom hiked, it has not been maintained for many years. Although the tread is easy to follow, one will encounter numerous fallen trees. The climb continues at a leisurely rate and allows the hiker to study a steadily-widening view of the Marten Buttes and Boulder Peak to the south and north.

A view in the opposite direction, over one's shoulder, helps measure progress by the slowly diminishing scale of the town of Detroit and the reservoir. At about 2 miles, the trail travels under the shoulder of Byars Peak. At 3 miles, the trail reaches a junction with the Beachie Trail (#3341) in a saddle just east of Boulder Peak. This is the divide separating the drainages of the Little North Santiam and the main stem North Santiam. The trail leads north to Mount Beachie and Elk Lake; the trail southwest leads to Boulder Peak and the Marten Buttes.

Survey: 1975 by Brandt.

Logging in the Hidden Wilderness would cause 7,000 cubic feet of sediment to flow down the Little North Fork River every year – more than three times the present rate.

THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF WILDERNESS

The 49,000 acre "Hidden Wilderness" (so called because it is unknown to most Oregonians) is a de facto wilderness. It is Wilderness, in fact – there is little evidence of man's intrusion and there is much opportunity for solitude. But, by a strange paradox, wilderness is not wilderness until man legislates it so.

After passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the creation of the wilderness system, the Forest Service was directed to study the public land under its jurisdiction and to identify those areas suitable for wilderness designation. The principal requirements for wilderness as outlined by the Act are:

1. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
2. The area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation;
3. The area is 5,000 acres in size or is of sufficient size so as to make practicable its preservation and use or use in an unimpaired condition; and
4. The area contains ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

An agreement between the Forest Service and the Sierra Club resulted in the implementation of a Forest Service process in which all roadless areas larger than 5,000 acres would be identified and in which all activities that would influence the character of these areas would be suspended until they had received thorough study for formal wilderness designation.

The "Hidden Wilderness" will be studied by both the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests. A major part of this study will be a survey of the use of the area and the attitude of the public toward its preservation or development. If, after using this guide to become familiar with the Hidden Wilderness, you feel that all or part of it should be preserved, write a letter to the Forest Service and inform them of your views.

Write:

Forest Supervisor, Willamette National Forest
P. O. Box 10607, Eugene, Oregon 97401

Forest Supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest
P. O. Box 16040, Portland, Oregon 97216

(Cont.) →

Oregon's congressional delegation is also interested in preservation of roadless areas such as the "Hidden Wilderness." Senator Mark Hatfield has introduced a bill in Congress that would place the Mount Hood National Forest portion of the "Hidden Wilderness" into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Similar proposals have been considered by Senator Bob Packwood and Representative Al Ullman. Most recently, Senator Frank Church and Representative Morris Udall introduced legislation requesting thorough wilderness study of several Oregon roadless areas. Unfortunately, this area was not among them. Oregon conservationists are campaigning for its inclusion. If you are interested in legislative activities concerning the "Hidden Wilderness" contact:

The Hon. Al Ullman
House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Mark Hatfield
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Bob Packwood
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

The proposal for preserving the "Hidden Wilderness" is supported by many conservation and recreation groups and principally by the authors of this Guide. Contributions of time and money are eagerly solicited.

Central Cascades Conservation Council
P. O. Box 731, Salem, Oregon 97308

The editors of this Guide hope that we have avoided stridency and hysteria in our appeal for help in the campaign to preserve the "Hidden Wilderness." It is not our intention, however, that by doing so, the reader of the Guide will feel that the issue is not crucial and immediate. A copy of this Guide was submitted to the Forest Service for review. They returned it with several changes, among them the substitution of the word "clearcut" in the description of a trail that our guide had described as passing through a "beautiful grove of virgin Douglas fir." The hiker who had surveyed the trail for us had hiked it only two years before he prepared his description.

