

CHAPTER SEVEN

RECREATION



THE BEGINNINGS OF RECREATION ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS

When Gifford Pinchot—first Chief Forester—wrote *The Use of the National Forests* in 1907, he had some ideas about recreation, but his thinking was not fully formulated. He mentions that “stores, hotels, and residences for recreation” belonged on the national forests because they contributed to “getting the fullest use out of the land and its resources.”¹



Cape Perpetua was one of the first sites on the Siuslaw set aside for recreation.

Playgrounds. Quite incidentally, also, the national forests serve a good purpose as great playgrounds for the people. They are used more or less every year by campers, hunters, fishermen, and thousands of pleasure seekers from the near-by towns. They are great recreation grounds for a very large part of the people of the West, and their value in this respect is well worth considering.

Gifford Pinchot, *The Use of the National Forests*

While Pinchot was not willing to include recreation as a fundamental purpose of the new national forests he was willing to consider its role. At a personal level, Pinchot was enthusiastic about outdoor recreation, especially yachting. His political mentor Teddy Roosevelt was a great believer in strenuous outdoor activities, and wrote books about his own adventures hunting and camping. It is probably fair to say that men like Pinchot and Roosevelt saw recreation and leisure as belonging to the wealthy classes with money and time to pursue them.



Trail shelters were used by Forest Service staff and by the recreating public.

In the early days Forest Service policy followed Pinchot's thinking and treated recreation as less important than other more traditional uses of the forests. However, there was opposition to this view from inside and outside the Forest Service. Conservationists like California's John Muir and Oregon's John B. Waldo had been among the first advocates of the forest reserve and national forest programs. They argued that the national forests should be used for "inspiration and our own true recreation," and not for grazing, mining, or timber. Men like Muir reached a large national audience with their writings and influenced national policy. Within the Forest Service early advocates of recreation included Arthur Carhart, Aldo Leopold, Fred Waugh, and Fred Cleator.

Pinchot's successor as Chief Forester was Henry S. Graves, who took a different view of forest recreation in his 1913 *Annual Report of the Forester*.

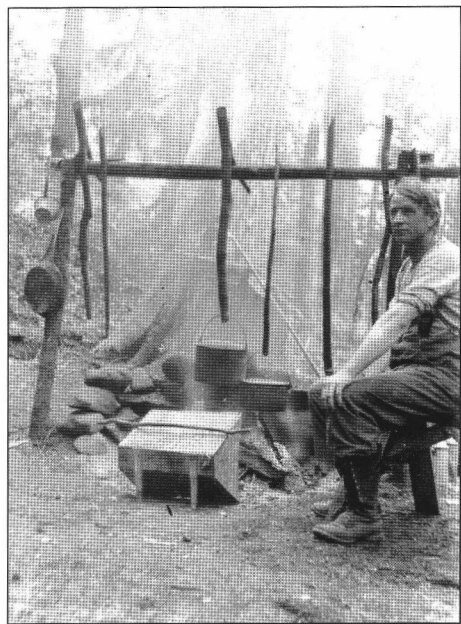
[Recreation] is a highly important use of the Forests by the public, and it is recognized and facilitated by adjusting commercial use of the Forests, when necessary. Examples are the exclusion of stock and provisions in timber sales for very light cutting, or not cutting at all close to lakes and elsewhere where it is desirable to preserve the natural beauty of the location unmarred, for the enjoyment of the public.

Henry S. Graves *Annual Report of the Forester*, 1913

Forest recreation was probably attractive to Graves and other leaders of the Forest Service for practical reasons as well as for its own merit. Recreation was a non-consumptive use of the forest that could bring urban Americans into the national forests

and show them the benefits of Forest Service management. This could create a new constituency of supporters who could balance the rural people and the industrialists who opposed federal forest management. For urban Americans of moderate means, forest recreation was very appealing—inexpensive, family oriented, and increasingly fashionable.

In 1915, Congress passed the Term Occupancy Act on March 4. This legislation authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special use permits on “suitable areas of land within the national forests, not exceeding five acres and for periods not exceeding thirty years, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining summer homes.” Hotels, stores, and resorts were also approved uses of the permit lands.



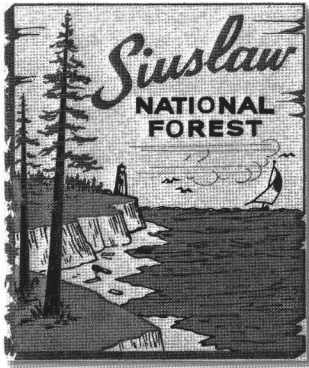
Early camping equipment, with reflector oven for baking. C.P. Cronk photo, 1910-1911.

In the same year, the Forest Service created the Columbia River Gorge Park on the Oregon National Forest (now the Mt. Hood NF). This park encompassed nearly 14,000 acres. Within the park was the Eagle Creek campground, the first developed campground on any national forest. The Eagle Creek hiking trail was a recreational trail over 13 miles long that afforded spectacular views of the Columbia Gorge. This complex was the most ambitious national forest recreation facility to date.² In the following year, 1916, Congress created the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior to manage the parks that were growing in popularity and becoming national oases for recreation. In 1917, The Forest Service engaged landscape architect Fred Waugh to investigate forest recreation. His report, *Recreational Uses of the National Forests*, was the first agency-wide approach to this topic. Three years later, Waugh prepared a report on the Mt. Hood area.

[On the Crater National Forest] we surveyed out a resort site called Rocky Point and 30 more summer home sites. By 1913 these were all sold and we surveyed and set aside 50 or more at Lake O'Woods. So far as I know, this was about the first attempt in the Region to recognize and develop recreational facilities.

