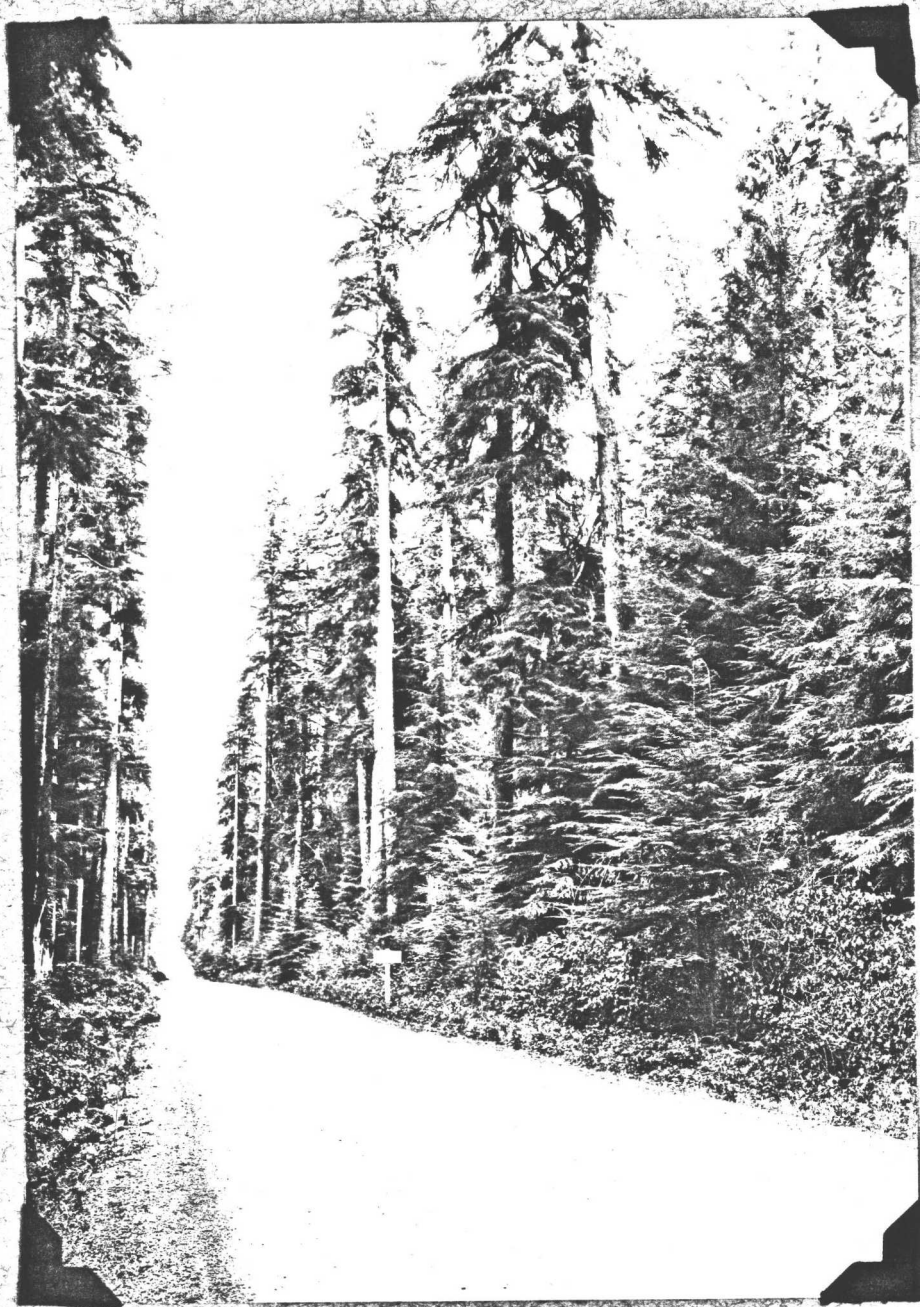


FOREST FACTS  
OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST  
WASHINGTON



Along Olympic Highway  
through  
Quinault Natural Area

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE, NORTH PACIFIC REGION  
1937

