

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Title THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL  
FOREST LANDS OF OREGON IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

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About 16 percent of Oregon's forest land is owned by the various components of the forest industry. Most of this area lies within the relatively heavily populated western portion of the state. These factors, plus the fact that the public seems to have a peculiar attitude about property rights when forest land is concerned, produce a situation whereby pressures for recreational use of private forest lands are being felt by the forest industry.

According to an AFPI questionnaire survey conducted in 1960, many recreational activities are permitted, subject to various restrictions, on a high percentage of forest industry lands in Oregon. But the figures presented in the summation of the survey must be used with caution, for they may present too optimistic a picture of the forest industry's contribution to the recreation resources of the state.

The private forest industry is primarily devoted to producing forest products at a profit; multiple use of these lands must necessarily be geared to this primary purpose. But there is also a role which the forest industry could play in the development of recreation areas and facilities which should not be detrimental to their profit-making potentialities.

The companies which are most likely to be able to meet the increasing demand for recreational use of their lands are those that are planning for them now. Unfortunately very little planning has taken place in the past, nor is enough taking place at the present.

In attempting to plan realistically for the future, or what now seems likely to occur in the future, many things must be considered. A few of the more important considerations are:

1. Location of park sites in relation to urban centers and accessibility should receive serious consideration.
2. Parks and their facilities should be planned and developed in a manner that would least interfere with timber production, would provide for future expansion, and eventually profitable operation.
3. Each large company should consider obtaining the services of a competent recreation planner.

An attempt has been made to convey the idea that there is a greater role which may be expected of the private forest industry in providing public recreation areas and facilities. As well as being a welcome addition to the recreational resources of the state, it would seem to be to the forest industry's advantage, in the long run, to assume this role.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL  
FOREST LANDS OF OREGON IN  
OUTDOOR RECREATION

by

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A THESIS

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# THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL FOREST LANDS OF OREGON IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

There have been numerous discussions, articles, and books dealing with the increasing pressure of outdoor recreation on public lands since the end of World War II, and especially during the past decade. But little attention has been given to the increasing pressures which are being felt by the private owners of land. Since the private forest industry owns approximately 4,959,000 acres, or about 16 percent of the forest land in Oregon, the author became interested in how the industry was reacting to the increasing pressures from people seeking outdoor recreation.

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to appraise the role and the responsibility of the private forest industry in providing opportunities for nonurban outdoor recreation in Oregon, and to estimate the adequacy of the present recreational opportunities available on industrial forest land in quantity, quality, and location. In addition, the problems connected with permitting recreational activity on

forest industry lands are examined. The study is primarily limited to the eight Oregon companies and corporations of the forest industry which have shown tangible response to the increasing demand for outdoor recreation through the provision of developed recreation areas.

Chapter II is devoted to reporting the recreational opportunities which are now available on industrial forest lands in Oregon.

Chapter III is an appraisal of the role that the forest industry is playing in providing for outdoor recreation. Chapter IV reviews some of the problems and difficulties connected with the use of forest industry lands for public recreation. Chapter V is an attempt to assess the needs and evaluate the plans for the future. Chapter VI is an attempt to draw some conclusions.

The major portion of this study is the result of numerous personal interviews and correspondence with foresters and public relations personnel of the companies involved. These company sources were supplemented by interviews and correspondence with representatives of the American Forest Products Industries Incorporated, the Industrial Forestry Association, the Western Pine Association, Resources for the Future Incorporated, the Society of American Foresters, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Oregon State Forestry Department. Personal visits to various recreation areas, and talks with people using these facilities during the summer of 1962 also contributed to the study.

## CHAPTER II

### RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON INDUSTRIAL FOREST LANDS

The recreational opportunities available on industrial forest lands in Oregon can be divided into two categories. The first type is general recreational use where no facilities are provided, and the second type is recreational opportunities available where special facilities such as camping and picnicking sites are provided and maintained.

If one considers the total recreational opportunities available under type one especially as presented by representatives of the industry, a rather generous situation emerges. But if only the second type of opportunity is considered, that in which companies provide and maintain recreation sites, and those sites are evaluated, the reality is less generous. The realities for both types of opportunity are examined in the following paragraphs.

#### General Recreational Use of Forest Industry Lands

The most recent survey of recreation use of forest industry lands was conducted on a nationwide basis in 1960 by the American Forest Products, Incorporated (AFPI) (3, p. 1-3). As a part of the national survey, 73 Oregon companies owning over 4,500,000 acres



Figure 1. Recreational fishing - many similar sites for this popular pastime can be found on industry lands. Courtesy of Weyerhaeuser Company.

of land in Oregon were surveyed.

The AFPI survey was conducted by the questionnaire method. Each company was asked to fill out a standard questionnaire, and then the data was summarized by AFPI personnel. The figures on acres open to hunting, fishing, etc. were added together with little or no evaluation to produce the data presented in the AFPI summation.

The results of the Oregon portion of the AFPI survey indicated considerable use of industrial forest lands for recreation purposes and that most of this land area is open to the public free of charge for such recreational activities as berry picking, picnicking, hiking, swimming, camping, winter sports, organized activity, hunting, and fishing. Table 1 summarizes company reports on availability of their lands for outdoor recreation.

In addition to the data shown in Table 1, the area open to fishing includes an estimated 2,238 miles of streams, 37 natural lakes with slightly over 11,000 acres of water surface, and 37 artificial lakes with 1,274 acres of water surface. Five of the companies maintained fish-rearing ponds, and three companies were engaged in cooperative fish management programs with the State Game Commission.

Of the acreage which was normally open to hunting, about 69 percent was open to all hunters without a permit, 29 percent was open to all with a permit, and slightly over 1 percent was open, only with permits, to neighbors or specified groups.

TABLE 1  
Recreational Activities Permitted on Industrial  
Forest Lands in Oregon

Activity	No. of companies permitting	Percent (2) of acres surveyed
Berry picking	48	81.3
Picnicking (1)	50	84.4
Hiking	53	87.2
Swimming (1)	34	76.5
Camping (1)	35	61.3
Winter sports	17	39.1
Organized activity	21	49.2
Hunting (1)	72	94.2
Fishing (1)	68	97.1

(1) In some cases charges are made for these activities.

(2) Total acres surveyed--5,348,527

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Source: Compiled from survey reports filed with the Regional Office of the American Forest Products Industries, Incorporated, Portland, Oregon.

Sixteen companies were reported to be operating 24 public parks (seven companies) and 17 picnic areas encompassing 193 acres. The definition of a park, arbitrarily established by the AFPI, is an area with four or more tables or camping units, whereas a picnic area has less.

In addition to the public parks and picnic areas, there were ten picnicking and camping sites on industry lands administered or maintained by other organizations or public agencies encompassing a total

of 68 acres. There were also four leased camp sites totaling 111 acres and 338 acres leased for other recreational purposes. To provide access into these areas, 10,436 miles of developed roads were normally open to the public.

It was estimated, for the most part by "educated guesswork" on the part of personnel of the various companies, that about 388,800 people used industrial forest lands for recreational purposes in 1959.

#### Developed Areas for Public Recreation

At the time of the AFPI survey it was reported that there were 24 parks maintained by seven of the 73 companies surveyed in Oregon. A July 1, 1962, revision of the list of parks revealed that there had been some additions and some deletions from the list prepared in 1960, but the total number remained the same. Later in July another company added a park, making the total eight companies with 25 parks. In total these eight companies own approximately 2,512,000 acres, or 50.6 percent of the forest industry lands in Oregon.

These recreation sites are located in a wide variety of situations and offering fishing, wading, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, space for organized games, scenery, or just a restful place in the forest (see Figures 2 and 3). Some are located in



Figure 2. Group picnicking in one of the industrial forest parks.  
Courtesy of Georgia-Pacific Corporation.



Figure 3. Undeveloped swimming site - an added feature to an attractive camping and picnicking area. Courtesy of Weyerhaeuser Company.

hardwood areas, others in second growth softwood forests where early logging took place, and still others in areas where there is some historical or aesthetic feature. In size these parks vary from 1 to 30 acres. The facilities available, the adequacy, accessibility, and upkeep of the parks also vary.

The eight companies which have developed public parks in Oregon have provided them with various facilities (Table 2). Camping is permitted in 14 of the 25 parks. Tables and fireplaces are provided in all the parks. Chopped wood is provided in several of the parks. Eight of the parks do not have piped water. Although this is not a necessity in picnic areas, it is almost a necessity in camping areas and two of the parks in which camping is permitted are without piped water. Areas available for boating, swimming, and games for both children and adults are found in less than one-half of the parks, and in the case of boating, in only three of the parks.

#### Evaluation of Selected Facilities

During the period of June through August, 1962, personal visitations were made to 15 of the above-listed parks. The parks were visited on either a Saturday or Sunday, and in every case when the weather was ideal for outdoor recreation. The locations of the parks are shown on Figures 4 through 12. The following is a brief evaluation of the parks visited.