Ranger Edward S. Kerby, 1924

EARLY RECREATION ON THE SIUSLAW



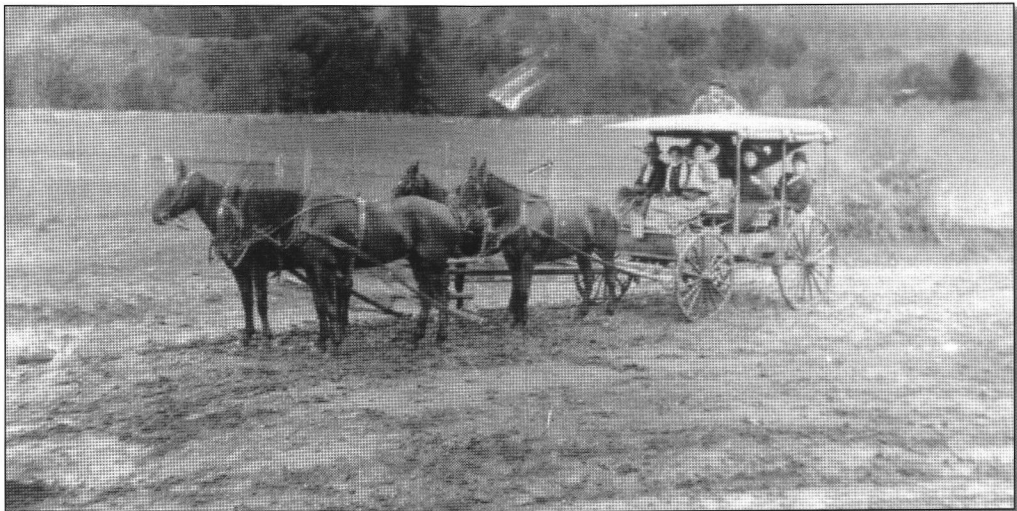
By virtue of its coastal location, the Siuslaw National Forest had a head start on recreation. It was located close to the populous Willamette Valley, offering convenient access for many Oregonians.

Coastal resorts in Lincoln and Tillamook counties advertised the appeal of the central Oregon beaches. Nye Beach near Newport was an early destination for “summer people” visiting the coast. At the turn of the century, Newport offered hotels, campgrounds, and even some claim to gentility.³

Socially Newport cannot be surpassed either in character of her visitors or class of her entertainments and amusements. She is free of all that objectionable class of people who crowd the resorts close to a large city.

Vacation Suggestions, Yaquina Bay, 1898

Coast access on the Siuslaw at the time included an area near Sand Lake in Tillamook County, Cape Perpetua, the South Lincoln County beaches, and the dunes from Florence south to Coos Bay. Before the Oregon Coast Highway was completed in the 1930s, access to the beaches on the Forest was difficult. The original auto route south from South Beach to Yachats required driving on the sand and avoiding high tides. Similarly, the dunes south of Florence remained remote.



Early outdoor recreators relied on stage travel to reach some destinations.

In addition to its beaches, the Siuslaw offered rivers full of salmonoid fishes. These were the Big and Little Nestucca, Salmon River, Siletz, Yaquina, Siuslaw, Alsea, Smith, and Umpqua. British sportsman and investor Wallis Nash visited Newport in 1877 and wrote about fly fishing in Marys River. ⁴

The pool held another trout, though, who could not resist the sight of foreign flies; he turned out a nice plump fellow of about a quarter pound and lived under the roots of a tree at the lower end.

Wallis Nash Oregon: *There and Back in 1877*



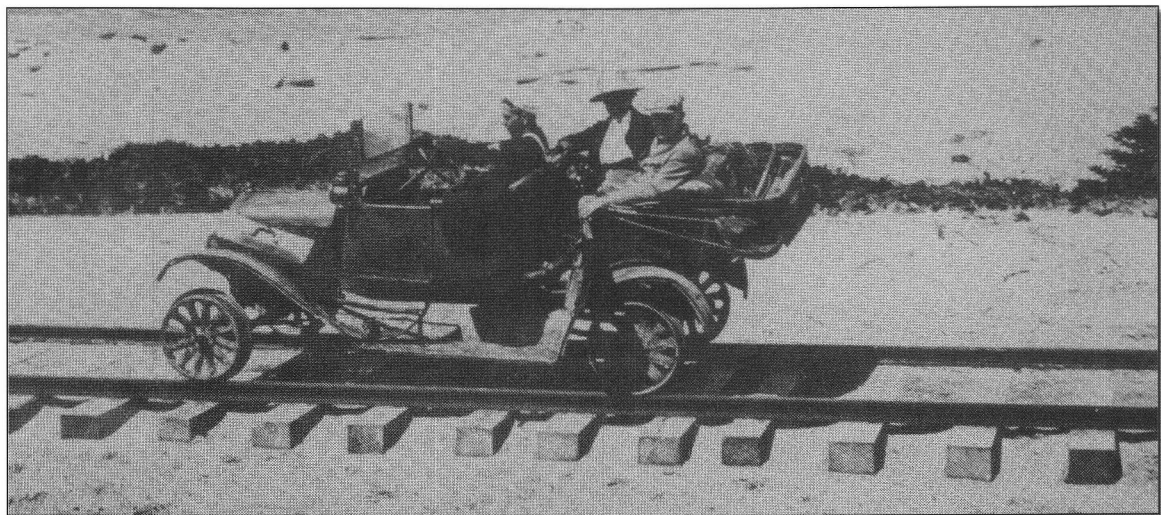
After 1915, recreation cabin sites were available on most national forests in the West, including the Siuslaw. The recreation cabin program was generally successful, but for some reason, the Siuslaw's recreation cabin program did not flourish. In 1922 the Region 6 publication *Six Twenty-Six* reported that the Siuslaw had ten recreation cabin site permits in use. None remains today.

[The Siuslaw is] the only Forest in D-6 which has any sea beach, which when the Roosevelt Highway is completed will make it necessary to prepare a management plan for clam beds and crab fields...