*12 Copies Distributed*

## FRONTISPIECE

### Quinault Natural Area

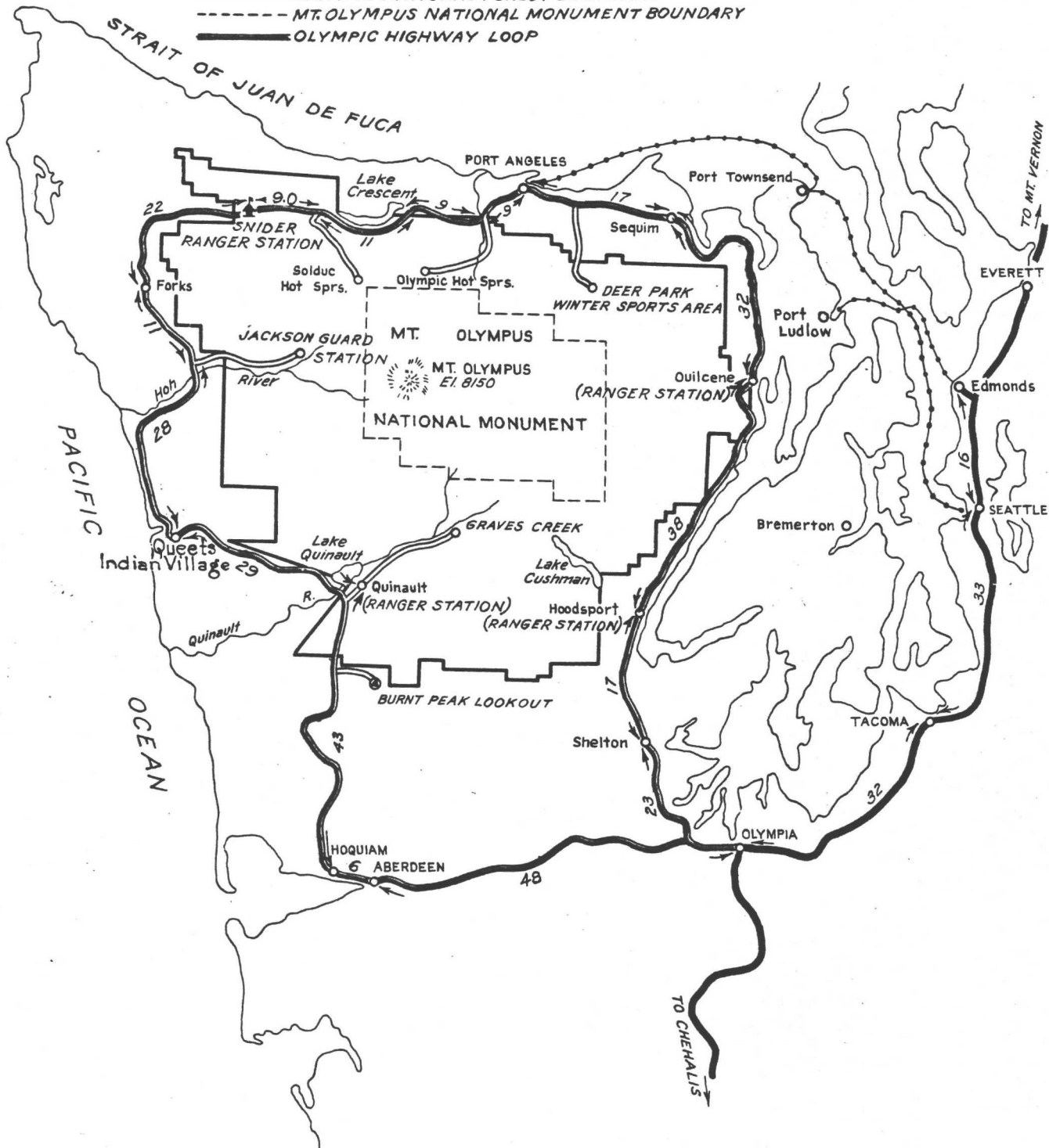
Along the Olympic Highway south of Lake Quinault within the Quinault Natural Area. This area embraces 1435 acres in old growth Sitka spruce type. Permanently set aside from all forms of commercial use as a basis for research. Excellent specimens of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar are numerous within this area.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
**OLYMPIC HIGHWAY**  
**OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST**  
**WASHINGTON**