TABLE 2

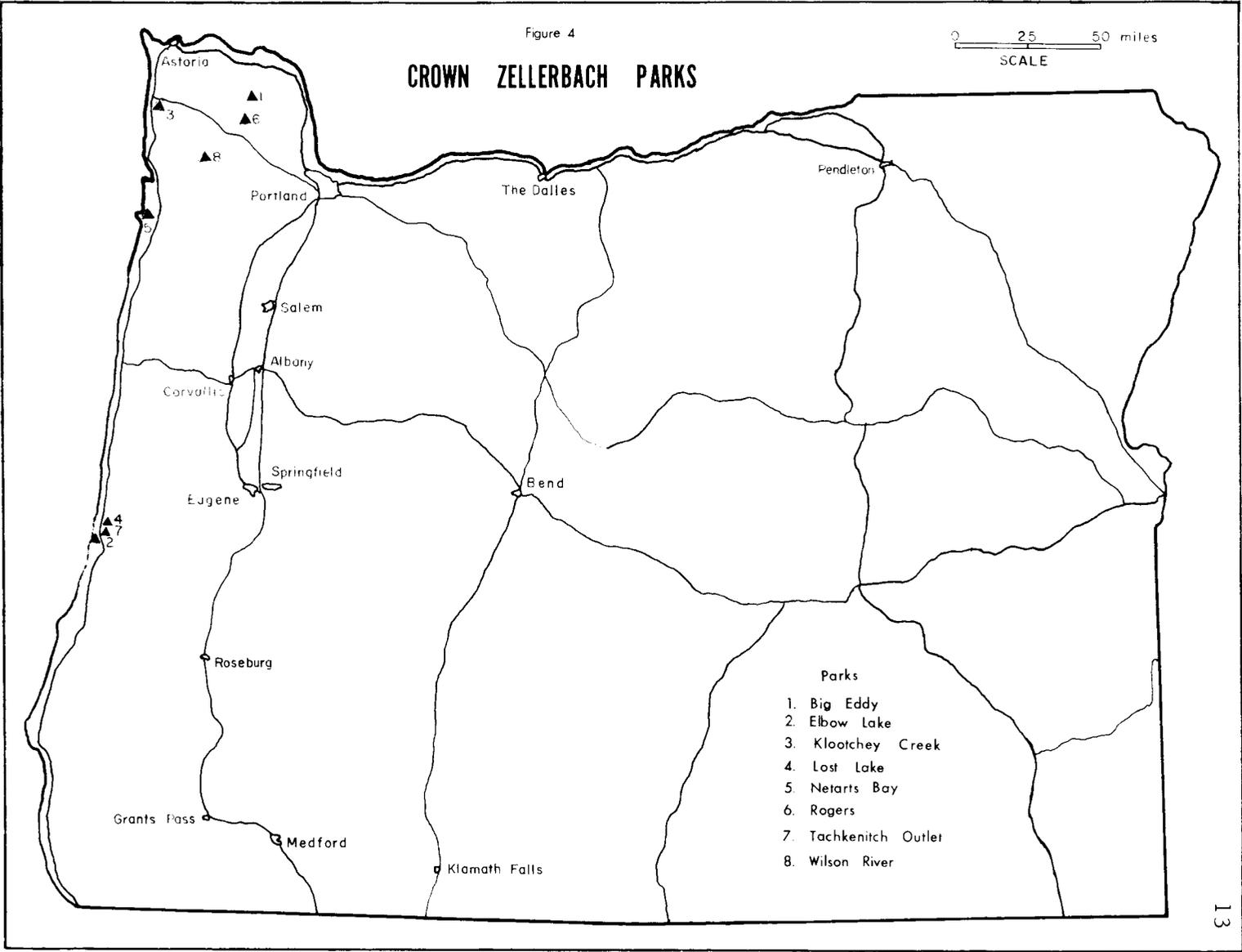
## Public Parks on Industrial Forest Lands in Oregon

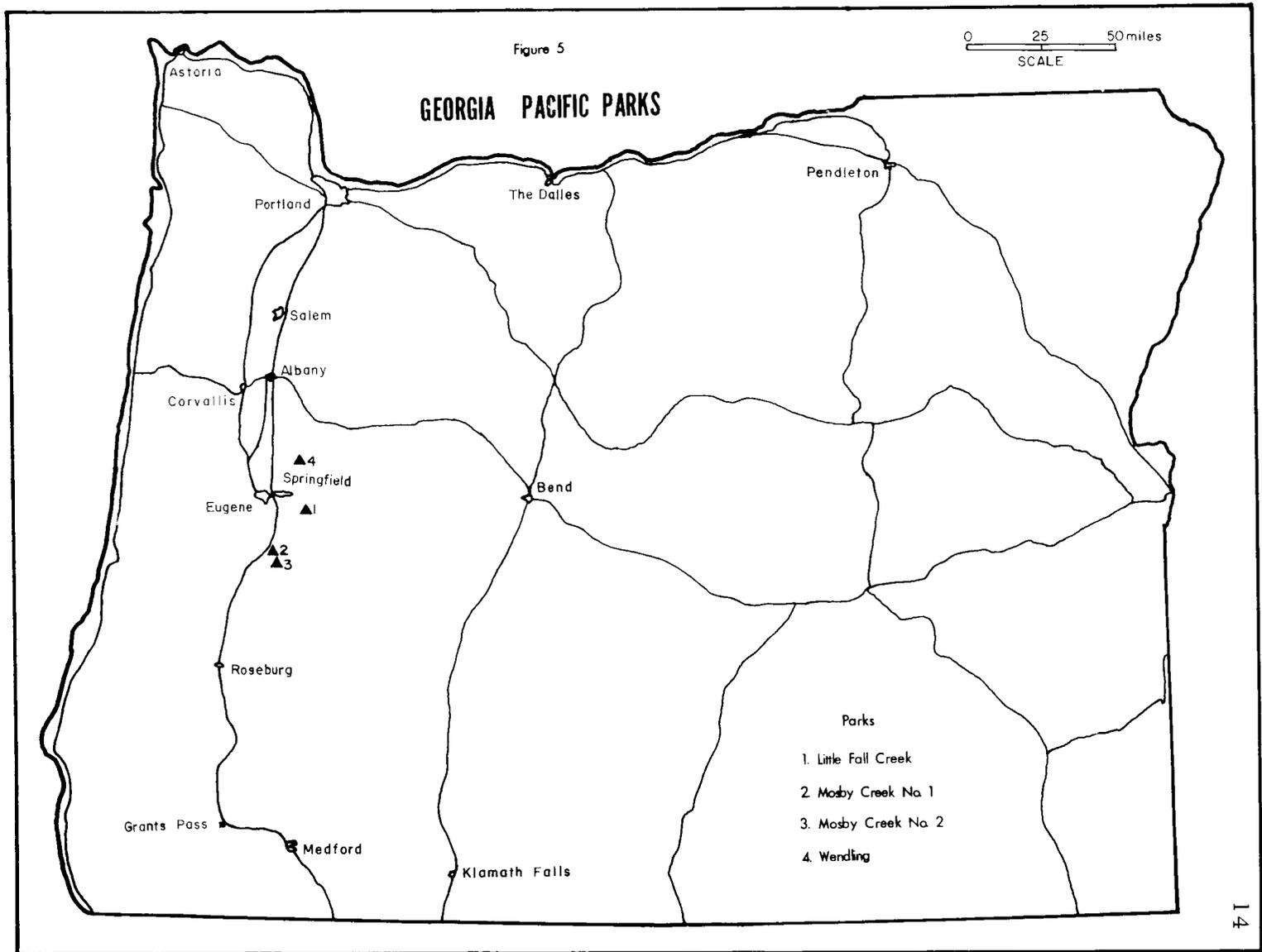
Company and Parks	Size (acres)	Water Piped or spring	Tables	Fireplaces	Restrooms	Camping allowed	Swimming	Boating	Fishing	Game area (baseball, etc.)	Playground (swings, etc.)	County
Crown Zellerbach (500,000 acres)												
1. Big Eddy Park	2		X	X		X						Columbia
2. Elbow Lake Park	4	X	X	X	X	X		X				Douglas
3. Klootchey Creek Park	10	X	X	X	X	X						Clatsop
4. Lost Lake Campground	4	X	X	X	X	X		X				Douglas
5. Netarts Bay Campground	5		X	X	X	X						Tillamook
6. Rogers Park	10	X	X	X	X				X	X		Columbia
7. Tahkenitch Outlet Picnic Area	3	X	X	X	X			X				Douglas
8. Wilson River Playground and Picnic Area	3		X	X	X						X	Tillamook
Georgia Pacific (400,000 acres)												
9. Little Fall Creek	10		X	X	X		X		X	X		Lane
10. Mosby Creek #1	3	X	X	X	X		X		X			Lane
11. Mosby Creek #2	3		X	X	X				X			Lane
12. Wendling Recreation Area and Campsite	15	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	Lane
International Paper (200,000 acres)												
13. Twin Sisters Creek	10	X	X	X	X	X			X			Douglas
14. West Fork	5		X	X	X				X			Douglas

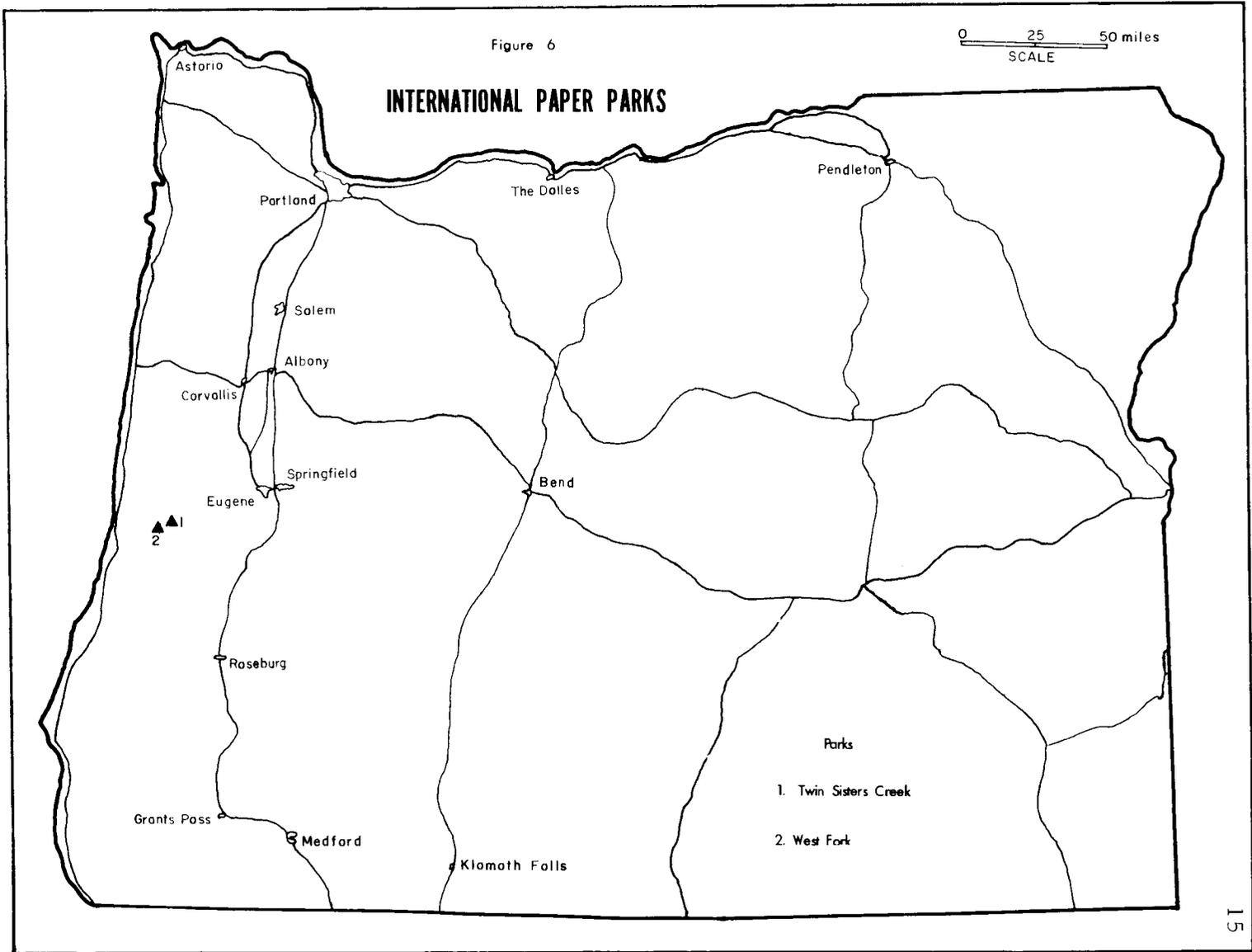
TABLE 2 (Continued)

