

R-NW
NATURAL AREAS
Neskowin Crest
Siuslaw N.F.

January 20, 1941

THE PROPOSED NESKOWIN CREST NATURAL AREA

The proposed Neskowin Crest Natural Area lies within the Cascade Head Experimental Forest (which was established by order of F. A. Silcox on May 22, 1934) and is a part of the Siuslaw National Forest. It is representative of the spruce-hemlock forest of the immediate ocean frontage, and consists of a varying mixture of these species, both old growth and 90-year-old second growth.

Location of area. This area embraces the following surveyed lands:

All of Section 2 except the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$, and the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 1 in Township 6 South, Range 11 West, W.M.

It lies mostly on the north slope of the Cascade Head ridge about one mile south of Neskowin, Tillamook County, Oregon, a small summer resort hamlet. This places it in the extreme northwest corner of the Cascade Head Experimental Forest, fronting on the north boundary of this division of the Siuslaw National Forest. It is bounded on the north by the national forest boundary, beyond which is a similar virgin stand of hemlock and spruce in private ownership, and on the west in part by the Pacific Ocean and in part by a contemplated administrative area that will embrace an open headland and viewpoints. On the east and to the south is public land, part of the experimental forest, covered with a heavy stand mostly of 90-year-old spruce-hemlock. The south boundary roughly follows Chilwood Creek, a short creek that flows directly into the ocean, whose slopes are unlikely ever to be logged.

Its area is 686 acres which is entirely in federal ownership under national forest status.

Acresage of dominant cover types. Sitka spruce and western hemlock comprise nearly all the forest cover, there being only occasional specimens of red alder and Douglas-fir, and perhaps western redcedar. Spruce and hemlock occur in varying proportions, usually the former predominating. There are roughly two age classes -- old

growth where the trees are probably 250 or more years old and uneven aged and second growth where the trees are uniformly about 90 years old. In places the old growth prevails over a considerable area, particularly in the western part of Section 2. Elsewhere, the second growth prevails, with only an occasional old-growth tree. There are splendid specimens of both spruce and hemlock, ranging up to over five feet in diameter for the former and four feet for the latter. In general, the quality of the old-growth spruce is not prime; it shows the effect of proximity to the ocean blasts and much of it is limby, indicating that it originated in an open stand. The occasional windfallen giant spruce show much evidence of rotten butts. Some of the hemlock is very fine with tall clean cylindrical boles, but much is decrepit as usual in old uneven-aged stands.

There are patches within the area which are fine examples of a type which is fast disappearing in Oregon and Washington, and is rare within national forest boundaries, virgin old-growth spruce-hemlock, in which hemlock is gaining the ascendancy by the gradual dropping out of the spruce and the preponderance of hemlock in the reproduction.

The types as taken from the cruise made in 1934 are as follows:

Spruce old growth	17 acres
Spruce old growth - spruce second growth	10 "
Spruce old growth - hemlock old growth	150 "
Spruce second growth - hemlock second growth	41 "
Hemlock old growth - hemlock second growth	313 "
Hemlock second growth	84 "
Hemlock second growth - hemlock old growth	3 "
Hemlock old growth - spruce second growth	11 "
Hemlock second growth - spruce second growth	<u>57</u> "
Total	686 acres

The area is all solid forest. No cutting has been done in the area and there is no sign of fire since that of 1846 (?) from which the 90-year-old second-growth stand takes its inception.

Physical and climatic conditions. Though on the map the forest goes to sea level, in reality it stops at the top of a precipitous rock bluff that fronts the ocean. The lowest point of the forest is thus 250 feet and the highest 1,400. The topography is rough and deeply dissected by many short waterways that descend steeply to Neskowin Creek or direct to the ocean.

The soils are mostly deep mellow clay-loam with rock outcropping only rarely in the V-shaped draws or on the ocean escarpment.

The annual precipitation at the experimental forest headquarters five miles inland is between 71 and 111 inches, all in the form of rain.

It is here probably a little less. Freezing temperatures this close to the ocean are unusual, but may occur any time between November and March. Fogs on this headland are frequent, even in summer, for this is in the true fog belt.

Forest Values. The cruise of 1934 showed the following amounts of timber on this area in net volume of merchantable trees:

Sitka spruce - old growth	5,202 M ft. B.M.
" " - second growth	3,709 " "
Western hemlock - old growth	9,599 " "
" " - second growth	9,990 " "
Douglas-fir - second growth	25 " "
Red alder	55 " "
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Total	28,580 M ft. B.M.