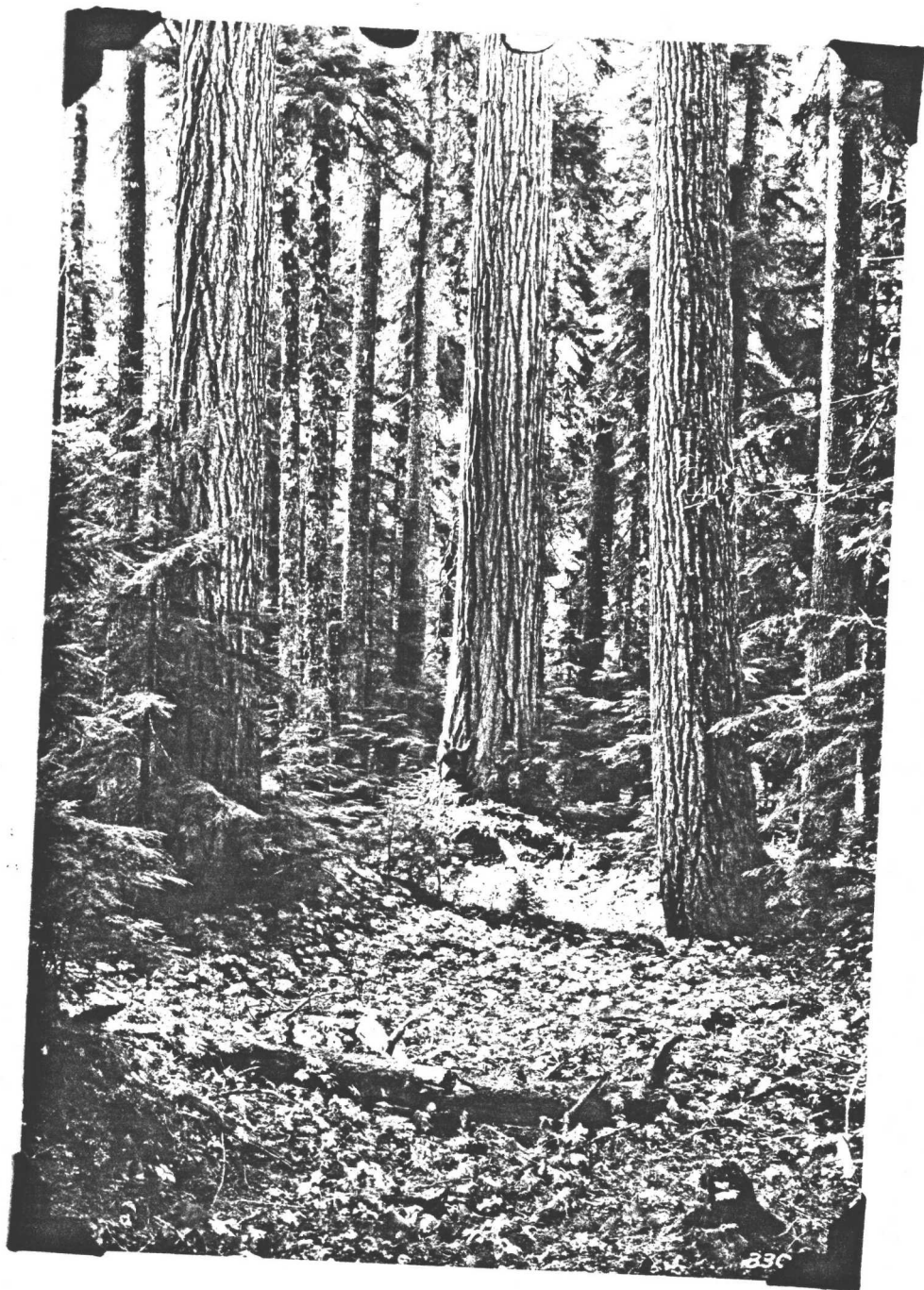
COMPLETE CIRCUIT FROM OLYMPIA 351 MILES

LEGEND

- OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- - - - - MT. OLYMPUS NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY
- OLYMPIC HIGHWAY LOOP







Group of very old Douglas fir trees along the Elwha River trail. Typical of the Douglas fir type on the Olympic Peninsula. Center tree, 9' in diameter. Trees at either side  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ' in diameter.



USE OF THE RESOURCES  
of the  
OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

All the resources of the Olympic National Forest -- timber, recreation, water for irrigation and power, wild life -- are managed under a multiple use plan which coordinates and systematizes the utilization of each resource so that the entire forest contributes most equitably to the social and economic welfare of local communities, the State and Nation.

## OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER RESOURCES

There are 33,895 million board feet of timber in Federal ownership on the Olympic National Forest exclusive of the present National Monument. Of this amount 13,043 million board feet of saw timber and 16,532 million feet of pulp timber are available for industrial purposes. The sustained yield capacity of National Forest lands, exclusive of primitive, recreational, and natural areas reserved from cutting, is 387.7 million feet. Pulp species comprise 60% of the total annual yield.

The greater portion of the timber volume lies in the large watersheds of the western half of the Forest adjoining an extensive area of private and State timber, for the most part untouched by operations. Here the types are predominantly western hemlock and true firs, with a fairly large volume of Douglas fir, western red cedar, and Sitka spruce. The latter species occur principally in strips or blocks of several hundred acres in extent along the major streams and on the lower slopes of the main mountain range. On account of the heavy rainfall there is an understory of almost impenetrable shrub growth.