Six Twenty-Six, December 1926

In addition to creating a special use permit system for private recreation cabins and commercial resorts and stores, the Term Occupancy Act of 1915 also made it possible for religious, fraternal, and other non-profit organizations to build camps and lodges on national forests. Four organizational camps built in the 1920s are associated with the Siuslaw. These are Meriwether, near Sand Lake on the Hebo Ranger District, a Mennonite Church camp on Drift Creek in the Hebo Ranger District, and Camp Baker and Camp Cleawox on the Oregon Dunes NRA. Meriwether and Baker are now privately owned by the sponsoring organization, which is the Boy Scouts. Cleawox, a Girl Scout camp, is located on a 45 acre special use permit tract. The camp remains in its original location on Cleawox Lake, but the lodge was rebuilt in 1995.

Recreation on the Siuslaw during the 1910s and 1920s—as on other national forests—relied on resorts and lodges, or cabins, to provide accommodations. There were private campgrounds and camping places on the Forest, but well-developed public



Automobile modified for rail travel, South Beach.

campgrounds were not yet available. The text to the 1934 map of the forest points out that lodging was mostly available at private facilities—"resorts which do not lie directly within the national forest, but are close to its boundary." Perhaps the most surprising part of 1910s and 1920s recreation on the Siuslaw is the difficulty of access. Travel by automobile or wagon and team along primitive roads was possible, but not convenient. The Forest Service map recommends railroads and even boats as a better alternative.

RECREATION

Recreation seekers find much to interest them in the western part of the Siuslaw National Forest and especially the region along the coast. When the interior valleys get too warm for comfort in the summer, this is the place to come. Spring is early, the climate is mild and pleasant along the seashore, and there is plenty to do. This region is an especially popular spring and early summer fishing ground and offers a great variety of fishing. Trout fishing with rod and fly in the smaller streams offers the best sport and good trout streams are plentiful. Fishing for silverside salmon with a casting rod and spoon, trolling for Chinook and other salmon, and deep sea fishing with the possibility of going after clams and crabs complete the list.

Siuslaw National Forest Map, 1934



Cape Perpetua provided areas for picnics and camping.

RECREATION ON THE SIUSLAW AND ACCESS IN 1934

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY	ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE	GETTING THERE IN 1934
Nestucca Bay, Devils Lake	Hunting & Fishing	Automobile via Willamina over the "new Salmon River road" (completed in 1930)
Drift Creek	Fishing	By boat from Taft, up the Siletz 8 miles, then 3 miles by foot trail
Table Mountain	Hunting	Auto or wagon from Alsea, then pack trail from Tidewater
Yachats	"First-class Camp"	Southern Pacific Railroad to Newport, then "half-days drive south from Newport"
Cape Perpetua	Camping, scenery	Not specified
Samaria (Mouth of Big Creek)	Private campgrounds	Not specified
Siuslaw Bay	Visiting Florence, Mapleton, Glenada	Southern Pacific Railroad from Eugene
Lakes Region	Hunting & Fishing	Southern Pacific Railroad from Eugene
Winchester Bay	Fishing	Railroad; "light draft boats" from the coast
Tenmile Lakes	Fishing	Southern Pacific Railroad from Eugene
Coos Bay	Hunting & Fishing	Southern Pacific Railroad from Eugene: "two-days travel from Allegany"; "large boats to North Bend or Marshfield"

Information from 1934 Siuslaw Recreation map.

AUTOMOBILE CAMPING ON THE SIUSLAW

During the 1930s, two events conspired to make automobile camping the primary recreation focus for the Siuslaw. The first of these was the completion of the Oregon Coast Highway with the necessary new bridges at Coos Bay, Reedsport, Florence, Waldport, and Newport. The auto route made access to the Siuslaw's coastal areas much more practical and convenient. The highway and the bridges were financed by the State of Oregon Department of Transportation and federal infrastructure programs including the Works Progress Administration (WPA).



Automobiles revolutionized forest camping.

The second event of the 1930s was the Civilian Conservation Corps and their dedication to building recreation facilities, including campgrounds, day-use areas, and scenic enhancements. Since the CCC was a national program of the New Deal, direction for CCC projects came from the top down. The Forest Service's nascent recreation program was a major beneficiary of CCC labor and the expertise of "local experienced men" hired to direct the CCC crews.

Did the CCC programs have a big influence on the Siuslaw?

Yes, they did. They built just about all the campgrounds on this Forest until oh, probably, about 1960. Anything prior to 1960—just about [all] as far as campgrounds were concerned—was built by the CCCs.

Ranger F. James Lyne Interview, 1987



CCC kitchen at Cape Perpetua, ca. 1936.

The new campgrounds featured designated camping spots, running water, restrooms, picnic tables, and stone fireplaces. Roads were stabilized with crushed rock to make them useable in the wet season. Some campgrounds built by the CCC had "community kitchens" that offered sheltered areas for cooking on rainy days. One remaining kitchen is located at the Hebo Lake campground. The CCC took many of the ideas for campground improvements

and day-use amenities from Albert H. Good's influential book, *Park Structures and Facilities*.

The 1938 map of the Siuslaw shows the new campgrounds, the “Main Motor Highways,” and “Secondary Routes.” There were 14 campgrounds on the Forest in 1938. Presently, there are 44.