*The Little North Fork River is not dammed and supports
the only natural salmon fishery on the Santiam River.*

III. WESTERN APPROACHES

The trails described in the accounts that follow are reached most directly by way of the Little North Fork Road which turns north and up Little North Fork Canyon about 2 miles past the Mehama-Lyons junction with Oregon State Highway 22 east of Salem. Only a few of these trails share common trailheads, so each description includes specific directions for reaching that particular trail. The Little North Fork Road is paved for about 18 miles. Beyond this point the hiker should be prepared to drive roads of varying condition. Road S80 to the Little North Fork Mining Trail and east and west approaches to Whetstone Mountain is usually of good quality and poses no problems to the careful driver. Road S81, however, (the road one takes to the French Creek Ridge Trail) is often in bad repair and requires caution, particularly beyond Opal Lake.

Whetstone Mountain is reached via the Western Approaches.

Eighty-five per cent of the Little North Fork area has low or very low timber fertility, very high erosion potential and high slide potential.

16. LITTLE NORTH FORK MINING TRAIL (F.S. Road S80)

The Little North Fork mining trail offers an excellent opportunity to visit the heart of the Little North Fork canyon. A remnant of a previous mining heyday, the trail (and bridge across Gold Creek) was recently improved to accommodate renewed mining activity. Cathedral-like groves of climax Douglas fir forest, rushing water, cool pools and an historic mining camp all combine to provide an interesting hike.

Upon reaching the trailhead at the Forest Service gate, which controls access to the valley, proceed easterly along the mining track. At Gold Creek (approximately .25 mile) a new bridge has been constructed to accommodate ore trucks. Continue east past the sign pointing to the Whetstone Mountain Trail. (Approximately .33 to .5 mile) In this area, there are spur trails that lead both to Gold Creek and to the Little North Fork River. Approximately .5 mile from the trailhead you will pass over rustic half bridges constructed by miners around a rock face that blocks easy access to the upper canyon. At approximately 3 miles, the old road passes the sign indicating the Stony Ridge Trail which crosses the river and goes right at this point.

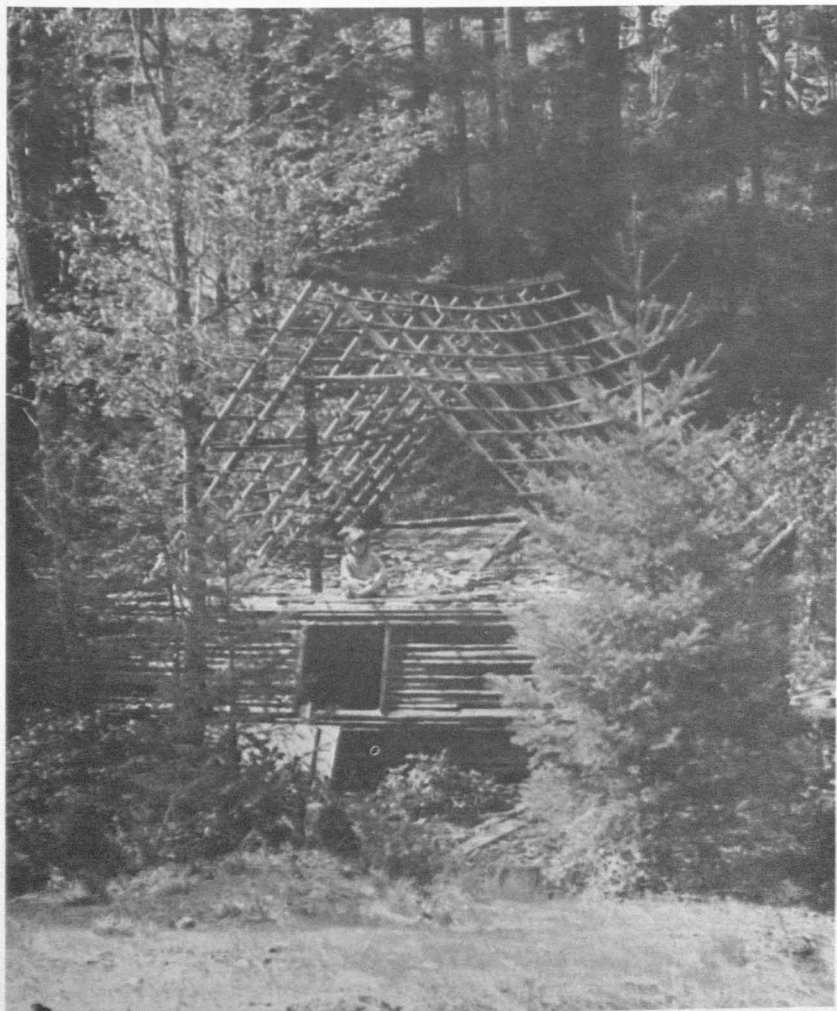
After approximately 3 miles, the trail reaches Jawbone Flats, the remnants of an historic mining camp. Here, hikers can leave the trail and proceed up Opal Creek canyon over trail and cross-country into virtual seclusion. Opal Pool (about .5 mile from Jawbone Flats) is often visited and worth the effort to seek out.

