Recreation Developments on the
Waldport District of the Siuslaw
National Forest
by
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INTRODUCTION

Recreation on the Waldport District of the Siuslaw National Forest is a very important use and is increasing in its importance each year. The thing which has made recreation on the Waldport District a subject of far reaching importance being the public demand created by the Coast Highway. The Coast Highway passes through a good deal of the Siuslaw National Forest, which extends along the Oregon coast from Marshfield nearly to Tillamook. The Siuslaw Forest was able to meet the above mentioned demand through the emergency program.

The purpose of this thesis is primarily to present the recreational developments of the Oregon coast region which is available for the use of the general public. This thesis should be of use to show the developments upon an area, location of the area, and the accessibility of the area.

I have divided the text of this thesis into four parts. The first three parts pertain to the Perpetua, Siltcoos, and Eel Creek recreation areas, which are the largest and the principal areas of the Waldport District. The fourth part pertains to Big Creek, Big Elk, Carter Lake, Rock Creek, Suttan Lake, Tahkenitch Lake, and Ten Mile recreation areas, which are smaller developments.
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Part I

SILTCOOS RIVER RECREATION AREA

I. General Information about Area

**Location:** Siltoos River Recreation Area is located on the Siltoos river where it flows into the Pacific ocean—Sec.32-33-T.19S, R. 12W, WM. It may be reached by going south of Florence, Oregon on highway No. 101 7.5 miles.

**General Description:** Siltoos River Recreation Area covers approximately 100 acres of forest, ocean beach, and sand dunes devoted entirely to recreation. The road which enters this area from highway No. 101 is marked by a rustic sign of hewn logs, and leads thru a luxuriant growth of salal, huckleberries, and rhododendrons to a smooth, sandy beach.

To facilitate proper usage, the recreation area has been developed into several separate camps.

**Lodgepole Camp**

The Lodgepole Camp has been developed within a virgin stand of lodgepole pine and rhododendrons. Here the traveler may pitch his tent in a quiet camp spot and for his use find a rustic table and camp stove.

A rustic foot bridge marks the beginning of the Indian trail which leads to a wild lily pond located between a sand dune and a ridge covered with spruce. The trail winds thru this wooded area to a rustic boat dock, where rowboats may be rented, and then continues
Rustic table constructed from driftwood.

A stove shelter with outside fireplace.
on for a short distance farther to a community kitchen.

**WAX MYRTLE CAMP**

Wax Myrtle Camp is an overnight tent camping area located on the south bank of the Siltcoos River within a stand of wax myrtle trees. The enclosing sand dunes make this camp the most sheltered spot on the recreation area. Rustic tables and stoves screened by shrubs give campers a private and comfortable camping site. The beach is easily accessible from the camp and the shallow Siltcoos River provides a natural wading pool for children.

**LAGOON CAMP**

The Lagoon Camp has been developed especially for large organization picnics with facilities to accommodate 1,000 people. Rustic banquet tables, stove shelters, and sanitary conveniences are available. A novel feature is the grouping of rustic card tables.

**STAGECOACH CAMP**

Across the river from Wax Myrtle Camp there has been developed a family picnic spot with tables, benches, and a stove shelter. From this point one gets a panoramic view of the river. It is interesting to know that a number of years ago this site was the overnight stopping place of the stagecoach which traveled along the ocean beach when roads were unknown.

**DRIFTWOOD CAMP**

This camp is one of the most novel picnic spots in the country. A stove shelter, tables, and benches
Individual site with a bench made from a redwood stump found on beach.

Visitors at annual city of Florence festival.
have been built with great care from seaworn driftwood salvaged along the beach. The natural beauty of driftwood has been maintained throughout the entire construction and even some of the most weathered pieces have been fashioned into unique seats and card tables. For those who wish to picnic close to the beach in view of the ocean, Driftwood Camp provides an ideal spot.

From this camp a road leads to the beach and a parking space for cars has been provided.

Many visitors enjoy searching the beach for Japanese glass floats which have been washed in from Japan by winds and tides. These floats vary in size from 3" to 15" in diameter, the largest ones being considered valuable for ornamental purposes. Japanese fishermen use these glass balls to float their nets, but in stormy weather some break loose and come to American shores via the Japanese currents.