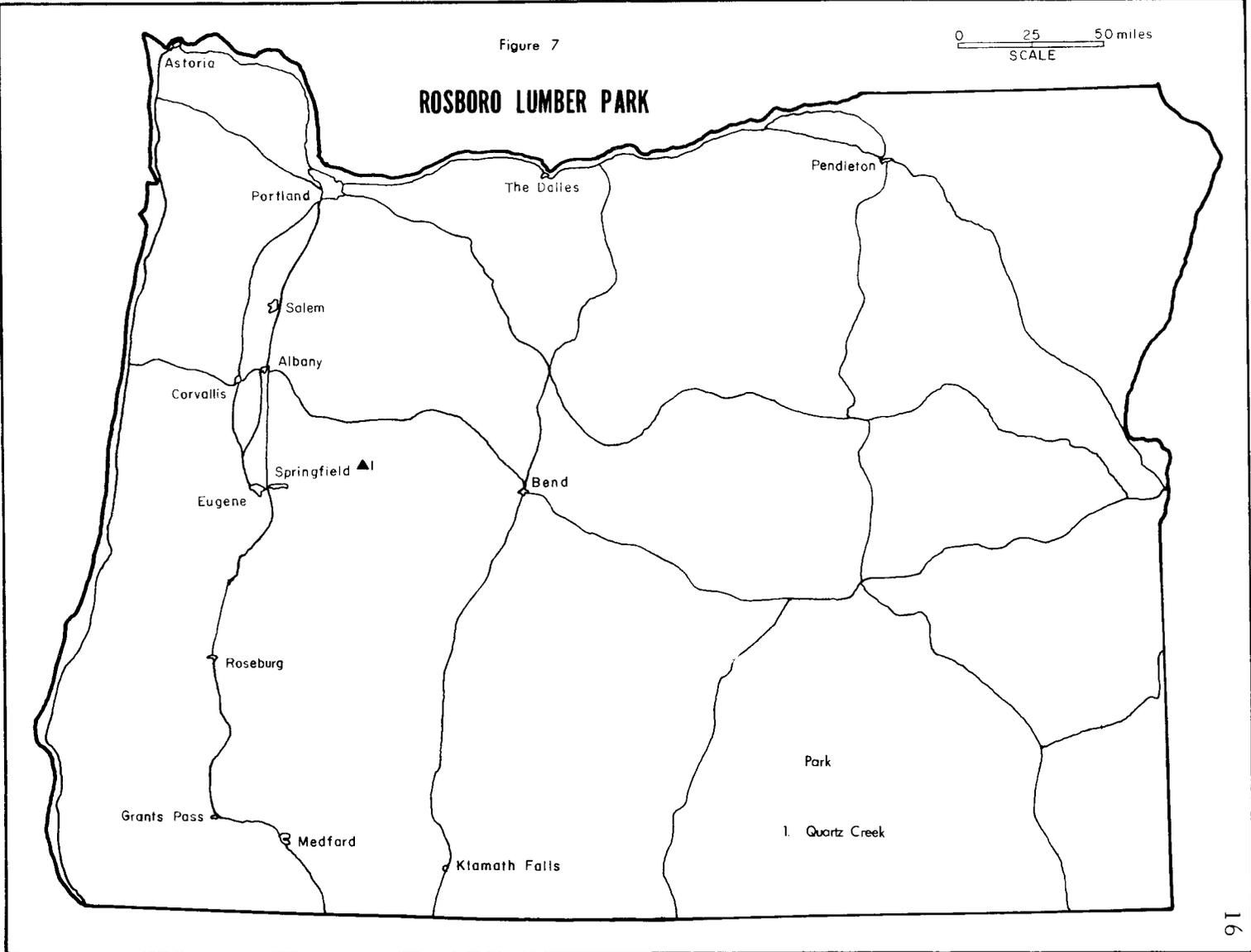
Company and Parks	Size (acres)	Water Piped or spring	Tables	Fireplaces	Restrooms	Camping allowed	Swimming	Boating	Fishing	Game area (baseball, etc.)	Playground (swings, etc.)	County
Rosboro Lumber (21,000 acres)												
15. Quartz Creek Park	2		X	X	X		X		X			Lane
Timber Service (141,163 acres)												
16. South Santiam Park	4	X	X	X	X		X		X			Linn
U. S. Plywood (150,000 acres)												
17. Huntley Park	18	X	X	X	X	X			X			Curry
Weyerhaeuser (1,000,000+ acres)												
18. Dairy Creek Recreation Area	2	X	X	X					X			Lane
19. DeArmond Park	4	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		Linn
20. Klamath River Picnic Area	1		X	X	X							Klamath
21. Mitchell Recreation Area	2	X	X	X	X	X						Lake
22. Nesika Park	30	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	Coos
23. Staples Picnic Area	3	X	X	X	X	X			X			Lane
24. Weyerhaeuser Park	5	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			Lane
Willamette Valley Lumber (100,000 acres)												
25. Mabel Picnic Area	8	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	Lane
Totals	116	17	25	25	23	14	9	3	16	6	4	

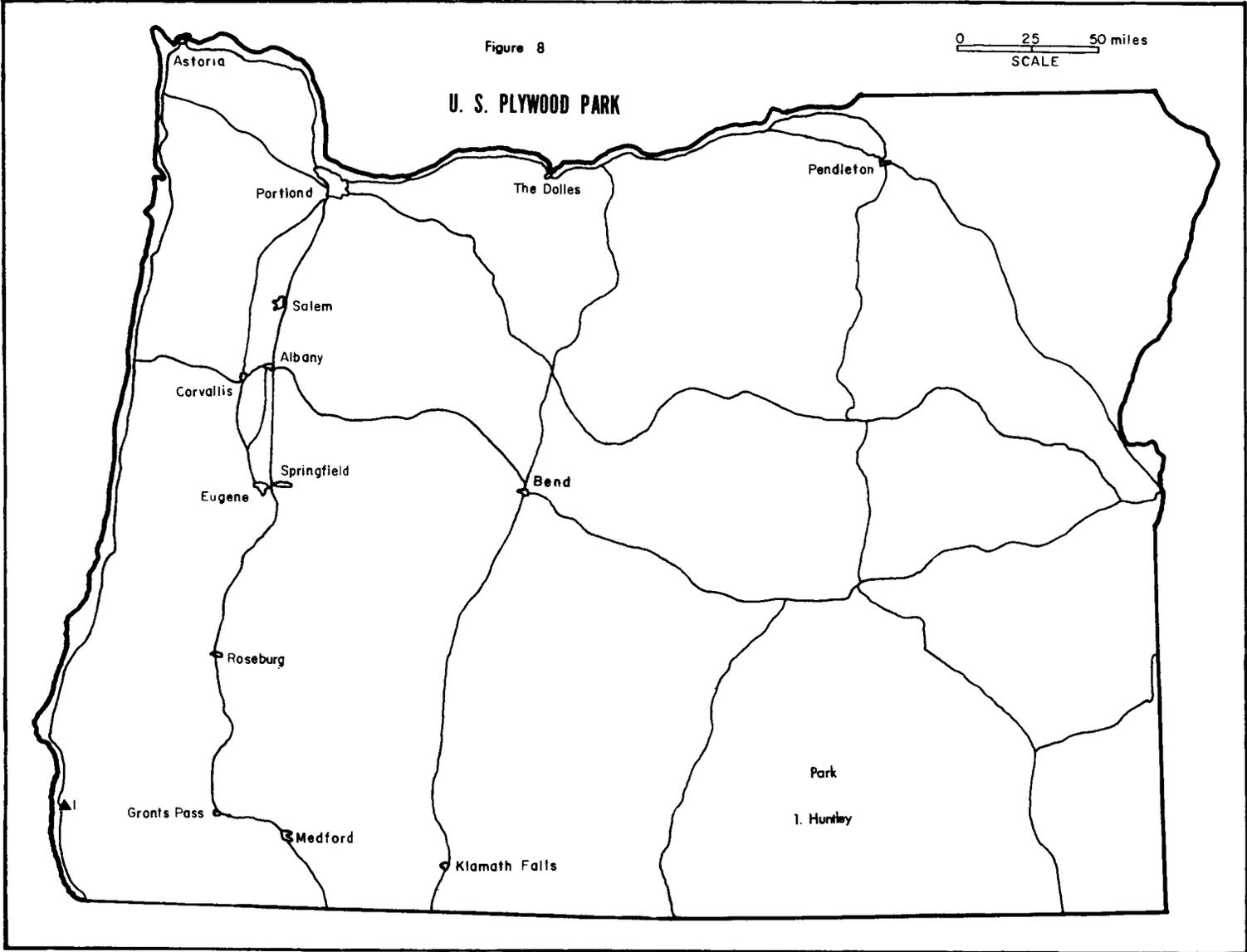
Source: Compiled from data provided by American Forest Products Industries, Incorporated, and the individual companies.