The timber of the Olympic National Forest is a very essential source of supply to the industries of western Washington. For that portion of the State naturally tributary to the seaports of Puget Sound and Grays Harbor (northwestern Washington), the timber of the Olympic National Forest constitutes about 20% of the remaining commercial stands in all ownerships and 43% of the total commercial stands on all National Forests within the same area. The great sawmill industry of the Sound and Harbor, which has been the major basic support of a population of one million people, two-thirds of the population of the State, has now reduced the best and most accessible private stands so that now hundreds of thousands of people must depend heavily upon the Olympic Peninsula for timber to carry on in lumber, pulp, or other wood products industries. On the west side of the Peninsula, where the major stands are concentrated, the National Forest stands are prevalently of superior quality to those on the lowlands in other ownerships, hence are sufficiently attractive to be a strong influence in the development of stable management under sustained yield.

The State of Washington Sustained Yield Forest #1, located on the west side of the Peninsula adjacent to the National Forest, contains a stand of 6,597 million feet of timber, 83% of which is pulp species. The area has a total sustained yield capacity of 94 million feet B.M. National Forest timber on the west side of the Peninsula is logically and economically operable in conjunction with this State Forest. In fact, the value and operability of the latter is very materially dependent upon the largest possible production from adjacent National Forest lands because of the deficiency of saw timber species on State lands and the high costs of transportation developments necessary to serve the unit as a whole.

## RECREATION

The Forest Service has long had plans which provide for the sort of use which the location, climate and topography of the Olympics indicate will serve the recreational demand. The public expenditures for carrying out this plan will not be disproportionate to the service rendered. The Forest Service, recognizing the necessity of systematic planning in connection with the utilization of the recreational, aesthetic and scenic resources of the Olympic National Forest and the Mount Olympus National Monument, started recreational planning as early as 1910. The first plans were logically worked out for the areas where the demand was heaviest, such as Quinault Lake, Lake Crescent, and Olympic Hot Springs. This work has continued on an expanded scale up to the present time.

In 1927 a recreational resurvey of the entire area was made by Recreational Engineer Fred Cleator of the Regional Forester's Office, who worked out what is now known as the Cleator Plan for the Olympics. This plan which was approved by public meetings of interested organizations about the Olympic Peninsula was developed into a definite statement of policy for handling all resources. One of the most important results of this policy statement or plan has been the reservation of the forest trees on recreational areas from cutting and other uses which could not be reconciled with the scenic values in those recreational areas.

The Cleator Plan originally provided among other things for the Snow Peaks Recreational Area and a Primitive Area of 134,240 acres. This Primitive Area was created by the Chief Forester on December 22, 1930. In 1936 the Secretary of Agriculture revised and enlarged the Primitive Area until it now contains 238,930 acres and 2,544,480,000 Feet Board Measure of merchantable timber. This Primitive Area will preserve a vast stand of typical old growth fir, cedar and other tree species indigenous to the Olympic Peninsula. The policy for handling this Primitive Area provides for a minimum of development, excluding any commercial timber cutting, large resorts, summer homes, or such other development as would detract from the wilderness values; to provide an area of sufficient size where persons wishing to get away from the influence of civilization can travel for days by trail without once having to cross their footsteps.

The Cleator Plan also makes ample provision for preserving the aesthetic values along highways, roads, streams and lakes within the Olympic National Forest frequented by recreationists by reserving from cutting timber which would in any way detract from the beauty of or damage these areas. It provides for and there have been constructed on these areas camp ground facilities sufficient to meet the current demands of the visiting public. These facilities include 26 auto camps



and 50 trail camps. There are sufficient camp ground facilities on the Olympic National Forest at the present time to comfortably accommodate about 2,000 picnickers and campers at auto camps, and about 1,000 hikers at the trail camps at one time. The plan provides, and there are at the present time 390 miles of road and 925 miles of trail within the Olympic National Forest available for recreational travel.

It provides for summer homes under permit by the Forest Service and 108 of these tracts are now occupied under such permit and provide recreational accommodations for around 1,000 people. There are four resorts under permit from the Forest Service which in 1936 provided accommodations for 16,000 paid guests.

The plan provides for the operation of other facilities such as garage and two stores for the accommodation of the public visiting and living within the National Forest.

## WEATHER

The usefulness of the Olympic Peninsula for recreation is somewhat limited by adverse climatic conditions.

The average annual rainfall for the entire Peninsula is around 120 inches, which is 3 to 5 times the average rainfall in cities like Chicago and New York. There is, however, a great variation in different localities, the average at Sequim being 16 to 20 inches per year, and at Forks 116 inches, while within the National Monument the annual rainfall is more than 150 inches.