The trail crosses Battle Axe Creek slightly east of Jawbone Flats and parallels the creek for the remainder of the hike. Approximately 8 miles from the trailhead is the east approach trail to Whetstone Mountain and a steel gate blocking the road to vehicles coming down canyon from Beachie Saddle. Before this, however, one will have passed the entrance to several active and inactive mines. The trail proceeds southeasterly for 4 miles to Beachie Saddle where many Elk Lake approach hikes originate. A cross-country variation of the hike from the 8-mile point to Beachie Saddle can be made by climbing Beachie Ridge and traversing the ridge top to the Beachie Mountain Trail. This trail will lead to Beachie Saddle.

(Cont.) →

Hiking novices should find this trail a delight any time of the year as it is wide, has a gentle grade and is very rewarding. In winter months, no snow should be encountered before Jawbone Flats. Water is plentiful along the first 6 miles of the trail and intermittently thereafter. Hikers should not disturb any structures or equipment in the area, since continued use and preservation of the outdoor experience will depend on good relations with the miners.

Survey: 1974 by George and Brandt.



Mining cabin — remnants of an early heyday.

17. WHETSTONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3369 (West Approach to Summit)

To reach the trailhead, follow Road S80 to a point about 20 miles from its junction with Oregon State Highway 22 and the end of the portion open to the public. A Forest Service gate blocks access to the mining track beyond this point. The first part of this hike follows an old mining road that provided access to the upper valley during the early part of this century. Within .25 mile you will come to Gold Creek and the new bridge that crosses it.

Cross the bridge and proceed up the mining trail. A sign (Whetstone Lookout Trail #3369) points the way left from the main fork within .1 mile of the bridge and is the route that hikers take to reach the Whetstone Mountain trailhead. The trail is covered with a succulent, verdant growth of ferns and mosses. This blanket of vegetation reminds the hiker of how tenuous man's intrusion into the wilderness really is. Without continual upkeep and maintenance, any road would revert to a state much like it was prior to man's presumptuous and feeble constructions.

Many streams cross the trail here, some through old-fashioned culverts, and the hiker would be advised to fill a canteen at this point as no water is to be found on the trail itself.

After following the trail for about .6 mile, begin looking for a fork and another sign pointing right toward Whetstone Mountain. The left fork of the trail continues up to Gold Creek where it dead ends.

The trail now proceeds up the west slope of Whetstone Mountain. It switchbacks through dense forest offering occasional tantalizing views of the rocks and spires of the upper Gold Creek Basin, including Nasty Rock and Burnt Mountain. (It is not difficult to guess the probable origin of the name of the latter, but Nasty Rock is something else again. Natives explain that the name is attached to the prominent rock point because the one used locally was too indelicate for the refined tastes of early cartographers.)

At a point about 3 miles from your car, the hiker reaches a Forest Service helispot located in the first saddle of the ridge that leads upward to the mountain's summit. The trees have been cleared in this area, offering views to Mount Hood and south to the canyon of the Little North Fork. Only the clearcut units on Stony Ridge mar what is otherwise a perfect forest canopy stretching to the southern horizon. The summit of the mountain is about 1.5 miles to the east.

(Cont.) →

About an eighth of a mile from the summit the trail forks. The summit trail turns north (left) for the final pitch and the other fork leads east to the junction with Silver King Trail #546 and to many points within the Bull-of-the-Woods roadless area.

On the summit one finds the remains of the old lookout, long since torn down. The cement blocks used to support the corners of the structure were evidently made with sand containing a high percentage of iron pyrite or Fool's Gold. In any case, the concrete appears to be sprinkled with gold crystals.