An example of souvenir hunters is illustrated by a 69 foot whale which washed upon the Siltcoos beach in the spring of 1937. The Forest Service was hard pressed to know what to do with the mass of decaying fish, but in less than two months every pound of the hulk and skeleton had been carried off by souvenir hunters. On the first weekend, and after the whale's presence became known, 3,000 visitors, by actual count, visited the beach to have a look.
A information and registry booth.

Strawberry Butte
A view of the beach may be obtained from its top
II. DEVELOPMENTS AND USE

USE

The Siltcoos area has approximately 25,000 visitors during the year. The people of Lane county are the largest users of this area. Lane county provides 52% of the users, Coos county 35%, and Multnomah county 10.5%. Nearly all the states of the United States are shown to be represented by persons visiting this area. Outside of Oregon, California leads in the number of users with 7.5%.

Principal use: Camping-picnicking
Capacity: 2,000
Peak load: 2,500
Total for Year: 25,000.

DEVELOPMENTS

Following is a list of some of the principal developments upon the area. This table should be of interest to those planning upon using this area. By studying this list of items one can tell what can be found upon the area in the line of facilities.

Surfaced For. Cp. road: 13,000
Forest Cp. Road Bridges: 4
Number of car park: 750
Water system: pipe 1,100' -- wells 9 -- pumps 9 -- hydrants 3.
Siltcoos River--
Showing bridge leading to Wax Myrtle Camp.

View of some grass planting to control sand dunes.
Toilets: 18 buildings
Garbage: 1 pit -- 30 garbage cans
Stoves: 21--1-party -- 3 group -- 2 fireplaces
1 bonfire pit.
Tables: 70 family -- 12 banquet -- 10 temporary
Bench: 4 trail benches -- 12 camp benches
Recreation Bld'g: 1 community kitchen -- 3 stove
shelter -- 1 bath house -- 4
inf.-reg. booth.
"Wilbur"--
a 69 foot whale washed upon beach in spring 1937

People viewing whale pictured above.
3,000 viewed whale first weekend.
PART II
CAPE PERPETUA RECREATION AREA

I. General Information about Area

Location:

Cape Perpetua Recreation area may be reached by going either ten miles south of Waldport or by going twenty-five miles north of the town of Florence on the coast highway. This area is in Sec. 2-3, T. 15S, R. 12W, WM and is three miles south of Yachats, the nearest town.

General Description:

This camp consists of an overnight camping area and a picnic area along Cape Creek, and provides accommodations for several hundred people. It is within a virgin stand of Sitka spruce, and is well protected by high ridges on the north, east, and south. The developed area extends three-fourths of a mile along Cape Creek and covers approximately eighty acres.

From this camp a road leads to the top of Cape Perpetua, one of the main attractions of the area. The top of this cape is eight hundred feet directly above the ocean and often ships can be seen far at sea. From a stone observation house constructed on the top of
Entrance to Cape Perpetua Recreation Area.

Beach typical of the Cape Perpetua Area.
the cape one of the most beautiful views of the shoreline to be seen anywhere in the United States may be had. Along the road that leads to the top of the cape a thing of interest is a sitka spruce tree about 200 years old which had grown over a Douglas fir log of about 200 years of age. The Douglas fir log being almost entirely sound.

Another important attraction of this area is surf fishing. The beach at this point is very rocky; many people enjoy fishing from these rocks. One may reach the beach by walking through a culvert 6' x 6' x 210' which goes under a 70' highway fill at the lower end of the camp.

II. Developments and Use

Use

The Perpetua area has approximately 15,000 visitors during the year. The people of Lane county are the largest users of this area. Lane county provides 29.6%, Multnomah county 28.5%, Benton county 8.3%, Lincoln county 7.4%, and Linn county 6.4%. Outside of Oregon with 85.7% of the visitors, California supplied the most with 10.6%.

Principal use: Camping-picnicing

Capacity: 700

Peak Load: 1,100

Total for Year: 15,000
A rustic foot bridge over Cape Creek.

A small rustic bridge hewed from a solid log.
Developments

Following is a list of some of the principal developments upon the area. This should be of interest to show different facilities that might be found upon the area.

Surfaced road: 13,200 feet
Trail: 5,300 feet
Trail bridges: 10
Parking area: 450 cars
Water System: stream
Pit toilets: 29
Stoves: 25-1 party
3 combination
Tables: 40 family tables
Bench: 3 trail
5 camp
Recreation buildings: 1 community kitchen
1 overlook

Beach improvements: 400 feet.
Family tables under construction.