Improved Campgrounds, 1938

Alder Glen

Rocky Bend

South Lake

Big Elk

Maples

Cape Perpetua

Tenmile

Rock Creek

Big Creek

Sutton Lake

Siltcoos Outlet

Carter Lake

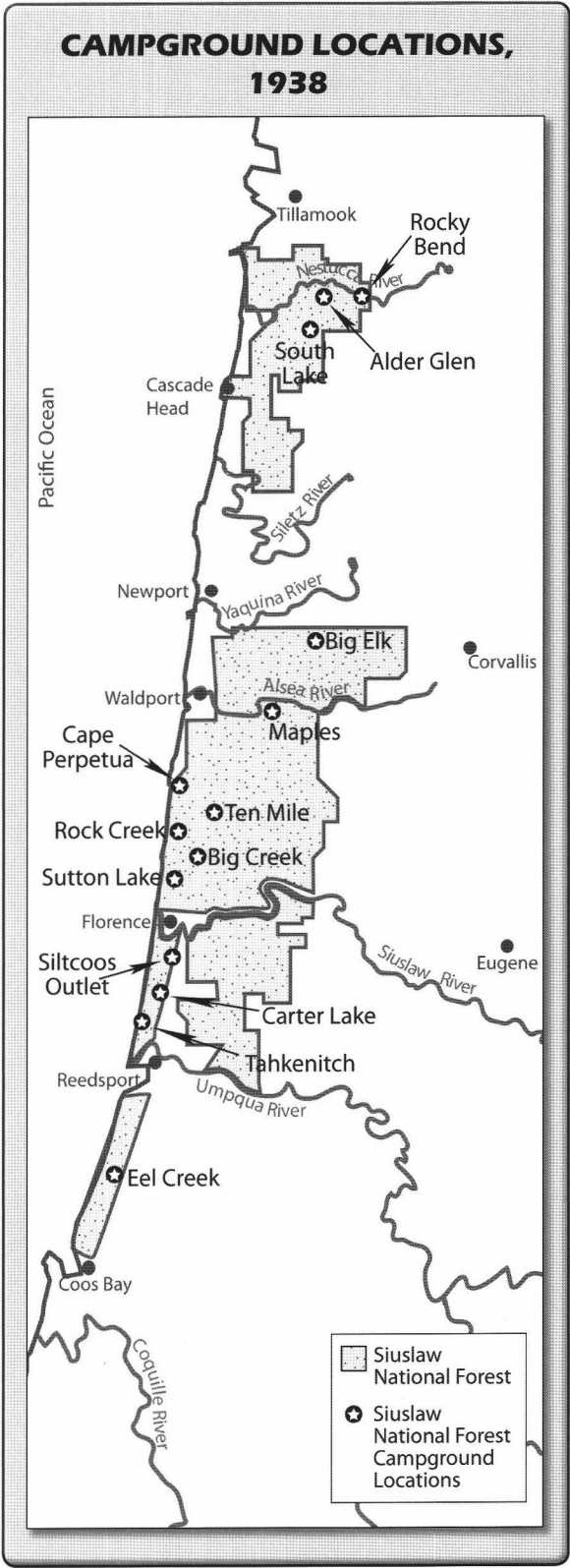
Tahkenitch Lake

Eel Creek

Most of the early automobile camping relied on tents, which were sometimes precarious on windy, rainy coastal nights. Early photos show that “travel trailers” and “teardrop trailers” were offering more stable accommodations than tents as early as the 1930s.



Early camp trailer.



RECREATION PLANNING ON THE SIUSLAW IN THE 1950s AND 1960s

In the years after World War II, the demand for forest recreation grew. Leisure and prosperity enabled families to take longer vacations, and to buy recreation equipment. The increasing pace of timber sales during the 1950s and 1960s opened much of the Siuslaw with all-weather roads. These made formerly remote inland areas accessible for hunting, fishing, and berry-picking. Trails built by the Forest and by the CCC added hiking to the slate of recreation activities available.



Improvements at Tillicum Beach campground included pavement.

The American Public was getting “camping minded” and purchasing more pickups and camp trailers. I recall that it was in the summer of 1958 that I outfitted my family with tent, sleeping bags, camp stove, etc. and spent a wonderful weekend at Carter Lake.

Clarence W. Jacobs, Working for the U.S. Forest Service

As the nation moved through the 1950s, sentiment of the public and in Congress grew to favor a renewed commitment to “wise use” of the national forests. The result was the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. This legislation named timber, range, recreation, watershed, and wildlife as the appropriate uses of the national forests, with the provision that no single use should dominate to the exclusion of other uses. The term “Multiple-Use” became the watchword for inclusive planning.

The first money the Forest received specifically for recreation was in the summer of 1956, when I was assigned to the SO [Supervisor’s Office] to do a recreation survey. I spent about six weeks visiting each district inventorying existing and possible campgrounds and other recreational sites. ...In 1958 Mike Clark, a landscape architect, was assigned to the SO. And then we on the districts received notice not to cut any old-growth trees along or near roads or streams. In addition we were not to make any clearcuts that were visible from certain roads.

Clarence W. Jacobs, Working for the US Forest Service

The first recreation plan [on the Siuslaw] started back in the CCC days. There was one that was written then. It was the first plan for the entire Forest. They had it in segments kind of before; they had it in different units. They had the Siltcoos Unit; then there was the Heceta Head/Perpetua Unit; there was the Hebo Unit. This was back in the CCC era when they first started writing those types of plans.

Ranger F. James Lyne Interview, 1980



Cover image, 1962 *Annual Report*.

In 1961 the Siuslaw recorded 944,400 recreational visits to the Forest.⁵ The *Annual Report* titled “A Report on Multiple Use Management in 1962” featured a beach scene on the cover. Improvements for recreation in 1962 included increasing the capacity of parking lots at Siltcoos

Beach Access, and completing campgrounds at Schooner Creek and Sutton Creek. New campgrounds offered pressure water and flush toilets. One of the chief concerns voiced in planning documents was controlling automobiles on the beaches and the dunes. The recreation program through the 1950s and 1960s could be seen as automobile-oriented.