The canyon to the south is one of the deepest in the Oregon Cascades. The Little North Fork of the North Santiam lies stitched to the canyon bottom almost 4,000 feet below you. The only clear-cuts visible are those on the upper reaches of Opal Creek and they barely affect the majesty of this pathetically rare view of an unlogged western Cascade watershed.

The contrast is obvious when one turns and looks to the north. In that direction lies the heavily-logged portion of the Mount Hood National Forest. Whetstone is a good place for the hiker to work out his personal position on Forest Service terms like "multiple use." Would one still visit the Little North Fork canyons and ridges if they had been harvested to the extent that the Collawash and the Molalla Rivers have?

Survey: 1974, 1975 by Brandt.

18. WHETSTONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3369 (East Approach to Summit)

The head of the trail is reached by hiking 4.5 miles down from Elk Lake or by hiking up the Little North Fork mining trail about 5 miles from the end of F.S. Road S80. A sign on the north side of this road marks the beginning of the trail which drops directly to Battle Axe Creek. From this point it is 2.5 miles to the summit. The trail leads through a forest of Douglas fir and cedar, with an understory of vine maple, rhododendron and huckleberry. The north end of Beachie Ridge is visible through breaks in the forest canopy. At the top of the ridge, the trail meets Silver King Trail #546. The Whetstone Trail turns left here and climbs 900 feet in .5 mile to the summit. A trail on the left, .2 mile from this junction, leads north to the Silver King Trailhead. (F.S. Road S738) The Whetstone Trail goes directly west to a junction with a spur trail to the old lookout site on the summit.

Survey: 1975 by Hartley.

19. OGLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3357

This old mining trail climbs steeply up precipitous slopes and rock cliffs along Henline Creek, which rushes over several small waterfalls and cascades. The trail finally levels and leads through a stretch of old growth forest and ends in a clearcut area just below the west side of Henline Mountain. The trail is 2 miles one way.

Follow the Little North Fork road (S80) past Elkhorn Valley. Turn left at a sign which points to Opal Lake and Pearl Creek Guard Station. Proceed approximately .25 mile. Turn left on Road S801. Follow this dead end road about .5 mile to the trail sign. An old mining road at the trailhead leads to Henline Falls, which tumbles over high cliffs. The remains of an old waterwheel are rusting in the cool spray of the falls.

The trail starts only a few feet from the main road and parallels the mining road for a short distance. It then climbs steeply through forest and along rocky outcrops, which permit a view of Henline Creek below, rock cliffs across its canyon, and the main Little North Fork Valley, downstream. The steepness of the grade necessitates 18 switchbacks.

The trail levels and crosses two side creeks shaded by huge old Douglas and Noble fir. The trail ends in a clearcut 2.5 miles from its beginning. If you are adventuresome, a good woodsman and do not mind climbing over windfallen logs, you can climb the slope in a northeast direction to the top of Henline Mountain and follow Henline Mountain Trail #3352 down to the Little North Fork Road.

Survey: 1974, 1975 by Eubanks.



Hiking in the Little North Fork Valley.

20. HENLINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3352

In gentle folds, this trail climbs the steep ridge of the upper Elkhorn Valley, skirts rock cliffs and traverses rock slides to the site of the old lookout. It leads through new forests which replaced the old one destroyed by fire. In springtime, there are at least 25 species of flowers along the trail. In the fall, blueberries abound on the north side. There are broad views of the surrounding ridges, the waterfalls on the opposite side of the canyon and the meadows in Elkhorn Valley. Three-quarters of the way up, the rugged cliffs of Stack Creek and the Little Stack Creek come into view and one can also see up the canyon to the Gold Creek and Whetstone Mountain area.

Part of the once extensive USFS fire trail and lookout system, this trail originally started from the Pearl Creek Guard Station. Now it begins above the station in the middle of a rock slide on a new road. This is about 18.5 miles up the Little North Fork drainage from the Oregon State Highway 22. The trail sign and trailhead are .9 mile east of a sign pointing right to Opal Lake, Pearl Creek Guard Station and Shady Cove Campground. It is 3.7 miles to the abandoned lookout site. From there, one may also follow the old trail, just recently cleared, to the true summit of the mountain. This is a 1 mile trip and leads, across knife-edge points, through mountain hemlock and silver fir forest to the top which is in forest with no view. One does pass through an open saddle where Mount Hood, Whetstone Mountain and endless ridges are in view.