Rustic steps leading up to recreation trail--complete except for side hand rails.
PART III
EEL CREEK RECREATION AREA

I. General Information about Area

Location:

Eel Creek Recreation Area is located on Eel Creek--Sec. 12, T. 10S, R. 12W, WM--at the southern part of the Siuslaw National Forest. It may be reached by going either 10 miles south of Reedsport or by north of Marshfield, on the coast highway No. 101, 16 miles.

General Description:

This area contains facilities for camping, picnicking, swimming, and children's playground. Rustic tables, shelters, wading pools, and provisions for trailer parking are provided. There is overnight camping facilities for 20 cars, with accommodations consisting of stoves, tables, free water, and wood.

This camp has been developed within a stand of lodgepole pine and rhododendrons. It extends along Eel Creek, a placid and meandering stream, crossed by many foot bridges and trails leading up and down the creek. Eel Creek received the name due to the fact that Indians years ago camped there and dried eels, which were very plentiful at that time.
Entrance to Eel Creek Recreation Area.

Rear view of 1-party stove.
One of the main attractions offered by this camp is the forest trails leading from the camp into the surrounding woods. These trails have several benches along the side of them and several sets of steps made of stone. One of the trails goes out to the beach, a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

II. DEVELOPMENTS AND USE

USE

The Eel Creek area has approximately 23,000 visitors during the year. The people of Coos county are the largest single users of this area. Coos county provides 60%, Multnomah county 17%, and Lane county 8%. Eel Creek camp, the first Forest Camp north of the California line, received 19% of its visitors from that state.

Through a questionnaire (42 replies) was obtained information that the average stay was 5.7 days on the Forest Camp and that the visitors expected to stay 12.6 additional days in other Forest Camp during the season (summer of 1937).

The results of this questionnaire was obtained from inquiries made at Cape Perpetua, Siltcoos, and Eel Creek Camps.

Principal use: camping-picnicking

Capacity: 1,000

Peak Load: 1,400 Total for year: 23,000
A long rustic foot bridge.

A close-up view of the above bridge.
DEVELOPMENTS

Following is a list of some of the main developments upon the area. This list should be of interest in showing what can be found in the line of facilities upon the area.

Surfaced camp road: 3,900'
Forest camp trails: 13,200'
Forest camp trail bridges: 7
Car parking area: 400 cars
Water system: 8 wells -- 8 pumps
Toilets: 13 buildings
Garbage: 2 pits
  15 garbage cans
Stoves: 10-party 1 firehole
  3 group 2 fireplaces
  5 combination
Tables: 34 family
  2 banquet
  8 temporary
Benches: 4 trail
  3 camp
Recreation bld'g: 2 community kitchens
  2 inf. reg. booths.
A side view of a 1-party stove.

Front view of a 1-party stove with plate raised.
PART IV
OTHER CAMPS ON THE WALDFORT DISTRICT

I. BIG CREEK

Principal use: Hunting camp
Capacity: 20
Location: 19 miles south of Yachats on the coast highway--Sec. 22, T. 16S, R. 11W.

II. BIG ELK

Principal use: camping-picnicking
Capacity: 250
Location: 1 mile west of Harlan--Sec. 11, T. 12S, R. 9W.

III. CARTER LAKE

Principal use: camping
Capacity: 30
Location: 9 miles south of Florence on the coast highway--Sec. 8, T. 20S, R. 12W.

IV. ROCK CREEK

Principal use: camping
Capacity: 35
Location: 13 miles south of Yachats on the coast highway--Sec. 10, T. 16S, R. 11W.
V. SUTTON LAKE

Principal use: camping-picnicking
Capacity: 300
Total for year: 5,500
Location: 6½ miles north of Florence on coast highway--Sec.35, T. 17S, R. 12W.
Forest camp trail: 15,900'
Stoves: 4-1 party
2 group
1 fireplace
Tables: 12 family
3 banquet
2 temporary
Recreation bld'g: 1 stove shelter
1 bath house
2 inf. reg. booths

VI. TAHKENITCH LAKE

Principal use: camping-picnicking
Capacity: 30
Location: 7 miles north of Gardiner--Sec.29, T. 20S, R. 12W.

VII. TEN MILE

Principal use: camping
Capacity: 15
Location: 17 miles south of Yachats on the coast highway--Sec.33, T. 15S, R. 11W.
Map showing location of recreation areas described in the thesis.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


(Note: Pictures in this thesis were obtained from U.S.F.S. negatives.)