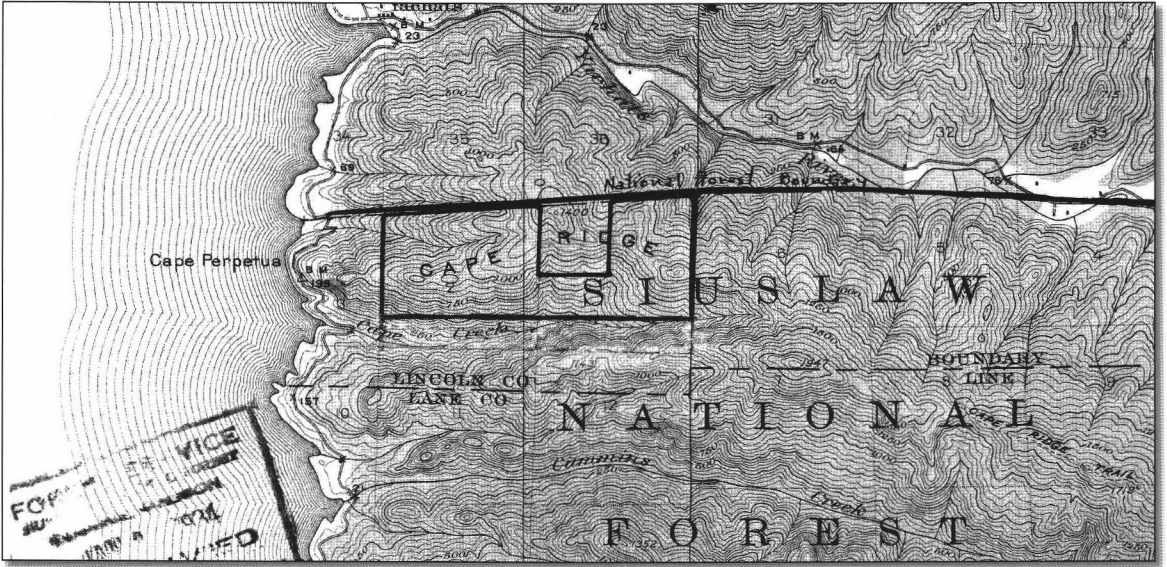
During the turbulent 1960s, however, Congress passed two very important pieces of legislation that led recreation planning on the Siuslaw and other national forests away from the automobile-dominated strategies. These were the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. In 1984, the Siuslaw created the Rock Creek, Drift Creek, and Cummins Creek Wilderness Areas. These are roadless areas on the Forest set aside for recreation without motor vehicles under the Oregon wilderness program.



Bicycling the coast highway has been popular since the 1930s.

CAPE PERPETUA

One of the areas of the Siuslaw with special significance for recreation is Cape Perpetua. Acting Forest Superintendent J. Roy Harvey prepared an early planning memorandum on the Cape and “a small tract of land...at the mouth of Cape Creek.”⁶ Harvey noted that the Cape should not be opened to homestead entry under the 1906 Forest Homestead law because it was rugged and unsuitable for agriculture. He believed that the timber on the Cape Creek drainage would eventually be logged when a railroad was constructed along the coast.



1934 map of Cape Perpetua Natural Area.

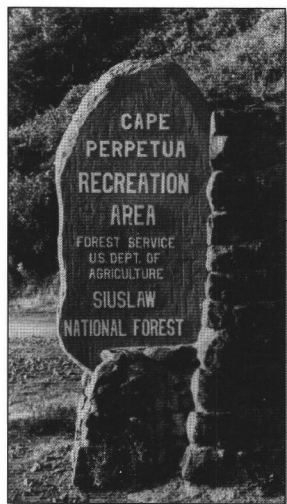
Harvey also realized the recreational potential that the Cape offered, and its unique proximity to the populous Willamette Valley.

The areas at the mouth of Cape Creek will also be of decided importance as a public campground as soon as the road around Cape Perpetua is completed. All similar lands or lands suitable for this purpose for many miles along the coast are alienated and it is now practically impossible for campers or tourists to secure suitable camping grounds without paying for the privilege.

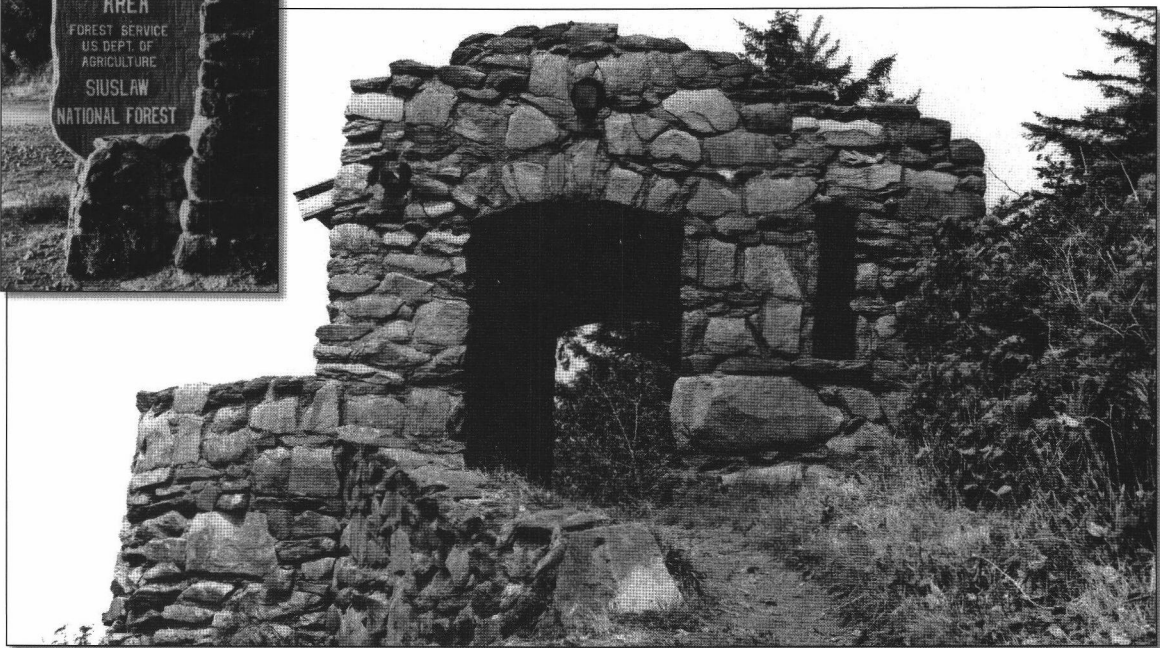
As soon as the road is completed along the coast it will be a very popular route for parties on short camping trips from the Willamette valley and adjacent towns, and there will undoubtedly be a very great demand for campgrounds.