Rainfall records, however, do not give a complete picture of the situation. Monthly weather records for the most favorable summer months of July and August, which are the main tourist travel months, show that cloudy weather prevails about 50% of the time in the Olympics, and from 55% to 75% of the time during the other four summer months of May, June, September and October. Cloudy weather at Forks or Quinault usually means heavy fog in the high country. In addition to the large percentage of cloudy weather, rainfall may be expected 25% of the time, even during July and August.

It is well known that many people are disappointed by finding Mt. Rainier shrouded in fog when they visit Rainier National Park. During July and August the weather records show 70% of the days as clear at Mt. Rainier, and 50% in the Olympics.

REPORT ON PROPOSED OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

by

HON. H. A. WALLACE, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

F (L) Legislation,  
Mt. Olympus National Park,  
H. R. 4724

August 13, 1937.

Hon. Rene L. DeRouen, Chairman,  
Committee on the Public Lands,  
House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. DeRouen:

Reference is made to your letter of March 11 transmitting a copy of the bill H. R. 4724, "To establish the Mount Olympus National Park, in the State of Washington, and for other purposes", and requesting the views of this Department thereon.

Within the area described in the bill H. R. 4724, the one element of natural interest which has unusual quality is the existing virgin forest, which consists in part of trees of exceptional height and diameter, second only to the redwoods. Managed forests are not without their own distinctive forms of beauty and many are very attractive. They are cut over periodically, however, and hence differ in appearance and character from virgin forests. The Department clearly recognizes the need in the public interest for preserving intact ample and suitable areas of virgin forest in the Olympic Peninsula.

The fact that public interest demanded the permanent preservation of adequate examples of these superlative forest types has long been recognized by this Department. The initial conclusion was that the three billion board feet of timber of commercial species and grades within the Mt. Olympus National Monument, which was under the jurisdiction of this Department until 1933, should never be subject to logging. Later it was decided that a larger area containing additional virgin forest should be withdrawn from utilization; which was done through the establishment by this Department of a primitive area embracing 238,930 acres of land and almost 3-1/2 billion board feet of timber. There have also been established three other recreation areas aggregating 8,464 acres and supporting 849 million board feet of timber. Additionally, the administrative plans for the forest contemplate no or limited cutting in roadside strips aggregating 83,200 acres. In other words, based on action initiated by this Department, 629,324 acres of lands and almost 7-1/2 billion board feet of timber within the Olympic Peninsula are now safeguarded by the National Monument and special reservations.



Further than this, there are within National Parks, National Forests, State parks and other reservations in this Douglas fir region about 27 billion board feet of timber permanently preserved as a scenic asset. The fact that this is not in one solid body might appear to make its reservation less important. Actually, however, it may serve an equally useful purpose by being scattered among several tracts. The reservations protect heavily-used scenic and recreational areas such as the highway to the northeast entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park, the highway leading to the Mt. Baker area, the territory about Mt. Hood, various lakeshores, etc. Thus sizable areas of fine big timber are easily accessible to large numbers of people.

The bill H. R. 4724 providing for a national park would set aside an additional quantity of the available timber resources of the Olympic Peninsula estimated at 6,188,000,000 board feet.

This bill raises two major questions:

The first is whether the essential objective of preserving intact suitable and ample areas of virgin timber can not be met more effectively in some other way than the creation of a national park. Or restated in another form, would it not be possible to obtain better administration of this timber resource by retaining it under the governmental organization with the highest technical qualifications for such work? And further, would not administration be simplified, confusion avoided, and cost reduced by having the whole federal forest area in the Olympus under a single jurisdiction?

The second question is whether it would be in the broader public interest to withhold from economic use timber areas in addition to those already included in the monument and primitive area.

Stated objectively, some of the major factors bearing on this problem are:

1. There are within existing reservations, including the national monument and nearby primitive area, considerable areas and volume of the superlative class of virgin timber of the same sort as are found in the additional areas covered by the proposed national park.

2. The really outstanding timber areas in the proposed addition, as in the Douglas fir region generally, are relatively small and are interspersed among much larger areas of ordinary timber stands which possess little scenic or recreational value. Thus H. R. 4724, in adding 24,000 acres in scattered stands of the exceptional type of timber to the present monument area, would add also 100,000 acres of quite ordinary timber.

3. On the heavily-timbered portion of the proposed park west of the Olympic Range the country is non-spectacular except in the patches of unusually large timber; travel is virtually impossible except on trails or roads; little or no wild life is to be seen except occasionally along the streams; there are practically no breaks in the timber

to furnish viewpoints; and altogether this portion of the area is not measurably usable for recreation. This opinion is shared by the State Planning Council and stated in their report.