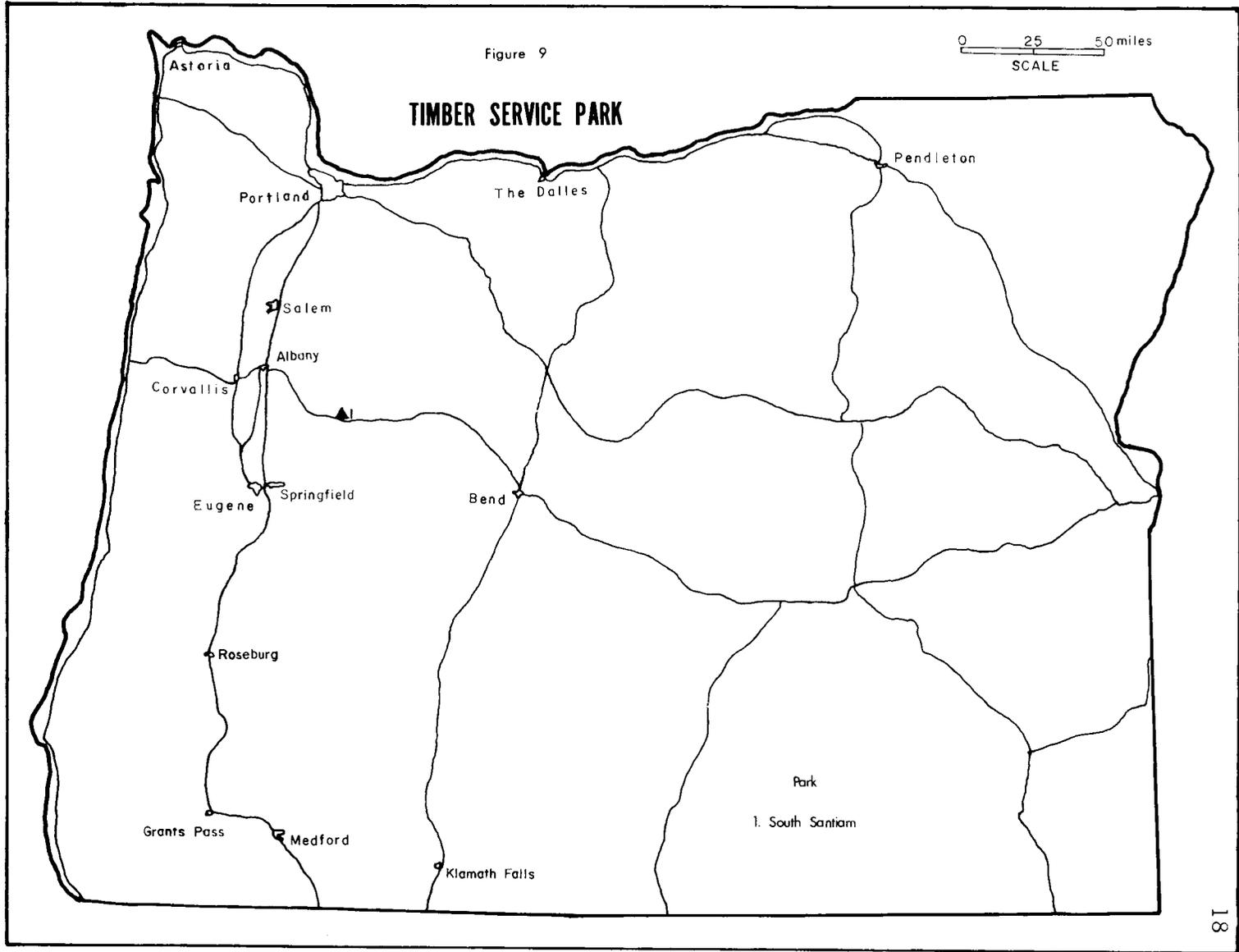


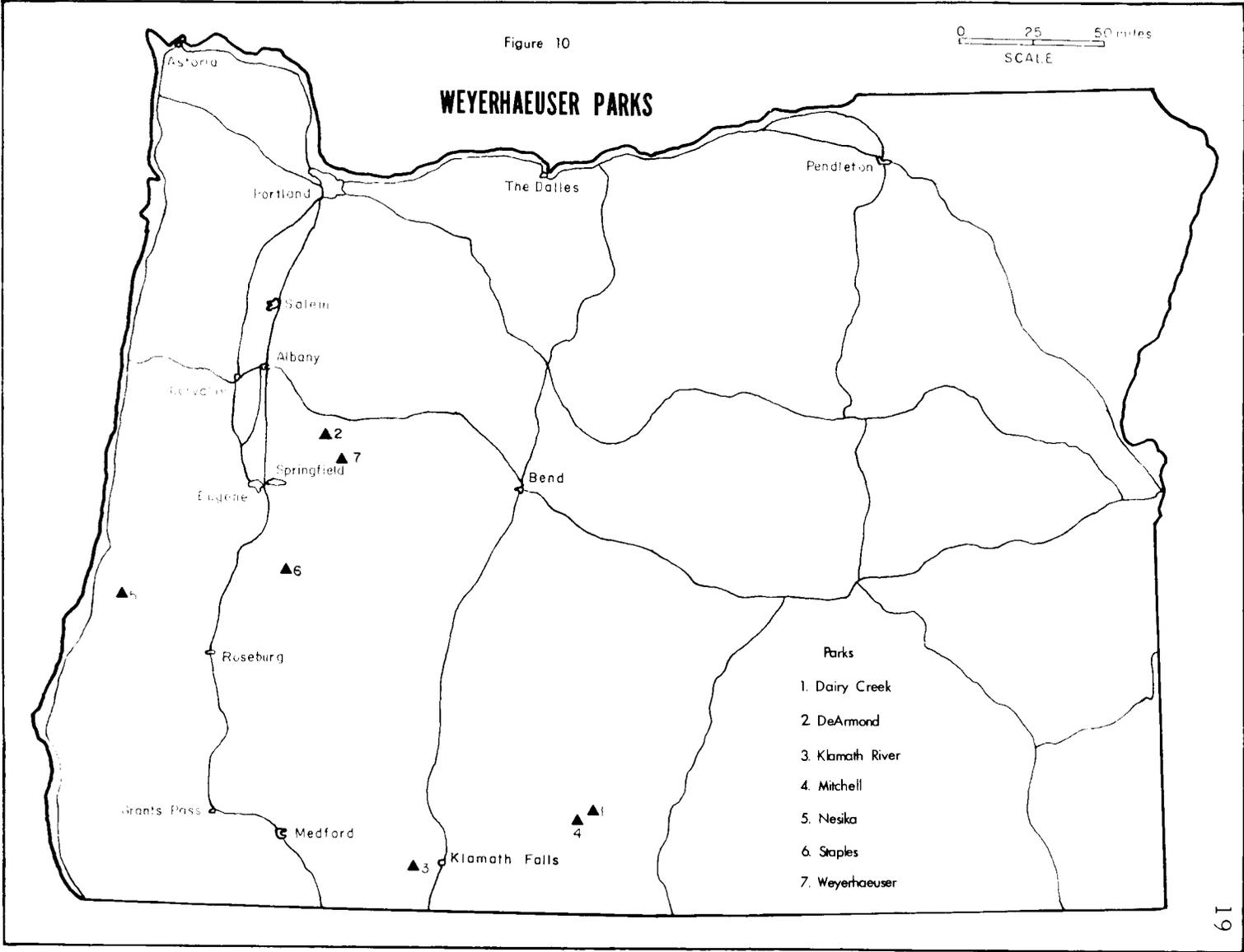


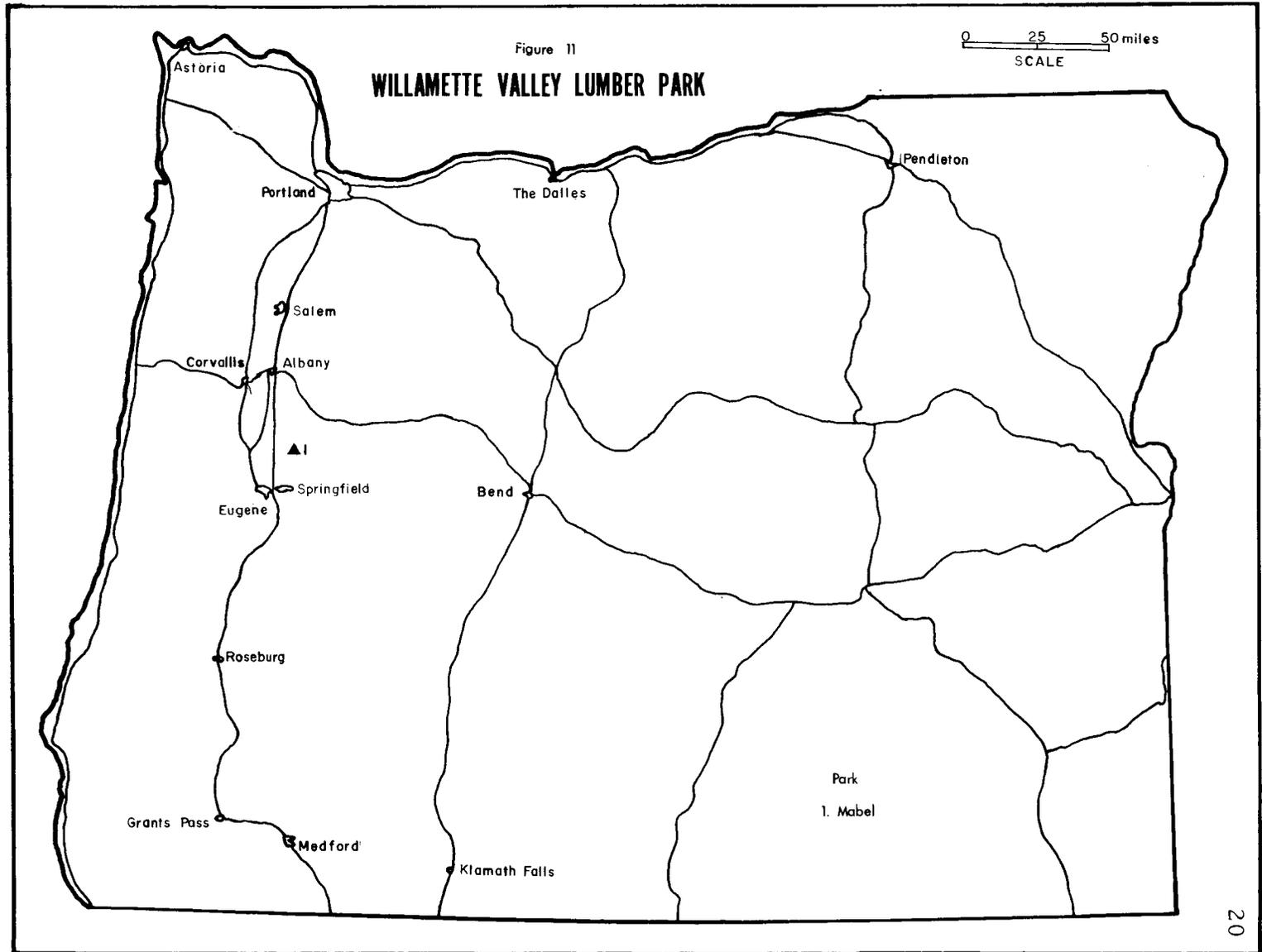












## Crown Zellerbach Parks

1. Elbow Lake Park. Elbow Lake Park is located on Highway 101, on the shore of Elbow Lake, six miles north of the city of Gardiner. It is easily accessible both for tourist use and for the residents of western Oregon. Overnight camping is permitted and there are 13 camping units (a camping unit consists of one picnic table and one fireplace), piped water is available, and there are clean restrooms. There is a boat ramp on the lake. The park was neat and clean and the facilities are well maintained. There were approximately 50 people using these facilities at the time of the visit, which was late on a Sunday afternoon.

2. Lost Lake Campground. Lost Lake Campground is also on Highway 101, just a few miles north of Elbow Lake Park. Overnight camping is permitted and there are six camping units. Piped water, restrooms, and chopped wood are available. There is a boat ramp on Lost Lake. At the time of the visit, late on a Sunday afternoon, there were only five people using the area, but it was observed that the trash barrels were nearly full and the facilities seemed to have been used rather extensively. The park is well maintained.

3. Tahkenitch Outlet Picnic Area. This area is also on Highway 101, and lies between the two sites listed above. The

facilities include seven tables, five fireplaces with chopped wood, piped water, restrooms, and a boat ramp. Overnight camping is not permitted. This park is also well maintained.

There were no people using the area at the time, but it was early on a Sunday evening and it appeared that the area had been used rather heavily.

#### Georgia Pacific Parks

1. Little Fall Creek. This park is located about 15 miles southeast of Springfield, at the end of what is known as Little Fall Creek Road. It is difficult to find unless one has specific directions, and is little used by tourists. Overnight camping is not permitted. The facilities, which were good, consist of 11 tables, 6 fireplaces with chopped wood, 3 large serving tables, a creek in which one could swim or fish, and a game area. Maintenance, from observation of facilities and site, was evaluated as fair.

There were about 30 people in the area at the time of the visit, on Saturday afternoon, and there was evidence that the park received fairly heavy use.

2. Mosby Creek #1. This park is located about five miles southeast of Cottage Grove on a county highway. Although it is not on a major highway, the park is well marked and comparatively easy

to locate. Overnight camping is not permitted. This is a very pleasant picnic area with six tables, six fireplaces with chopped wood, "council pits," piped water, and clean restrooms. Mosby Creek runs along the edge of the park and fishing and swimming are permitted. The facilities and maintenance were very good.

This park was visited on a Saturday afternoon, but at the time there was no one using the park and no evidence to suggest that it is used extensively.

3. Mosby Creek #2. This park is located on the same highway as the above, but about nine miles southeast of Cottage Grove. It is a little more difficult to locate and appeared to be used very little. The facilities consist of four tables, five fireplaces with cut wood, and a creek where swimming and fishing are permitted. Facilities and maintenance were evaluated as fair. There were two people using the park on a Saturday afternoon.

4. Wendling Recreation Area and Campsite. This park is located on Georgia Pacific's Wendling Tree Farm, about 18 miles northeast of Springfield. It is rather difficult to find unless one has specific directions. It consists of a recreation and picnic area, and a campsite which is about a quarter of a mile from the picnic area. The quality of the recreation and picnic area was the best of any of the parks visited. It consists of 25 picnic tables, 8 fireplaces with

chopped wood, piped water, 7 serving tables, children's swings, a "jungle gym," and a developed swimming area. All of these were in excellent condition. The camping area consisted of six tables and five fireplaces with chopped wood, piped water, and restrooms. Maintenance is good.

There were only two people using the park at the time of the visit, which was on a Saturday afternoon, but there was evidence that the area receives heavy use.

#### International Paper Company Parks

1. Twin Sisters Campground. This campground is located on the Smith River Federal Access Road, about 40 miles east of Gardiner. This is a facility which the "through" tourist is not likely to use because of its location. It is probably used largely by hunters and fishermen, and campers who desire a more natural setting than is ordinarily found at more accessible campgrounds. Facilities are good. There are 16 camping units with areas marked for trailer parking, chopped wood, piped water, and restrooms. Swimming and fishing are permitted in a nearby stream. Maintenance is good.

There were only five people using the area when it was visited, but this was on a Sunday evening, and there was evidence that quite a few others had been using it.