Acting Forest Superintendent J. Roy Harvey, 1914

The railroad that Harvey envisioned was never built. Spruce Railroad XII, the Alsea Southern, came south from South Beach along the coast as far as the Blodgett Tract, but



never reached Cape Perpetua. Even the road around the Cape was delayed through the 1920s. However, the Forest managed Cape Perpetua and the Cape Creek drainage as an area set aside from homestead entry and timber sales, although there was some salvage logging.



Cape Perpetua West Shelter is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps prepared a recreation plan for the “Perpetua-Heceta Recreational Unit.”⁷ This led to extensive recreational development at Cape Perpetua, including trails, vehicle access and parking, the stone parapets, and the spectacular stone trail shelter. In 1934, E.L. Kolbe proposed that the forest inland from the Cape be set aside as an official Forest Service Natural Area preserving the old-growth Sitka spruce-Western hemlock forest type. As Kolbe pointed out in his proposal, this type of forest was once common along the coasts of Oregon and Washington, but had been nearly eliminated by logging and fires in recent years. Preserving the Perpetua tract, Kolbe argued, would create what he called a “forest museum” for future study and enjoyment.

Kolbe proposed four recreational developments within or adjacent to the Cape Perpetua Natural Area. The first of these was the Perpetua Picnic Park and Camp, which was located on the Cape. In 1933 this park was under construction by the CCC as the crown jewel of their Perpetua-Heceta Recreational Unit. The second was a summer home site of ten acres on the Forest south of the Natural Area. This would be divided into individual lots and assigned to people wishing to build cabins under the Term Occupancy

Act program. The third recreational development would be an organizational site within the Natural Area. The fourth recreational development would be another summer home tract of six acres also within the Natural Area.



E.A. Sherman, Washington Office, and party view Cape Perpetua to the South, 1935.

The proposed Cape Perpetua Natural Area appeared on Forest maps after 1938. The organizational camp and summer home sites were never developed. During World War II, the military stationed lookouts and artillery on the Cape for three months.⁸

Starting in 1959, Richard Spray, Assistant Engineer on the Mapleton Ranger District, conducted a Forest-wide inventory of recreation resources under the National Forest Recreation Survey (NFRS). Cape Perpetua and the Dunes south of the Umpqua River qualified as scenic areas under Section U3 of the NFRS inventory scheme.⁹ The Cape Perpetua Natural Area became the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. Recreation Planner F. James Lyne prepared a recreation plan for the Forest in 1963 from the materials gathered in the NFRS inventory.¹⁰ Lyne also prepared a separate management plan for the Cape in 1964. The Regional Forester approved the plan in 1967.

The new boundaries of the new scenic area extended west to the coast, north to the Forest boundary and included all of sections 2 and 3 and the northern portion of sections 10 and 11 south to the Lincoln/Lane county line.



Campgrounds built by the CCC offered rustic amenities.

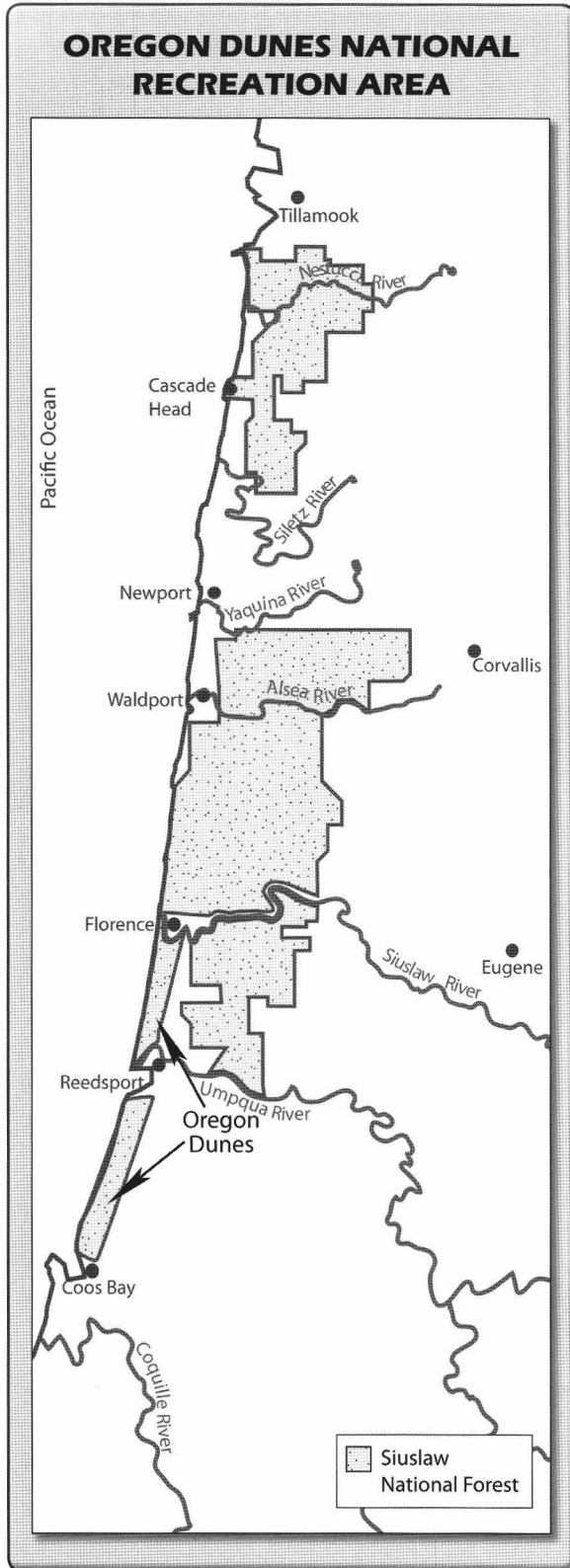
By 1974 developments at the Cape included the Devils Churn viewpoint, the Cape Perpetua viewpoint, the Cape Perpetua campground, the new Visitor Center, and 4.9 miles of hiking trails. Future developments expanded the acreage of the scenic areas, added miles of hiking trails, and put in an underpass to create a safe highway crossing.