4. The higher country in the proposed park, mostly now within the national monument, is beautiful country, but not more beautiful, unusual or spectacular than a number of other high-mountain areas in the Pacific Northwest. In other words, it is not "superlative".

5. Contrary to the belief of many, a national park is not needed to protect the Roosevelt Elk. They are increasing everywhere on the area except where they insist on congregating and overgrazing the available forage. This situation would not be relieved at all by a park. On the other hand, the abolition of hunting which follows park status would prevent in part regulated kills to keep down the surplus.

6. In the timbered area in the National Forest surrounding the present monument and primitive area the Forest Service is making every effort to develop the practice of selective cutting, which removes only part of the stand and thus preserves a forest although it changes its character.

7. The approximately 100,000 people in the modern and attractive communities of the Olympic Peninsula, dependent almost entirely on a timber economy, have available now only a limited amount of timber. Too hasty liquidation of private timber has jeopardized the permanence of these communities. This places especial importance on the shock-absorbing effect of publicly-owned tributary timber, both national and State, managed for permanent yield, both in itself and as an inducement for remaining private holdings to combine with it in a joint sustained-yield enterprise. The Wallgren bill would preserve more than 6 billion board feet of timber over and above the approximately 7-1/2 billion feet in the monument, primitive area and other reserved areas. This might otherwise contribute its share to a permanently sustained cut and to a steady means of livelihood to the people in this region.

8. The Olympic Range and the adjacent areas covered by the monument and the primitive area are thought to lend themselves best to the primitive-area type of recreational use - use by trail, with simple shelters - rather than to development by roads and formal housing facilities. This is true because of the short, somewhat unfavorable summer season, the fact that extensive road developments would measurably scar the scenery, and because this area can logically present a contrasting form of use to that found in the more formally developed Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood areas. There appears to be wide national and local support for this informal type of development, though some proponents of the park demand a development like that in Mt. Rainier National Park.

9. Before the national monument was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture the Forest Service had developed complete plans for the generally primitive-area type of development and use. It now has similar plans, approved formally by this Department, for the existing nearby primitive area.

The primary purpose of the proposed park is to include timber of unusual character. The administration of timberland requires technical services of various kinds, the effectiveness of which depends to a large extent on the availability of a qualified and experienced staff. The Department of Agriculture appears to be best qualified to perform services of this character.

Beyond this, the existing Monument is surrounded by a National Forest, and the proposed national park would be. Plans for the entire area, for their execution, and for administration in general should be coordinated. Jurisdiction under two departments would lead to duplication of effort, public confusion and irritation, and increased expense. From practically every standpoint jurisdiction over the entire area should be placed in a single department.

In view of the foregoing it is my judgment that a national park is not necessary for the administration of the timber resources of the territory involved; that the character and extent of recreational use appropriate to the area can and will be fully provided for and enjoyed under the plan of administration followed by this Department; that the present national-forest status should remain undisturbed; and finally, that the National Monument should be returned to the jurisdiction of this Department.

Here let me say that I believe the alleged impermanence of departmental orders prescribing certain treatment for areas of this kind, as compared with Acts of Congress may be overemphasized. In the thirty-two years of administration of the National Forests by this Department I know of no upsetting of departmental acts of this sort which were founded on the public interest. However, I would not oppose legislation to prohibit the cutting of timber in the primitive area.

Furthermore, it is possible that some more of the relatively restricted areas of exceptional timber outside of the existing monument and primitive area could be reserved from cutting, and I shall be glad to have this question studied carefully on the ground and to take appropriate action when reports and recommendations are received.

The above considerations, the administration of timberlands and of an administrative set-up which will insure the coordinated handling of the area as a whole, seem to me in themselves to afford ample justification for the adverse recommendation which I make on the bill. The question of whether the withdrawal of an additional six billion feet of timber is justified remains. Communities which will receive the direct benefit are already approaching a period of acute distress. I question



whether an important contribution to the source of their livelihood should be cut off without very serious consideration. The advantage of the plan outlined above is that it would preserve a large area of virgin timber, leave a substantial amount also as a partial basis for the future existence of dependent communities, and finally, insure the coordinated administration of the entire area by placing it under a single jurisdiction.

This Department wishes to avoid any arbitrarily negative attitude toward the pending bill. Belief that the lands involved appropriately might continue under the administration of the Department is supported by many considerations of the problem involved - logical organization, existing technically qualified personnel and wide administrative experience. If, however, the Congress is convinced that a national park should be established in the Olympic Range, more suitable boundaries than those now described in H. R. 4724 should be adopted, so as to establish the best attainable balance between the inspirational and recreational needs on the one hand and the economic needs of the dependent population on the other. If a park is to be created, this Department would like to suggest boundaries more appropriate for it than any hitherto proposed. No doubt you are familiar with the report of the State Planning Council, which proposed for park status a much smaller area than is described in H. R. 4724. I believe still further modification could well be considered.