2. West Fork Picnic Area. This picnic area is also located on the Smith River Federal Access Road, about 32 miles east of Gardiner. The area consists of five picnic tables, five fireplaces with chopped wood, and restrooms. No camping is permitted. Although the facilities and their maintenance are good, the area seemed to be little used. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that overnight camping is not permitted and the area is fairly distant from major urban areas.

#### Rosboro Lumber Company Parks

1. Quartz Creek Park. This park is located about one-half mile off Route 126, at the junction of Quartz Creek and the McKenzie River. It should be easy to locate, but there are no signs directing people to it, and it cannot be seen from the highway. Its site, at the junction of two streams, is excellent. There are four tables, two fireplaces, a spring, and restrooms. There are also the remains of what was once a small tree identification grove. Fishing and swimming are permitted. The facilities have not been maintained.

At the time of the visit, which was on a Sunday afternoon, there were four people using the area, but it looked as if only occasional fishermen normally made use of it.

## Timber Service Company Parks

1. South Santiam Park. This park is located on Highway 20 about three miles east of Fister, and is bordered by the South Santiam River. Because it is located on a major route and can be seen from the highway, it serves both tourists and local residents. Facilities consist of 12 tables, 4 fireplaces with chopped wood, piped water, restrooms, a swimming area, and fishing is permitted. Generally, this park is attractive and well cared for.

This park was visited three times, once on a Friday morning and on two different Sundays. The first time was on a Friday and no one was using the area. The second time was on a Sunday and there were both campers and picnickers using the area. During a period between 9:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M. more than one hundred people were observed in the area; about half of these were accounted for in four groups of campers. About a month later the park was visited again late on a Sunday afternoon and there was no one using the area. Perhaps it is significant that a sign had been erected which stated that no camping was permitted. There was evidence that the area had been used by several people earlier that day.

## Weyerhaeuser Company Parks

1. DeArmond Park. This park is located about 17 miles south-east of Sweet Home and about 12 miles off State Highway 228. The last five miles of road leading to the park is company road and not easily traversed by passenger vehicles. The park is difficult to find unless one has specific directions. The facilities are good. There are 19 picnic tables, 9 fireplaces, clean, newly-painted restrooms, cleared, level areas for tents, well-drained gravel roads within the park, and piped water. Swimming and fishing are permitted in a nearby stream. The park is clean and well maintained.

Only six people were using the area early Sunday afternoon and generally it did not seem to have received very heavy use.

2. Staples Picnic Area. This park is located on a gravel road on Sharps Creek, about six miles south of the Disston-Cottage Grove Road. Because of its location the area is probably used mostly by local residents. The facilities include ten tables, five fireplaces, restrooms, and swimming and fishing are permitted. Overnight camping is permitted and there was evidence that there had been some campers recently. The facilities were relatively new and of good quality, but the park seemed to be poorly maintained as trash cans were overflowing and a few of them had been overturned and their contents strewn about.

This area was visited early on a Sunday afternoon and there was no one using the area.

3. Weyerhaeuser Park. This park is located on Gate Creek one and one-half miles east of Vida, off Highway 126. Although it is off the main highway there are signs on the highway giving directions to the park. The facilities are excellent. They consist of 19 camping units, a centrally-located well with a hand pump, and restrooms. Swimming and fishing are permitted. The park is pleasant, well maintained, and seems to be heavily used.

This park was visited late Sunday morning, and there were about 45 people using the facilities at that time.

#### Willamette Valley Lumber Company Parks

1. Mabel Picnic Area. This park is located about three miles northeast of Marcola on Shotgun Creek. Since it is relatively distant from a major highway it gets virtually no tourist traffic and seems to be used sparingly by the local residents. Overnight camping is not permitted. The facilities, which are of good quality, consist of 11 tables, 7 fireplaces with stacked wood, piped water, restrooms, a game area, and a very old set of children's swings and sliding board. On the whole the area is not well maintained. There was no one using the park when visited on a Saturday afternoon.

### Other Recreational Opportunities on Company Lands

In addition to the recreation uses which are permitted in the designated parks, berry picking, hiking, fishing, and hunting are normally permitted free of charge on most of the lands of the companies listed in Table 2. There are certain limitations and restrictions. The three primary restrictions are: (1) restriction of admittance during periods of high fire danger, (2) no admittance to areas where logging is taking place, in order to protect both the employees and the public, and (3) restricted use of access roads during periods of wet weather to prevent rutting and other damage to the roadways.