Cape Perpetua remains one of the most spectacular scenic areas on the Oregon coast. As of 2008, the Forest Service has provided formal planning and protection for the Cape for 94 years.



Cape Perpetua Visitor Center was dedicated in 1967.

THE OREGON DUNES



The Oregon Dunes consist of beachfront parcels of the Forest extending south from Florence to Coos Bay for a combined length of 46 miles of coastline. Prior to the formation of the Umpqua Forest Reserve, Euro-American settlers had filed on lands within the Dunes, but their efforts at homesteading were not successful. In the northern part of the Dunes, for example, 2,300 acres had been claimed but only two or three settlers remained on their claims by 1919.¹¹

Early settlers and Forest Service managers tried to contain the shifting sand to keep it from engulfing patented lands, roads, and even lakes. The most common strategy involved planting European beachgrass, Scotch broom, and shore pine. These plants prospered on the Dunes, but the beachgrass and Scotch broom became nuisance species that were nearly uncontrollable. The European beachgrass reduced the areas where the endangered snowy plover could successfully nest.

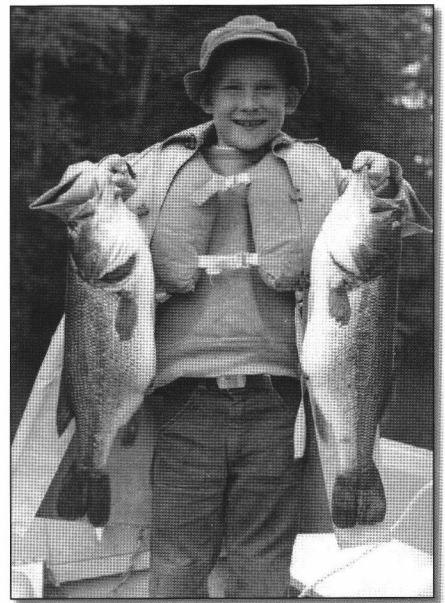
During the first decades of the twentieth century, Forest managers and Oregonians in general did not see the Dunes offering a great recreation potential. With the exception of a few homesteaders trying to cultivate cranberry bogs, people avoided the area through the 1920s and 1930s. While the Dunes themselves were not popular, the large lakes immediately east of the Dunes attracted the recreating public. Camping and fishing at Woahink, Siltcoos, Tahkenitch, Eel, and Tenmile lakes—all east of the Forest but adjacent

The only areas [on the Forest] which have no cover are the sand dunes along the coast. These sand dunes occupy a comparatively narrow strip of land extending along the beach. They have no agricultural value. They are largely barren, but in many places scrubby shore pine, spruce, and fir have found a foothold and established a windbreak, which protects adjacent farm and forest lands from the shifting sands. These areas have little value for the production of timber, but they should be permanently retained as part of the National Forest for experimental and investigative purposes, and the protection they will afford surrounding land when they are fully reclaimed.

Siuslaw National Forest Land Classification Inventory, 1919

to the Dunes—were popular destinations. The 1934 Siuslaw National Forest map publicized the “Lakes Region” of the Forest as Siltcoos, Woahink, Tahkenitch, and Tenmile, all a mile or two east of the Forest. There were commercial tourist accommodations on the lakes, and each was served by the Southern Pacific Railroad branch line from Eugene.

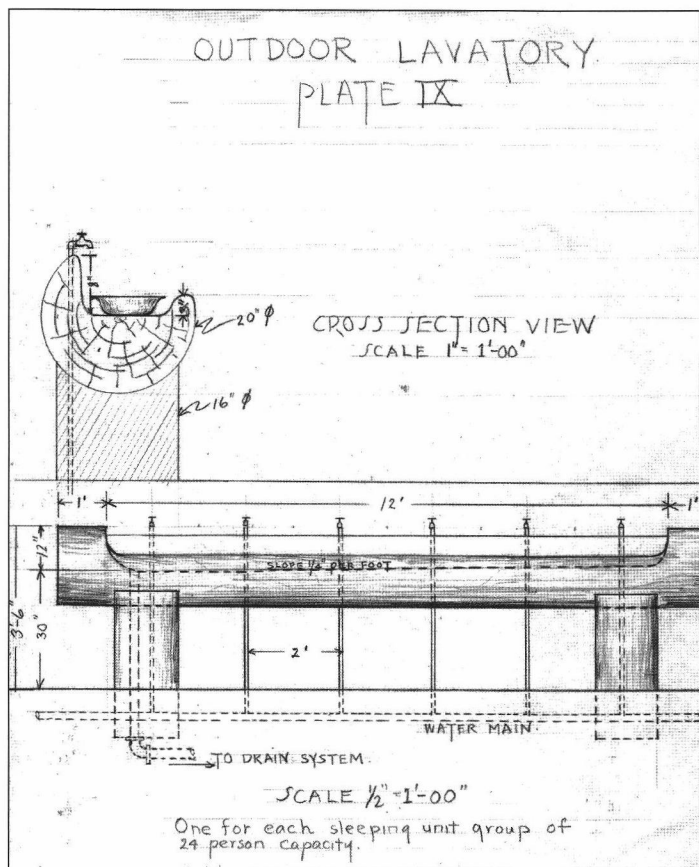
Only Cleawox Lake was located within the Forest boundaries, and it was not readily accessible by rail. As automobile roads improved during the 1930s, Forest managers began to take notice of Cleawox. In 1937 Edmund Meola, Landscape Architect, presented plans for “The Design and Construction of the Cleawox Lake Organization Tract” to the Forest Supervisor. Meola’s initial plans were well-



Siltcoos Lake bass, 1958.