The southern tier of forties is very inaccessible for logging. The northern part of the area could be logged to the Coast Highway near Neskowin, but the topography is too rough and the haul too long to be a profitable undertaking at the present time. Some of the timber is desirable saw timber; most of it now has its chief value as pulpwood and is not now exploitable for that purpose. Some of it might be in demand by operators if the private timber to the north were logged.

The forest cover has no particular significance for watershed protection, because the shed is too close to the ocean and the water therefrom not used.

This tract will serve, if left in its natural condition, as an interesting comparison with cut and managed areas on the remainder of the experimental forest, although it is too close to the ocean to be typical climatically of the major part of the experimental forest, and would not be used in studies that required areas typical of the fog belt.

Agricultural and grazing value. There is no agricultural or grazing use of this area. It is too rough for agriculture, and would not make grazing land unless completely cleared.

Mineral value. There is no mining in this vicinity and no known mineral deposits.

Value for other public uses. This tract in itself has little value for recreation, but is a valuable adjunct or background for the open headland of Neskowin Crest, which should be dedicated to administrative use. There is no prospect of using the small amount of water originating on this area for power, irrigation, or domestic supply.

Transportation. A passable trail, formerly a cart trail, passes through the western end of this area going from Meskowiin South Beach to Meskowiin Crest, and on to the terminus of the Ridge Road. It is likely to be used considerably by tourists, but this will have no detrimental effect on the natural area. There is no need or prospect for a road or further trails, though the latter would not be objectionable and would help to show off this area, now very difficult of access.

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT:

This area is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a tract of Sitka spruce and western hemlock type in its natural condition. The management of this area will consist chiefly of protection against fire, cutting, trespass, or disturbance of any sort that will alter natural conditions. This area will be administered as an integral part of the Cascade Head Experimental Forest, which in turn is a part of the Siuslaw National Forest; its protection is a function of the Supervisor and his staff working in conjunction with the Director of the Experiment Station and his staff.

Signs and Boundary Marking. To facilitate the management of the area and prevent trespass or disturbance, the boundaries of the area should be run and marked by blazing and signs, or other means, and informational signs posted at points of entrance.

Trails and Other Improvements. A trail now crosses the area from north to south which should be maintained as a means of ingress to study the area and for fire protection, the country being so rough and brushy that ingress is difficult without a trail. Other trails may be necessary later for protection, but roads will be excluded from this area.

Fire Protection. The fire protection of this area will be handled by the regular protective force of the Siuslaw National Forest as are other national forest lands. Special care should be taken to control the fire hazard when cutting takes place along the boundaries of this natural area, particularly on the north where the area abuts on private land. If and when cutting is done on national forest lands adjoining the natural area, steps should be taken to minimize the fire hazard and windfall losses by practicing very light partial cutting or by other means.

Timber Cutting. Since this area is to be maintained in its natural condition, no cutting of live or dead trees should be permitted except such as is necessary for trail construction or in an emergency such as fire fighting.

Grazing Use. No grazing of domestic stock should be permitted on the area.

Special Uses. There is no demand for special uses on this area that cannot be provided elsewhere and none should be granted.

Relation of This Area to Research Work of This Region. This tract will serve as a check area typical of the ocean frontage to compare with analogous areas on the adjoining experimental forest lands and throughout the coastal type.

Technical Examination and Description. As opportunity affords, a detailed technical examination of the area should be made by the Experiment Station and a report prepared. This report will form the foundation of a life history of the area.

Deviations From Management Plan. This area will be administered according to this management plan without deviation except with the approval of the Chief of the Forest Service.

Public Sentiment on the proposed natural area has not been heard, but there is no question but that the local summer colony would be strongly in favor of reserving this virgin area as is the general public in favor of such action in general; there is no apparent reason for any objection to it.

Approved: July 29, 1941

Dahl J. Kerpelovich
Forest Supervisor

Submitted: January 20, 1941

Thornton T. Munger
Chief, Division of Forest
Management Research

Approved: August 11, 1941

J. H. Brandage
Regional Forester

Acting

Fremont McConnel
Principal Fire Guard

Approved: August 9, 1941

Stephen W. Wozniak
Director

Washington, D. C.

October 27, 1941

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Reg. U-4 of the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the occupancy, use, protection, and administration of the national forests, I do hereby eliminate the area described in the above report by T. T. Munger and Fremont McComb, dated January 20, 1941, from the Cascade Head Experimental Forest and designate said eliminated area as the Naskowin Crest Natural Area, which area shall hereafter be administered as a Natural Area, subject to the provisions of said regulations and the instructions thereunder.

W. C. M. Granger
Acting Chief, Forest Service