Hunting is by far the major recreational use of forest industry lands. Several of the companies advertise in local newspapers during hunting season that their land is open to public hunting. At least two of the companies provide maps of their lands, pointing out restricted areas, and areas where the most game has been sighted.

In summation, most of the industrial forest land of Oregon is open to the public free of charge for various outdoor recreational activities. Eight of the seventy-three companies surveyed, owning a little over 50 percent of the forest industry lands in Oregon, have provided public parks in addition to normally permitting other recreational uses of their lands. These parks vary considerably in

size, quality and maintenance of the facilities, accessibility, and use received. The extent to which these parks meet the need or demand for this type of recreation area will be discussed in subsequent chapters.

## CHAPTER III

THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE FOREST INDUSTRY  
IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC  
OUTDOOR RECREATION

In order to evaluate the role that the forest industry might be expected to play in providing areas and facilities for public outdoor recreation, a number of factors need to be considered. Among these are the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of private forest land ownership, as well as the spatial relationships of their lands to areas of concentrated demand for outdoor recreation facilities.

The forest industry has as its primary objective the profitable growing and harvesting of timber to provide products for the consuming public. Moreover, the forest industry has a responsibility to its employees, its customers, and its shareholders to attain this objective in the most efficient manner possible. Does the private forest land owner also have a responsibility to provide for or allow outdoor recreation uses?

It is clear that some of the forest land owners do feel a responsibility to the general public to make their lands available for recreational pursuits. In addition, the attitude of the majority of the people using the forest industry recreation facilities (which will be discussed in the following chapter), seems to indicate that the public thinks the private forest owners have an obligation to provide

for recreational opportunities to serve the general public.

Two additional factors need consideration: (1) the increasing demand for recreational use of forest lands and (2) the spatial relations between forest industry lands and population centers in Oregon. An appraisal of these two factors follows, leading to an evaluation of the role that the forest industry properly might be expected to play in the recreational scene in Oregon.

#### Increasing Demand for Recreational Use of Forest Lands

During the preparation of the report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, Outdoor Recreation for America, many special reports on various aspects of demand for outdoor recreation in the United States were obtained by the commission. Some pertinent highlights of these reports are noted in the following few paragraphs.

About 85 percent of adults (12 years of age and over) participate in an outdoor recreation activity other than automobile riding for sightseeing and relaxation. Many people desire to engage in more outdoor recreation activity, but are prevented from doing so primarily by lack of time, lack of money, and to some extent lack of facilities (33, p. 4-7). It is estimated that the average number of hours actually worked will decrease from the 1960 level of 38.5 hours per

week to 35.4 hours in 1976, and the length of vacations will increase from two weeks in 1960 to 2.8 weeks in 1976 (35, p. 68-69). Per capita real disposable income is expected to rise from \$1,960 in 1960 to \$3,120 in 1976, or almost 63 percent (36, p. 6). Thus leisure time for recreation will increase, and so will income, undoubtedly leading to increased pressure on outdoor recreation areas such as forest lands.

Participation in outdoor recreation is reported to rise with income up to the \$7,500 to \$10,000 income group. It also rises with improvements in educational and occupational status. About 43 percent of all families are reported to take a vacation trip in any given year. In addition, over a fifth of all families take weekend trips planned around outdoor recreation activities (33, p. 51-54).

In the book Land for the Future, it is stated that:

The Pacific Coast is the region of fastest growth in the United States. Most of the growth has taken place in urban areas and this trend seems likely to continue. ✓  
The use of land for recreation has risen in this region and will continue to do so, partly as a result of the urban population growth within the region and partly from tourist travel. Recreational use of mountain and seashore areas may partially displace some of the other uses of these lands . . . . Correlation of commercial forestry with recreation is one of the major forestry problems which arises under these circumstances (13, p. 472).

During the years from 1940 to 1960 the population of the 48 conterminous states increased 35.1 percent. During the same

period the population of Oregon increased 62.3 percent, from 1,089,684 to 1,768,687. It is estimated that Oregon's population will increase by approximately 34.2 percent to 2,373,085 in April, 1980 (24, p. 9). This population increase has contributed significantly to Oregon's economy, and in doing so has and will continue to contribute to the pressures on the outdoor recreational resource possibilities of the state, including private forest lands.

In addition to Oregon's growing population, an increasing number of tourists travel to or through Oregon each year. The total number of out-of-state visitors is expected to increase from about 6,000,000 in 1960 to 15,000,000 in 1975 (26, p. 70).

The types of outdoor activity in greatest demand must also be considered. Picnicking is a popular outdoor activity. In 1960 about 10.9 million visits were made to state park areas in Oregon, and the greatest proportion of these visitors were picnickers. Both tent and trailer camping are increasing rapidly in Oregon. There are also several water-associated activities which are becoming increasingly popular, such as fishing, swimming, and boating (26, p. 84-92). It has been estimated that visitor attendance at all of Oregon's non-urban park and recreation areas will increase from approximately 23,900,000 in 1960 to 58,750,000 in 1975 (26, p. 74-75).

The increasing demand for outdoor recreation, and the fact that certain types of recreation which can be provided on forest lands are

increasing in popularity, indicate that the pressures for the use of forest industry lands for recreation, especially picnicking, camping, and water-related activities, will increase. When the spatial relationships between the forest industry lands and the urban centers of Oregon are examined, it is evident that the pressures will increase rapidly.

#### Distribution of Population in Relation to Forest Industry Lands

A comparison of Figure 12 and Figure 13 shows that much of the land owned by the forest industry is located within the heavily populated portion of the state, and on or near several of the major highways. This is the portion of the state which is expected to have the greatest population increase, and, as a result, this is the area of greatest and increasing demand for recreational opportunities.

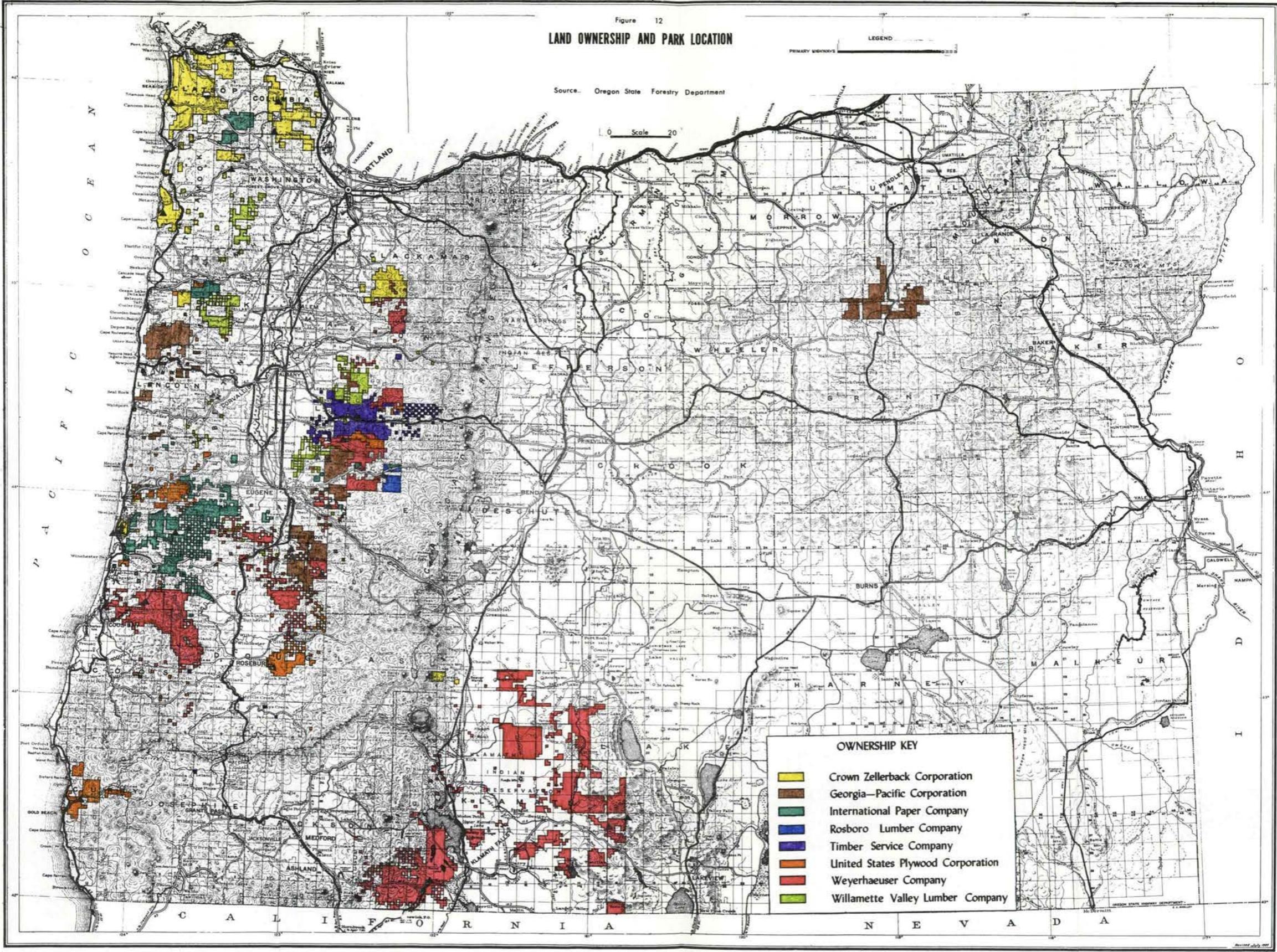
Many of the forest industry holdings are within a relatively short driving distance from the major urban centers of the state. Thus, easy accessibility increases the potential pressures on private lands even more than on public lands.