Water sports on the lakes near the Oregon Dunes.



Plans for Cleawox Camp included rustic details such as this lavatory, 1937.

themselves became popular with “dune buggy” enthusiasts who drove their home-made vehicles through the sandy landscape. In 1959 Oregon Senator Richard Neuberger introduced legislation to make the Dunes a National Seashore and bring it under the administration of the National Park Service, a branch of the Department of the Interior.

Forest Service managers opposed Neuberger’s plan because they did not want to relinquish control of what was becoming an important recreation draw for the

conceived, but Ralph Shelley, Forest Supervisor, felt that they lacked sufficient “specific detail and requirements” and he would not approve them.¹² However, the Cleawox Organizational Camp was built a few years later, and occupied by the Girl Scouts under special use permit. The original lodge was recognized as an outstanding example of Rustic architecture.

Civilian Conservation Corps recreational development on the Dunes consisted of four campgrounds. These were Siltcoos Outlet and Carter Lake near Siltcoos Lake, Tahkenitch campground, and Eel Creek campground near Eel Lake.

After World War II, with the spread of motor vehicle recreation, the Dunes



Home-made dune buggies predominated before the 1970s.

Siuslaw. At the same time, the Forest Service and the National Park Service were in conflict over the proposed North Cascades National Park in Washington.¹³ Acrimony between the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior dates back to the conflict between Richard Ballinger and Gifford Pinchot in 1909. The compromise between the two federal agencies was that the North Cascades became a National Park under the Department of the Interior, and the Oregon Dunes became a National Recreation Area and remained part of the Siuslaw National Forest.

How did the local officials on the Siuslaw feel at that time? Were they pushing for one resolution or another on the Oregon Dunes?

They were...but they could not come out publicly and say so....But what went on behind the scenes, you talked to some of the local people that were opposed to the Park Service coming in, and so you let them do the talking for you.

Ranger F. James Lyne Interview, 1980

Legislation passed in Congress on March 23, 1972, established the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Oregon Dunes NRA Management Plan was published July 12, 1994. Management directions for the new NRA sought a “mix of recreational settings and opportunities” that would encompass highly developed campgrounds as well as natural areas and opportunities for “non-motorized recreation experiences in undeveloped areas.” However, the Plan acknowledged that the Dunes were “widely recognized within the ORV [Off-Road Vehicle] community as one of the premier riding areas in the country.” Much of the Plan was devoted to regulation of ORVs in what was recognized as a fragile and unique landscape.



Management of the Dunes required restricting vehicle access to fragile environments.

At the northern end of the Siuslaw, the Sand Lake dunes on the Hebo Ranger District offered a landscape and recreational potential similar to the Oregon Dunes. The area is located immediately south of Cape Lookout, and twelve miles south of Tillamook. Camp Meriweather, a Boy Scout Camp, is located there. By the end of the 1970s,



The Sand Lake dunes provide many recreational opportunities.

off-road vehicle enthusiasts had discovered the Sand Lake dunes. Although the use was much less than on the Oregon Dunes, conflicts between ORV riders, the public, and land managers led to the formulation of a long-term plan in 1980.

The Sand Lake Planning Area, as defined by the plan, included 1,076 acres of the Siuslaw, 314 acres of Tillamook County land, 41 acres of Oregon State Parks land, and 500 acres of Oregon Division of State Lands land. The plan addressed issues of sanitation, traffic and use, administration, and law enforcement. Also, as the Snowy Plover nesting habitat was raising concerns by the late 1970s, environmental protection was another significant area of concern and compromise.¹⁴

Like the Oregon Dunes NRA, Sand Lake offers an example of the continuity of Forest Service stewardship. Scenic resources like Cape Perpetua were easily recognizable as compelling attractions, but Sand Lake and the Dunes NRA required some time and imagination to find their places among the Siuslaw's best recreational resources.

NOTES

- ¹ Gifford Pinchot, *The Use of the National Forests* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1907) 13.
- ² See William C. Tweed "Recreation Site Planning and Improvement in National Forests 1891-1942," (Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service History Section, 1980) 4.
- ³ "Vacation Suggestions, Yaquina Bay, 1898" quoted in Richard Price, *Newport Oregon: 1866-1936, Portrait of a Coastal Resort* (Newport, OR: LCHS, 1975) 38.
- ⁴ Wallis Nash, *Oregon: There and Back in 1877* (Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1976) 136.
- ⁵ Siuslaw Annual Report, 1962, 8.
- ⁶ J. Roy Harvey, Memorandum of July 31, 1914, Settlement Files, #339 (on file, Waldport, OR: Siuslaw NF, 1914).
- ⁷ This plan was approved by the Siuslaw National Forest March 12, 1932.
- ⁸ Cape Perpetua Scenic Area Plan, 1974, 4; Richard Spray Interview, 2008.
- ⁹ Richard Spray Interview.
- ¹⁰ F. James Lyne Interview (Corvallis, OR: Heritage Associates, 1998) 91.
- ¹¹ Stephen D. Beckham, Kathryne Toepel, and Rick Minor, *Cultural Resource Overview of the Siuslaw National Forest* (Corvallis, OR: Siuslaw NF, 1982) 245-246.
- ¹² Meola's plans and Shelley's comments are on file, Siuslaw National Forest.
- ¹³ F. James Lyne Interview, 132.
- ¹⁴ USDA Forest Service, Environmental Assessment, Sand Lake Management Plan, 1980, 9.