References: Lowe, *100 Oregon Hiking Trails*, pp. 114-115.
Survey: 1971, 1974, hikes; and 1974 trail-clearing maintenance; by Eubanks.

If the entire Little North Fork roadless area is allocated to timber harvest, it would result in only three per cent of the wood produced in the Detroit Ranger District and one-half per cent of the wood in the Willamette National Forest. The revenue returned to counties has been estimated to be as low as only \$7,500 per year!

21. NASTY ROCK TRAIL #3356

The Nasty Rock Trail is a challenging but rewarding hike for all hikers - weak or strong. Switchbacking up a ridge east of Tincup Creek, it offers a variety of outstanding views, including: Little North Fork Valley, Elkhorn Ridge, Henline Mountain, Whetstone Mountain, Battle Axe Mountain and Mount Jefferson. For the most hardy hiker, who is willing to do some cross-country hiking, this hike offers a view of the untouched Gold Creek drainage - about 3,000 acres of untouched country between Nasty Rock, Burnt Mountain and Whetstone Mountain.

In the spring and early summer, the trail winds through pink rhododendron. In the late summer, huckleberries are plentiful. Small wildlife is abundant. A coyote was sighted about .5 mile from Nasty Rock.

Follow F.S. Road S80 past the Ogle Mountain Trail, Stack Creek and Tincup Creek. One hundred yards past Tincup Creek is an obscure jeep road to the left. Stop here and park. Proceed up the jeep road 200 feet to the trailhead marker - an orange sign marked with a black X. There is no water on the trail, so stop at Tincup Creek on the way. The trail is fairly steep throughout its length. It is well-blazed and cleared except for a short portion near the top. Proceed through mixed fir, hardwood and rhododendron for approximately 1.6 miles until the trail becomes brushy. In another 120 yards you reach a rock pile which is ideally suited for a snack or lunch - with good views. (Nasty Rock to the north) After the rock pile, the hardy can proceed up the trail, which is now severely overgrown, but still blazed. Proceed carefully up the trail along the ridge top until you reach the last blaze where you can look down through the trees to the saddle that stretches northward. The trail ends here. If you miss this spot, you will probably recognize your error when you start downhill to the west. Retrace your steps and look for the saddle. From here it is 200 yards cross-country, through trees and rhododendron, northward over the saddle across a rock slope to a Forest Service helispot. (#930) This, too, is a good spot for a break. From here, you can reach a prominent rock 1 mile southwest of Nasty Rock. Continue northward to the top of a small wooded peak and then almost due east down a saddle that is just south of Nasty Rock. This section is not blazed. Once attained, this rock offers good rock climbing (Class III-V) and a view of the Gold Creek drainage.

Retrace your steps carefully back to the rockpile and your car.

This hike, while steep, is short and has been completed by children 5 and 8 years old. Take your time and the rewards will be yours.

Survey: 1975 by George.

22. FRENCH CREEK TRAIL #3349

This trail follows the top of French Creek Ridge which offers beautiful views of the Opal Creek Drainage (one of the roughest and most beautiful canyons in the Hidden Wilderness) and Whetstone Mountain to the north. Looking south, the hiker sees, far below him, the North Santiam Canyon, Detroit Reservoir and beyond that the major Cascade volcanic peaks. (Jefferson, Washington and Three Sisters) The climb is gradual and is easily walked, although heavy shoes should be worn for protection when crossing the numerous rock slides.

Travel S80 17.5 miles from the junction with Oregon State Highway 22 and then turn right on the road to Opal Lake and Pearl Creek Guard Station. (S81) Continue for 5 miles across the river and past Shady Cove Forest Camp, then turn left on S81A for .5 mile, then turn right on S81E and continue on this road for 6.5 miles. At that point, there will be a junction of S81G and S81E. Just north of the junction, there will be a logging road and space for parking. Beyond this point, the road drops to the south side of French Creek Ridge and begins the descent to the town of Detroit.