#### An Appraisal of the Role of the Forest Industry

The expanding demand for recreational use of forest lands, and the spatial relationship between the distribution of the population and

Figure 12  
LAND OWNERSHIP AND PARK LOCATION

Source: Oregon State Forestry Department



OWNERSHIP KEY

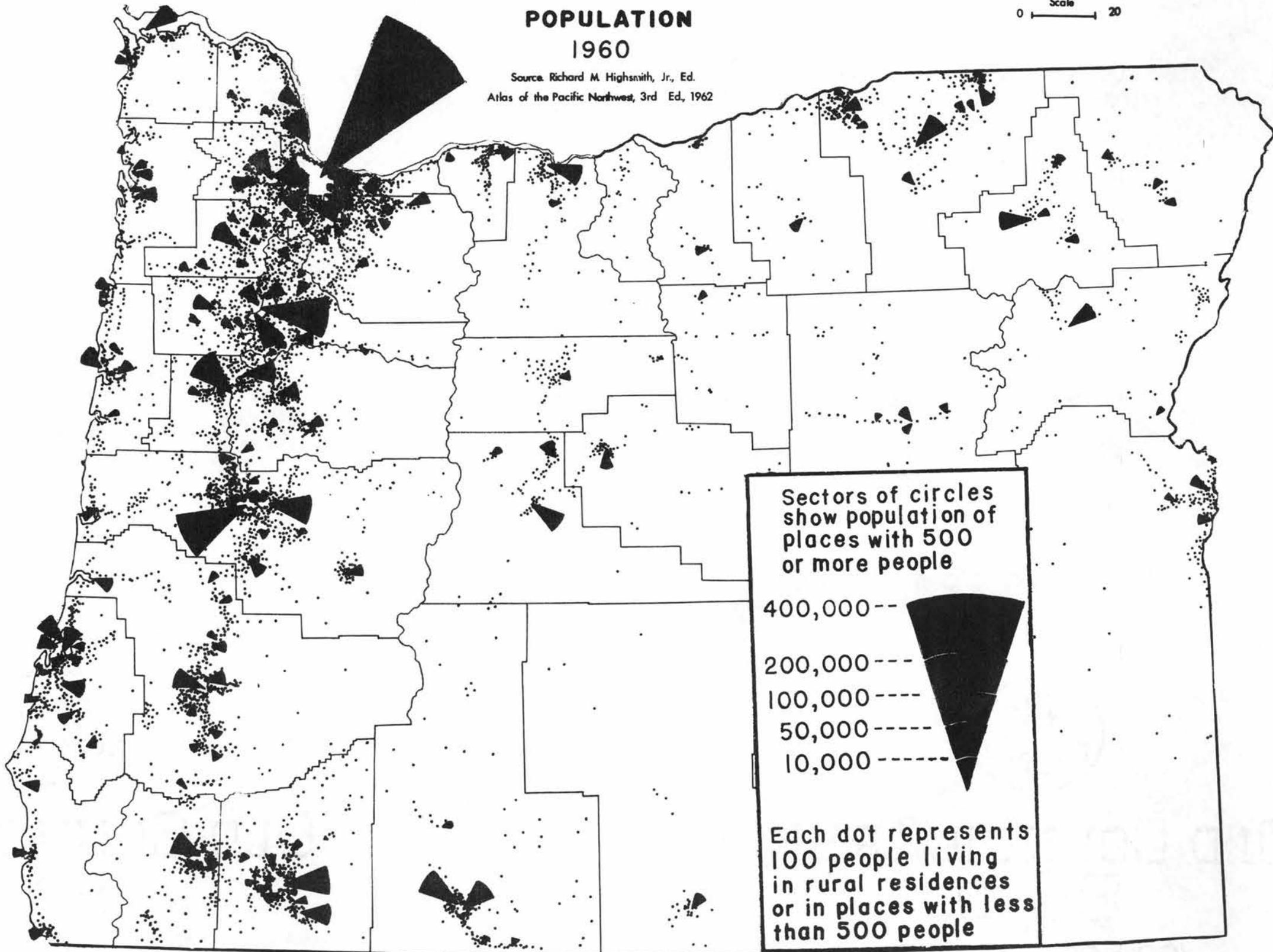
- Crown Zellerbach Corporation
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- International Paper Company
- Rosboro Lumber Company
- Timber Service Company
- United States Plywood Corporation
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Willamette Valley Lumber Company

Figure 13

# POPULATION 1960

Source: Richard M. Highsmith, Jr., Ed.  
Atlas of the Pacific Northwest, 3rd Ed., 1962

Scale 0 20



the location of the forest industry lands, indicate that there will be great pressure for the recreational use of forest industry lands in the near future. Therefore it is pertinent to consider what might be the role of the private forest industry in providing facilities for public outdoor recreation.

Demands for the recreational use of these lands are being felt at the present, and owners of large holdings of forest lands that are already utilized for hunting, fishing, picnicking, and other recreational activities do anticipate increasing demands for more privileges. Many of those whose lands and waters are still closed to the public recognize that public sentiment will sooner or later force the opening of some of their land areas where recreation can be enjoyed safely (34, p. 145). Thus realism suggests that the industry as a whole adopt a dynamic role in the development of public recreational opportunities.

The question remains, what should this role be? The most effective role would seem to be one of forward-looking leadership through the development of professionally planned parks, specifically located where they would help to meet the growing demand for recreation areas. Sites should be chosen with respect to their recreation potential in relation to accessibility, distance from concentrations of population, and available recreational opportunities for such activities

as camping, swimming, and boating. Adequate maintenance and supervision of the parks would be necessary.

Consideration should be given to their potentialities as profit-making enterprises, when the charging of fees for the use of outdoor recreation areas and facilities becomes common. At present privately owned outdoor recreation facilities provided for the purpose of making a profit play a very small part in the total recreation scene (30, p. 78). However this does not rule out the possibility of it playing a greater part in the future.

In assuming this leadership, the companies would of course have to protect their interests in the profitable production of timber and timber products; thus cooperation between foresters and qualified recreation planners or land-use consultants would be a necessity. This, then, is probably the role the forest industry should adopt in their long-range planning.

## CHAPTER IV

## THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES

There are many problems and difficulties associates with the use of industrial forest land for public recreational purposes. Some of these are physical problems that arise when land which is primarily devoted to timber production is also used for recreational activities. Still others are problems which arise due to a conflict of attitudes held by the public and the companies concerning the recreational use of forest industry lands.

The following paragraphs deal with the more important problems, and some of the attempts which have been made to solve them or to lessen their effect.

Vandalism and Other Misuse

The greatest occurrence of vandalism and misuse of forest industry lands tends to occur during hunting season. When vandalism was discussed in interviews, a few of the company representatives hastened to add that it was their belief that these acts were not always committed by hunters, but nonetheless hunters generally are blamed for them. The increase in the number of destructive acts during hunting season, compared to other times of the year, is

primarily due to the much greater use of these lands by the public at this time.

It is believed that the problems which have occurred in the past during hunting seasons are lessening to some degree. During the deer hunting seasons in 1954 and 1958, the branch managers, foresters, and other supervisors of the Weyerhaeuser Company conducted surveys on seven tree farms in western Washington. Unfortunately a similar survey was not made in Oregon, but conclusions which resulted from the survey had an effect on company policies regarding the use of its lands for hunting in the following years, and applied to Oregon as well as Washington. The following is from a news release by the Weyerhaeuser Company, then the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

. . . Generally, the hunters afield during the 1958 buck hunting season were reported to be safer with firearms, more respectful and less inclined to vandalism. They damaged fewer miles of logging roads . . . . The conclusion that overall hunter behavior is improving was made in spite of evidence that hunters in 1958 caused more fire damage, stole more equipment, disobeyed more signs, and got lost more often.

. . . Organized sportsmen, the State Game Department, and law enforcement agencies were credited with action which helped improve landowners-sportsmen relations in recent years.

The number and size of hunter-caused fires noted was nearly double the 1954 records. This causes the greatest concern in comparing the two surveys.

. . . Theft of company property and equipment, as well as that belonging to independent contractors, was somewhat higher than in 1954.

. . . The seven tree farms suffered a total of twenty-two gates damaged or torn down in hunters' attempts to travel on roads closed for safety reasons. An independent contractor found his fire truck riddled with bullet holes.

One of the most damaging cases of hunter misconduct started when an insulator was shot off a telephone pole. The sagging wire was snagged by a passing railroad locomotive, which ripped out a mile of wire before coming to a stop.

But most significant was the fact that disrespectful conduct and destructive vandalism declined in 1958, this despite an increase in the number of hunters afield over that of 1954 (48, p. 1-3).

It is significant that the company feels that vandalism and misuse are decreasing, for if there is an improvement in public conduct, and the forest landowner is not aware of it or disregards it, the conflicts between the owner and the public remain.

Vandalism and other misuse of the facilities and lands during the remaining portion of the year seems to be minor. In talking with the representatives of the companies which have established parks on their lands, there were relatively few complaints of vandalism or misuse of the parks, except for minor problems such as misuse of the sanitary facilities and littering the area. The latter, considering the increased use of these areas, seems to be on the decline, possibly because of the increased emphasis being placed on

the "sin" of littering. A branch manager of one of the companies complained that one of the problems with a park under his jurisdiction was the "public expansion of the developed park area proper."

The Cost of Permitting Recreational  
Use of Forest Industry Lands

One of the decisions which the forest owner must make is whether the cost connected with permitting recreational use of his land is justified. Recreational use of forest industry lands does increase operating costs due to park development costs, increased use of access roads, vandalism, maintenance, and the unknown risks of additional danger from fires and liability for injuries.

The costs of park development and maintenance in most cases are unknown, since most of the development work is done by employees of the companies when they are unable to work elsewhere because of weather conditions, etc., and because materials manufactured by the companies are used as much as possible. From the relatively few available statistics it was found that the average camping unit (one table and one fireplace) costs about \$65.00, including clearing. The average cost per restroom was \$200.00. These figures do not include road construction, water pipes, or any special facilities. Estimates of park development by the eight companies concerned ranged from \$300.00 to \$5,000.00 per park, depending on the size and quality of the park and the facilities available. Estimates

of annual maintenance costs ranged from \$100.00 to \$1,500.00.

In a study of private outdoor recreation facilities prepared for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, the result of a survey of numerous forest land-owners indicated that:

. . . Timber operators owning 300,000 acres or more . . . feel they can afford free recreational facilities for public use. However, the smaller operators generally cannot afford these additional overhead expenses (34, p 118).