Meanwhile, there seems to be no need to hasten a decision. The Department is not now contemplating the sale of any timber affected by the proposed park, and it will be several years before any of that timber can be practicably operated. Thus, there is ample time to reach a well considered decision.

The Department, of course, has much more detailed information bearing on the various phases of this proposal than I have attempted to present in this letter. We shall be very glad to supply any additional data which your Committee desires.

The Bureau of the Budget, knowing of your request for a report by this Department on H. R. 4724, has written us as follows:

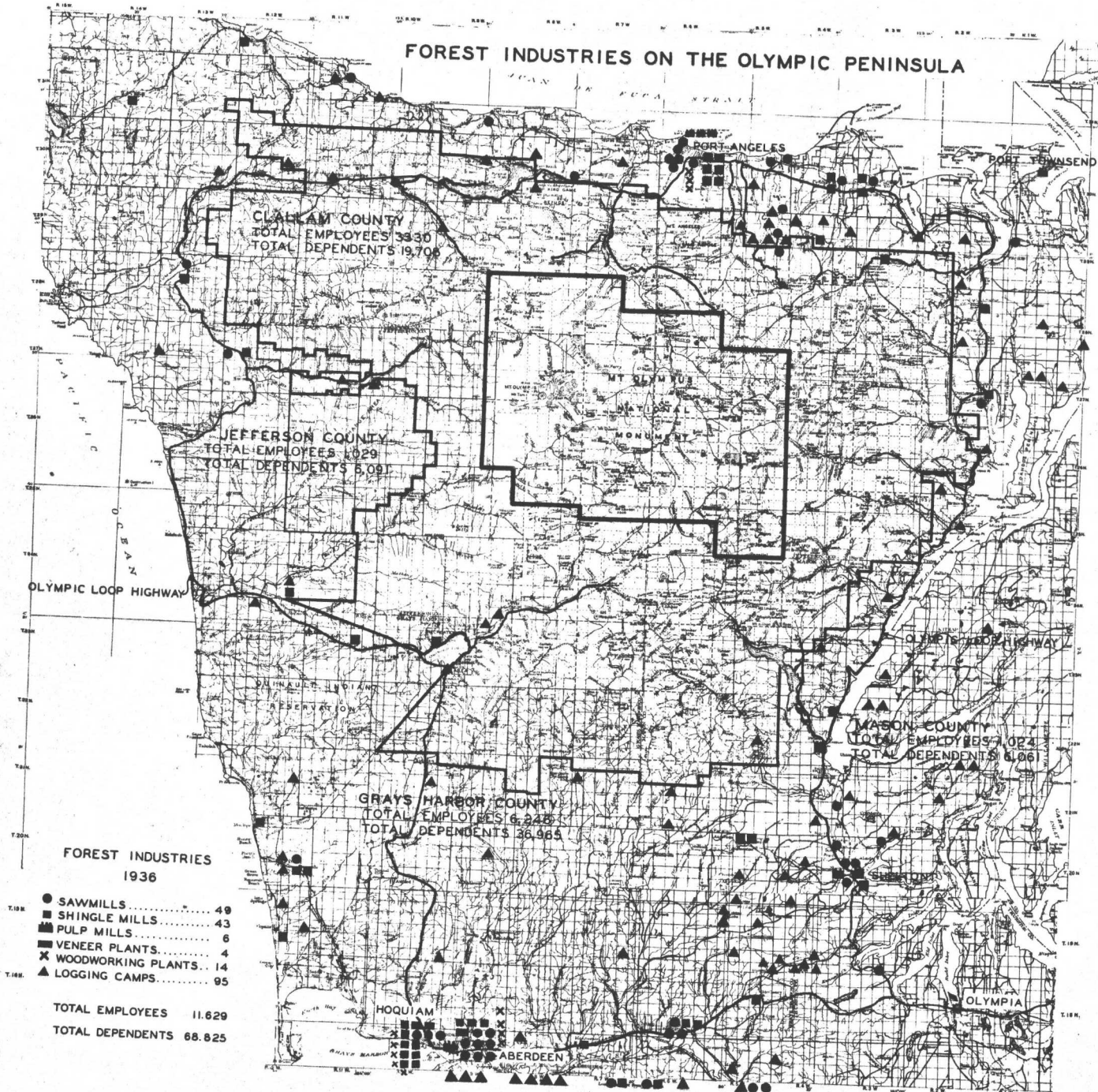
"You are advised that there would be no objection by this office to the presentation to the Committee of such report on this bill as you may deem appropriate, but it would be understood that your report would involve no commitment with respect to the relation of the proposed legislation to the program of the President."