Follow the jeep road going east for 200 yards to a sign marking the trail. Take the upper jeep road which, after 100 yards, enters a clearcut. The trail is visible in most places through the cut, but try to proceed in an easterly direction. On the eastern edge of the cut, a marker shows where the trail enters the forest.

The first .4 mile is through light vegetation. The trail circles around the Marten Buttes, crosses rock slides which offer a good view into Opal Creek canyon and across to Whetstone Mountain.

For the next .75 mile, the trail criss-crosses the ridge. At Boulder Peak, the trail is on the south side and good views in that direction can be seen. A shorthike up to the summit of Boulder Peak is worth the trouble.

Continuing around Boulder Peak, the trail (#3349) goes into the forest at a saddle. The trail forks left past Byar's Peak, Mount Beachie and Beachie Saddle. This is Beachie Trail (#3341) and it is two spectacular miles past Beachie Mountain and down to Beachie Saddle. The French Creek Trail continues right for about 2.5 miles to road S919A. (This trail is described in Section II, Number 15.)

Survey: 1975 by Drushella.

There are over sixty miles of hiking trails in the Hidden Wilderness.

IV. ADDITIONAL TRAILS

Some trails cannot be reached by any of the standard approaches previously described. These trails and their approaches are described below.

23. BURNT MOUNTAIN - NASTY ROCK TRAIL (BLM)

Nasty Rock is most easily reached from the BLM Molalla River Road system. At the Y, in the east end of Molalla, turn right for two blocks, then turn left following the yellow stripe. As you cross the Molalla River, turn right to the Dickey Prairie Store and stay right. Approximately .25 mile after crossing the North Molalla River, turn right across a one-lane bridge across the Molalla River. Go left at the Y and stay on BLM Road #6-3E-6 to #7-3E-14 to #7-4E-1.1 to within .25 mile of the end. At this point the trail is to your right, in the forest. At the trail junction go right. After a while the trail ends and it is cross-country (easy going) to Nasty Rock, which can be seen much of the way. The distance is about 1.25 miles. There is no water.

Survey: 1975, McIntyre

24. BURNT MOUNTAIN - WHETSTONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

See directions to N.E. approach to Nasty Rock. (#23) Take 7-4E-1.1 to the end in a clearcut. The high point to your right is Burnt Mountain. The trail used to go through what is now the clearcut, and is difficult to find on the eastern edge. It is almost on the same contour as the end of the road and is not marked.

The trail has not been maintained and has many wind throws across it. The tread is quite visible and easy to follow. It is a ridge trail staying mostly on the south side of the ridge. The trail is dry and is forested most of the way. The grades are fairly easy.

Survey: 1975, McIntyre

AS WE WALK THESE TRAILS

As we enter this wild area we become aware of the beauty around us: lakes and ponds of fresh, clean water; streams rushing cold and clear; mature forests of fir, hemlock and cedar; wild flowers, berry bushes and glittering rocks; views of distant peaks and fleeting glimpses of birds, furred creatures and native fish. These become apparent to us from the start.

But, in addition, let us be aware of several further things. Let us remember that – in contrast to those areas in which man has built roads, cut the timber and dammed the rivers – life goes on here as it has for millennia. Here there are no cars, no lodges, no machines to plow the snow. Here trees are not “farmed” and the rivers are not controlled. Here man must fend for himself and make his own way.

Winter storms alternately blanket the area with quiet whiteness and then torment the region with ice storms and wind. Rains and melting snows flood the streams and buds appear with the lengthening days. The forest dries with summer’s heat. Flowers go to seed and berries ripen to a delicious sweetness. Old snags, soon to fall, stand quietly in the evening light while the earth tells riddles and tempts us to try to solve them.

Here the cycles of nature proceed in a definite rhythm as they have since the days when these basins and ridges were formed. It continues so today, uninterrupted by man and his ways.

Can we find it in ourselves to say, “This is good.”? Can we agree that these last remaining wildlands should stand unmolested for another thousand years?

May we think on such things as we walk these trails.

Jim Quiring

TO MAIL, TEAR OFF AT PERFORATION - MAILING ADDRESS ON REVERSE.

I have a copy of A HIKER'S GUIDE TO OREGON'S HIDDEN WILDERNESS. Please put me on your mailing list for further information on the area.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

STATE AND ZIP _____