#### Attitude of the Public

A basic conflict results from the apparent fact that the public views private forest land as different from other private property in the matter of ownership rights. Many feel that all forest land should be open for their use and if it is not, trespass is justifiable. While visiting several of the parks, the questions, "Do you think the companies of the forest industry have an obligation to provide areas such as this for public use?", and "Why, or why not?", were asked of about a hundred people using the facilities. Answers varied, but the following are the most representative answers.

Yes, because they control most of the natural resources.

Yes, because it gives people who live in cities a chance to enjoy outdoor living and fresh air.

Yes, they should not be made to furnish them, but asked to do so.

Yes, because they are harvesting so much of the forest area, and some should be set aside.

No, they do not have an obligation, but it is very nice.

In conjunction with this, Hardin R. Glascock, Jr., forestry counsel for the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, described the public's attitude, as seen by the forest industry, in a paper delivered before the Sixteenth Industrial Forestry Seminar, sponsored by the Schools of Forestry of Yale University and Oregon State University, at Corvallis, Oregon, in January, 1961.

Without worrying about the bothersome details of ownership, ownership objectives, interference with management goals, costs, risks, or liability, we expect plentiful supplies of available recreation, wildlife, fish, water, roads, and rights-of-way from forest lands. If we don't have them we organize to chastise the landowners for not furnishing them. As forest users, we either assume that furnishing these uses doesn't cost anything or very little, or that we have already paid for them, or that others will pay for them. Having left our homes where property rights are well known and sacrosanct, we proceed into the woods where owner rights give way to "public interest" . . . . We know it (forest recreation) is good for us, and didn't our fathers and grandfathers always have it in abundance without question? (20, p. 1)

This attitude produces problems for the private owner, whose first function is the production of timber at a profit. Nonetheless, a large share of the public does have the attitude that the forest lands, or at least portions of them, should be available for recreation use. Thus, the question is "How can the companies best live with this public?"

### Attitude of the Companies

The men who control the forest industries are beginning to realize that they cannot keep the public off their lands, and that in some cases it is desirable for the public to use their lands. Hunting, for example, aids in keeping the game populations under control. But there is a great deal more verbal recognition than there is action in this respect.

While interviewing various representatives of the companies that maintain parks on their lands the following question was asked. "Why does the organization provide specific areas, i. e. parks, for recreational use of its lands?" The answers to this question are quoted below.

The corporation is a quasi-public organization and as such has a duty to provide recreational opportunities along with other forest products.

We feel it (providing recreation areas) generates good will and also educates the public on the activities of the forest industry.

We recognize the need and are gradually providing facilities.

The company set this area aside because hunters and fishermen were building fires in unsafe places and rather than force them off the company's property, we decided to provide a safe place for picnicking and fires.

After constructing gates on our roads, we felt we owed something to the local citizens.

With the company's ownership of so much river frontage and other possible campsites it was felt that we could control promiscuous camping by providing good camping and picnicking facilities.

Extending to the public the privilege of use of company lands for recreational purposes will help to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the benefits to be derived from sound forestry management of privately owned timber lands.

The company obtained these parks in a land purchase, but is not interested in maintaining recreation areas.

One company, as part of its general policy, has a recreation policy, part of which reads:

. . . Recreational opportunities shall be offered to the public through the use of designated tree farm areas for campers, hunters, fishermen, and other recreationists. The use of these areas shall be limited only as necessary to avoid fire, injury to employees or the public, or damage to the timber crops, roads, or equipment.

Whenever possible sites of historic interest or outstanding scenic beauty shall be preserved for public enjoyment.

Thus most of the companies which provide parks do indicate some recognition of the growing demand for recreational areas and facilities, although this recognition may not be the only motivation. At least one of the companies agrees with those of the public who claim that the forest industry has a duty to provide recreational opportunities on their land. In addition most of the companies indicate that the development of parks is a method of protecting their interests and obtaining good will.

## CHAPTER V

## PLANNING

The effects of growth in population, increased leisure time, the steady migration into the cities and suburbs, increased disposable incomes, and greater mobility will result in greater demand for outdoor recreation in a relatively short period of time. This expanding demand, coupled with the fact that the forest industry lands are the "wild lands" closest to the major concentrations of population in Oregon, suggests the need for planned development of numerous areas and facilities.

Necessity for Planning

Wise, long-range planning is necessary if both the public and the forest industry are to benefit from the development of recreation areas. Unfortunately in some cases already developed there was no planning. Some sites were developed merely because a few fishermen, campers, or picnickers began using a certain site for their activities. The potential problems which could arise from this were expressed by Arthur H. Carhart in an article written in 1958, in which he referred to the fact that the constant use of a certain location often led the landowner or his representative to decide that it

was the logical site for a public campground to be developed. About this type of reasoning he wrote:

It could have been, if one considered the location for the single use of recreation. But in a forest where timber and watershed are first and constant governing interests, locating campgrounds . . . by such a method could lead to awkward operation and program at later dates (8, p. 33).

Again, in an address at a banquet of the Washington Committee of the American Forest Products Industries, Incorporated, he stressed the dangers of lack of planning:

. . . The second step (a master plan) is universally overlooked . . . . It recognizes that a tree farm is managed first to produce timber. Your land-use consultant approaches the use problem, the water, wild-life, and recreation utilization with the best cooperative counsel of the company foresters. They must fit in as organic, basic forest management . . . . The third step is the one now being taken . . . always a bit on the emergency side. A single facility or use is too often installed on a wholly local basis, generally unrelated to all others . . . . That location could foul up future logging operations, be a fire menace, a sure threat to pure water in the adjacent stream, even block against full development of the area as a larger more productive recreational site (7, p. 8-9).

It would be unfair to state that there has been no planning, for the locations of some of the parks have been specifically picked by men who had the future in mind. Also some of the parks are located on sites of historic or aesthetic value, thus in effect it has been determined that for these areas recreation is the highest order of land use.

The question "Is there any possibility that the company might hire a recreation planner, director, or someone in a similar capacity?" was asked of representatives of the eight companies. The representatives of five of the eight companies answered in the negative, but three of the larger ones said that it was a possibility if the situation changed enough to warrant it.

### Charging for Recreation

Recently there has been considerable discussion about charging for the recreational use of public lands. The O.R.R.R.C. report recommended that "public agencies supplying outdoor recreation should adopt a system of user fees and charges." (29, p. 18) If the federal government adopts a policy of charging for recreational use of public lands, opportunities for private owners to make equitable charges for public use will be improved.

With this in mind the representatives of the companies were asked if they would charge for the use of their lands for recreational purposes, if this became commonplace on public lands. Four of the eight companies have considered charges and stated that they might charge a fee for the use of their lands. One of the companies has even discussed the possibility of developing a subsidiary devoted entirely to developing and "selling" its recreation resources. This is not even in the planning stage at present, but at least it

demonstrates one company's realization that demand for recreational uses of their lands will increase, and that in certain areas, recreation and not timber production may be the highest order of use for the land, and possibly the most profitable.

The representatives of the remaining four companies felt either that the demand for recreational use of their land would not be great enough to make the charging of a fee feasible, or that the good will of the public was worth more than the money that could be realized from charging for recreational use of the land.

#### Plans for Development

Five of the eight companies which have public parks at present intend to develop one or more parks in the future. Except for a few cases, exact locations and the nature of the facilities have not been decided. Thus plans for the future are indefinite. Several of the companies realize that the pressures on their land will increase, and they know that future developments will be necessary. But for the most part there is a wait-and-see attitude and very little constructive planning. Moreover, these eight companies control only half of the forest industry lands of Oregon, and the remaining companies have not provided for the recreational use of their lands, except where it meets their needs. So it would appear that the companies that have not provided areas and facilities for recreation purposes are unconcerned with the growing demand.

## CHAPTER VI

## CONCLUSIONS

Many conclusions can be drawn from this study. This chapter consists of a list of the more important conclusions which grew out of the researching and writing of this thesis.

1. There is growing pressure for the development of parks on private lands which could serve the nearby urban population.
2. Many of the parks provided by the various companies are inadequate, in location or facilities, to provide the type of recreation which is needed.
3. Camping is becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity in Oregon, yet it is permitted in only 14 of the 25 parks presently maintained by the forest industry.
4. The companies which are most likely to be able to meet the growing pressures for recreational uses are those that are planning for them now. Unfortunately very little planning has taken place in the past, nor is enough taking place at present. Too often, because of a lack of planning, companies are forced to undertake stop-gap measures which may be detrimental to their future well-being.

5. It would seem to be to the landowner's advantage to keep adequate financial accounts of park development, maintenance, and supervision under one heading, instead of the present method of financing the recreation program under such things as public relations, woods operations, and maintenance. Adequate records of costs would be helpful in planning for the future.

In attempting to plan realistically for the future, many things must be considered. The following is a list of suggestions which might be of benefit, directly or indirectly, to all parties concerned.

1. Location of park sites based on study of relation to urban centers and relative accessibility should receive serious consideration.
2. In planning sites and facilities, the types of recreation in greatest demand should receive consideration. For example, of all the activities that are available on forest industry lands, those connected with water, i. e. swimming and fishing, seem to be the most favored activities, and boating is increasing in popularity. Picnicking also ranks high, and in Oregon camping and hiking are engaged in two or three times as much as in other sections of the country.
3. A set of minimum standards for recreation areas and facilities should be decided upon and adhered to by members of the forest industry. Perhaps this could be accomplished through the

American Forest Products Industries, Incorporated or the Society of American Foresters.

4. Adequate supervision of the parks would tend to mitigate the problems of vandalism and misuse.
5. Each large company should have a competent recreation planner and director working in cooperation with foresters and other supervisory personnel.

An attempt has been made in this thesis to convey the idea that there is a greater role which might be achieved by the private forest industry in providing public recreation areas and facilities. The problems have been shown to be many and complex, as might be expected in view of the land uses competing for space and the conflict in objectives between private timber growing interests and recreationists. Nevertheless it is suggested that the interests of the timber land operators will be best served by development of more adequate facilities, carefully planned to serve the state's growing population.

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