Sincerely,

H. A. Wallace

Secretary.

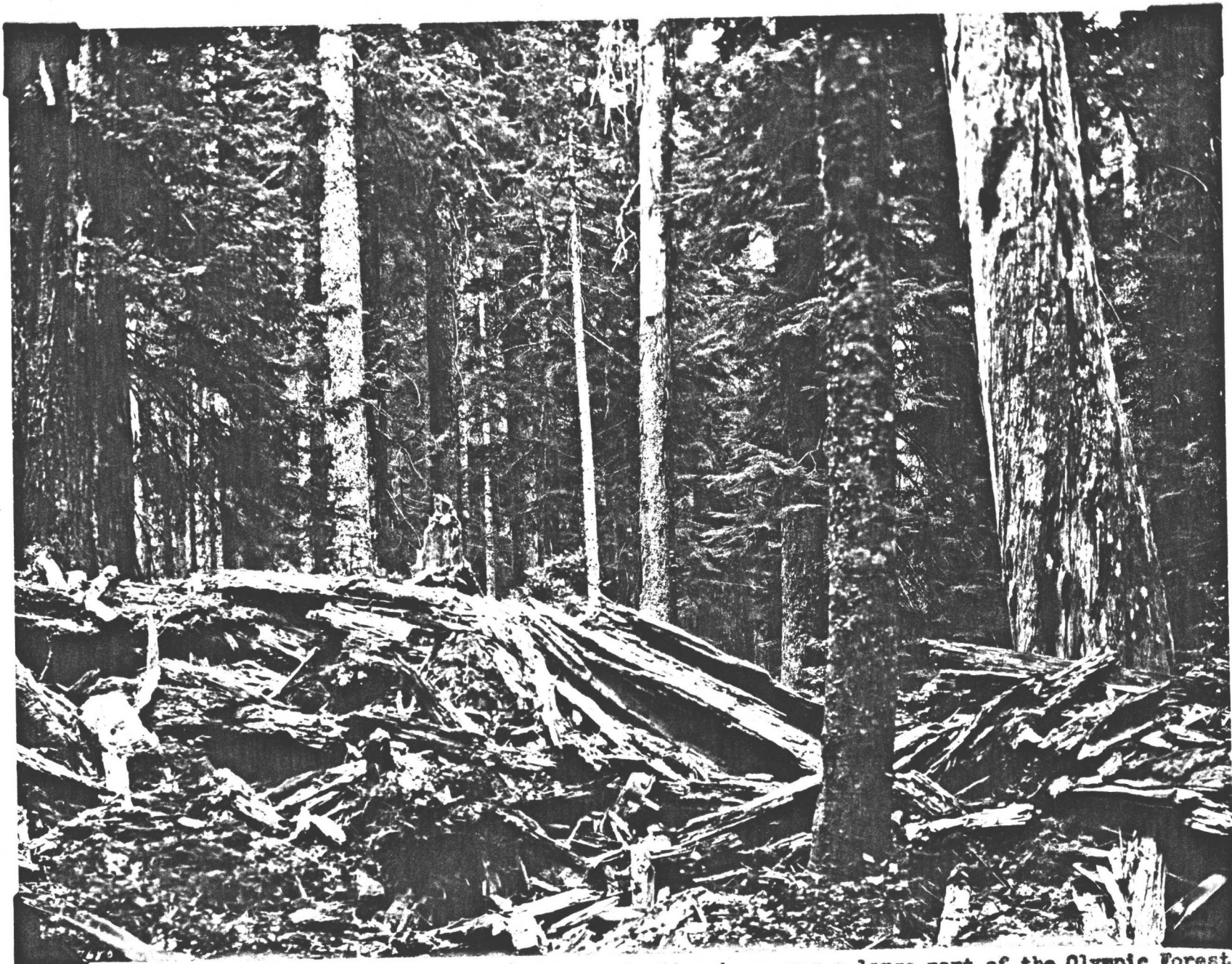
# FOREST INDUSTRIES ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA





Soleduck plantation. Area burned over, 1907, in 13,000 acre fire. This part of area planted to Douglas fir in 1920, trees now 15 to 20 feet in height. Total area successfully restocked by planting on the Olympic Forest - 9,178 acres.





Balsam fir-western hemlock type (pulp type). Predominating type over a large part of the Olympic Forest.