

ESTABLISHMENT REPORT

for

MAITLEN CREEK RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Within the

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST  
PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Prepared by Ronald J. Young Date 8/17/72

Reviewed by J. H. Fisher Date 8-17-72  
District Ranger

Recommended by [Signature] Date [Signature]  
Forest Supervisor

Recommended by Lorraine M. Whitfield Date 8/31/72  
Regional Forester

Recommended by Robert W. Harris Date 9/13/72  
Station Director

Approved by [Signature] Date 1/3/73  
Acting Director, Division of Recreation, W.O.

Approved by M. B. Duchemin Date 1/4/73  
Asst Deputy Chief, Research, W.O.

Approved by John. McQuinn Date 1/8/73  
Chief

MAITLEN CREEK NATURAL AREA

I. THE AREA

A. Principal Distinguishing Features

The area is 630 acres in size, 83% of which is Douglas fir timber type. Portions of the area were burned in 1920, leading to several different age classes of timber within the area. The lower boundary of the area borders on private land and the county road, but is otherwise undeveloped. It is of adequate size to permit undisturbed ecological processes.

B. Location

The area is located 4 miles south of the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station and includes portions of sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T38N, R43E, W.M. in the Maitlen Creek drainage, Sullivan Lake District, Colville National Forest, Pend Oreille County, Washington.

C. Area by Cover Types

	<u>S&amp;P Type</u>	
Douglas fir (sawtimber)	(210)	219 acres
Douglas fir (seedling and sapling)	(210)	315 acres
Western larch (sawtimber)	(212)	38 acres
Non-commercial forest.		67 acres
	Total	<u>640 acres</u>

D. Physical Conditions

Exposure ranges from southwest to southeast, contributing to a relatively dry site. Within the area topography is steep and rugged with slopes ranging up to 70% and averaging 35%. Two small tributary streams are within the area and Maitlen Creek forms the west boundary. Elevation ranges from 2900 ft. MSL at the county road to 5377 ft. MSL at the summit of Snyder Hill on the upper boundary.

Annual precipitation ranges from 25" to approximately 40" at the higher elevations.

II. DESCRIPTION OF VALUES

A. Flora

Because of the relatively dry site and shallow soil characteristics, overstory species are limited in number, with Douglas fir and western larch predominating.

In terms of area occupied, the largest habitat type is Pseudotsuga/Physocarpus, which forms a topographic or topographic edaphic climax on this site rather than a climatic climax, because the topography, exposure and soils offset the 30"-40" annual precipitation received here. Other habitat types found within the area are:

Tsuga/Fachistima  
Abies grandis/pachistima  
Pseudotsuga/Galsuagrostis  
Abies lasiocarpa/Pachistima  
Abies lasiocarpa/Wenziesii  
Parkland  
Alder

The several habitat types within the area form a mosaic pattern which presents an opportunity to study the environmental gradients involved. In addition, the fire history of the proposed area has created a diverse mixture of both seral and climax plant communities.

#### B. Geology

The proposed area lies within a Cambrian age formation known as the Maitlen phyllites. These phyllites contain quartz, sericite and calcite and appear gray-green in color, are fine grained and conspicuously banded. Quartzite beds and limestone layers are common throughout the formation.

The Maitlen Creek gorge (from Sullivan Lake to Ione) probably resulted from stream capture during Pleistocene epoch. The valley represents an abandoned river channel.

#### C. Fauna

The full range of larger mammals and birds common to Northeastern Washington are found in the proposed area, with the exception of those species which require swamp or alpine environment.

In May, 1972, eighteen (18) Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep were planted on Hall Mountain by the Washington State Game Department under cooperative agreement with the Forest Service. Since Hall Mountain lies just across the canyon from the proposed natural area, it seems reasonable to assume that the sheep may cross over to this area also.

A few of the animals which would probably be found here include whitetail and mule deer, elk, black bear, coyote, porcupine and snowshoe hare. Birds include spruce grouse, blue grouse in the upper elevations and possibly ruffed grouse. Several species of hawks are present in the general area, but there are no known nesting sites within the proposed area.

D. Minerals

There are no known commercial ore deposits or mining claims within the area. The closest mineral activity is located two miles northeast in Hoisy Creek. The general mineralized character of the surrounding country would indicate at least a possibility of some mineralization in the area, but no intensive exploration has been done.

E. Recreation

Due to the steep nature of the terrain, recreation is limited to hunting and hiking in the proposed natural area. There are no potential recreational development sites or opportunities for other types of recreation within the area.

F. Water Use

There are two known domestic water users on Haitlen Creek downstream from the proposed natural area on private land. All other waters originating on the area are tributary to the Pend Oreille River and the Columbia River system where the water is used for power generation and irrigation.

This proposal contains nothing which would interfere with these uses.

G. Land Status

The proposed natural area lies wholly within National Forest land, and is bordered by private land along the south boundary. There are no improvements or permits within the area.

H. Other

i. The lower elevation portion of the area provides winter range for both deer and elk. The amount of use is estimated at light to moderate.

2. The area proposed in this report is one mile east of the area which was evaluated by the Northern Region Research Natural Area Committee in 1959. The change was made to avoid potential conflict with a timber sale which is to be sold in 1972. There is no essential difference in site, timber type or habitat types between this area and the original proposal.

3. The proposed natural area lies within the Snyder Hill multiple use planning unit. A Level II Multiple Use Plan was completed on this unit in early 1972 and is currently awaiting approval of the environmental impact statement, which was submitted in April, 1972.

I. Conflicts

At this time, we do not anticipate any conflicting uses or demands on the area.

A P P E N D I X

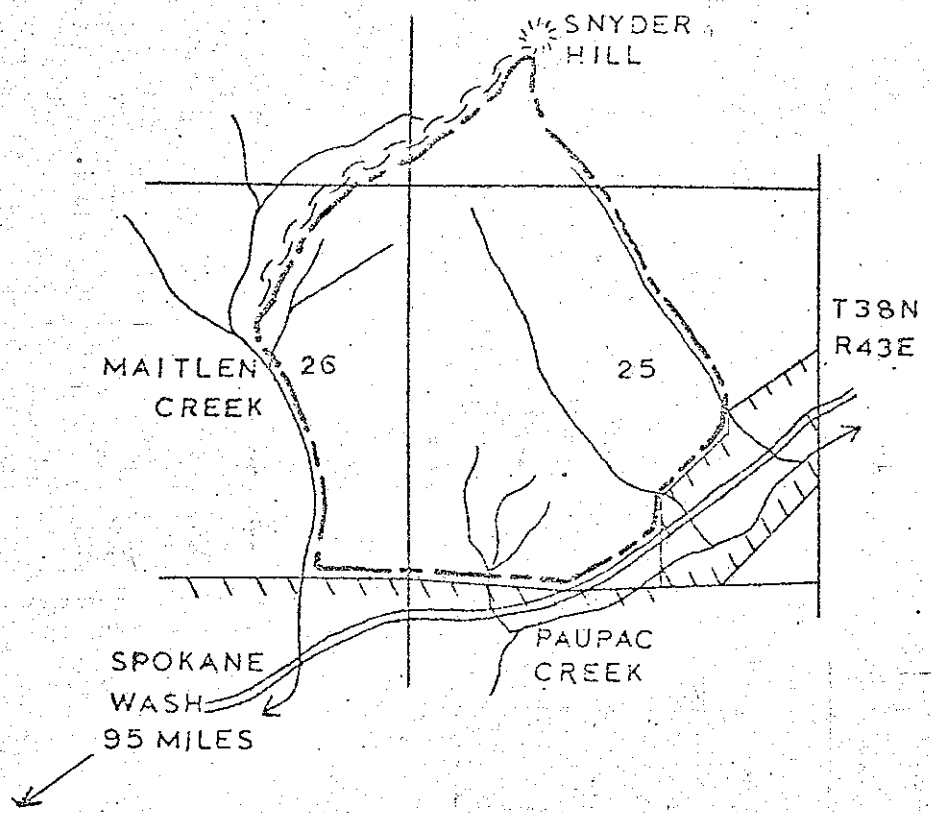
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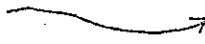

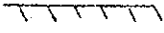
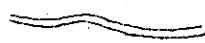
1. Report: (4060 - Research Facilities) to Neal M. Rahm, Regional Forester, R-1, from Charles A. Wellner, Chairman, Northern Region Research Natural Area Committee. Dated 6/12/70.
2. Professional Paper: Geology and Ore Deposits of the Metaline Quadrangle, Washington, Park and Cannon, 1943.
3. Personal correspondence with E.F. Layser, Biotic Planning Specialist, Colville National Forest, 5/22/72.

These reports are on file at the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station, Colville National Forest.



# PROPOSED MAITLEN CREEK RESEARCH NATURAL AREA



- RIDGE 
- STREAM 
- AREA BOUNDARY 
- PRIVATE LAND 
- COUNTY ROAD 303 

SCALE 2" = 1 MILE