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WRAGGE CREEK PROPOSAL

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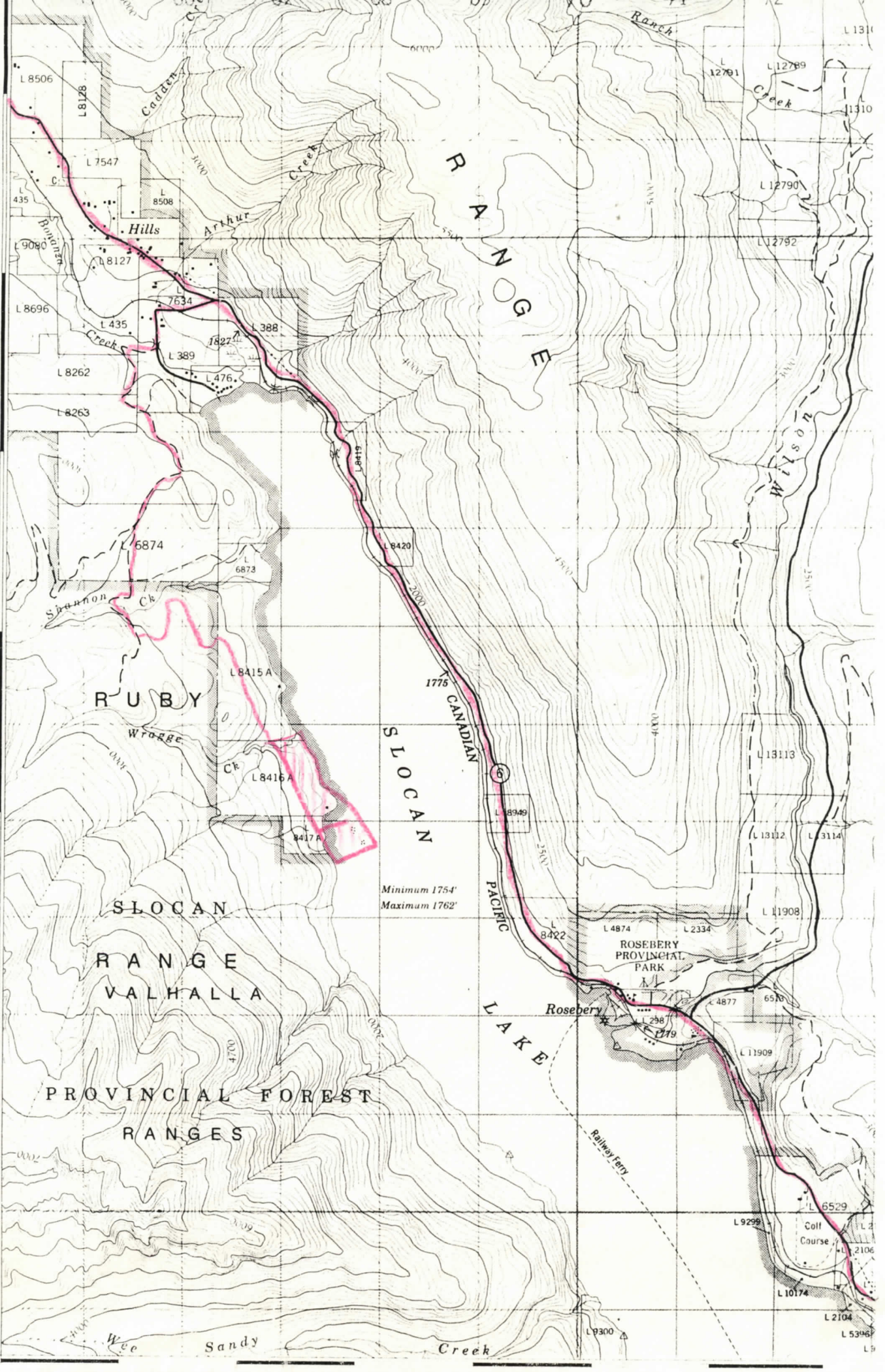
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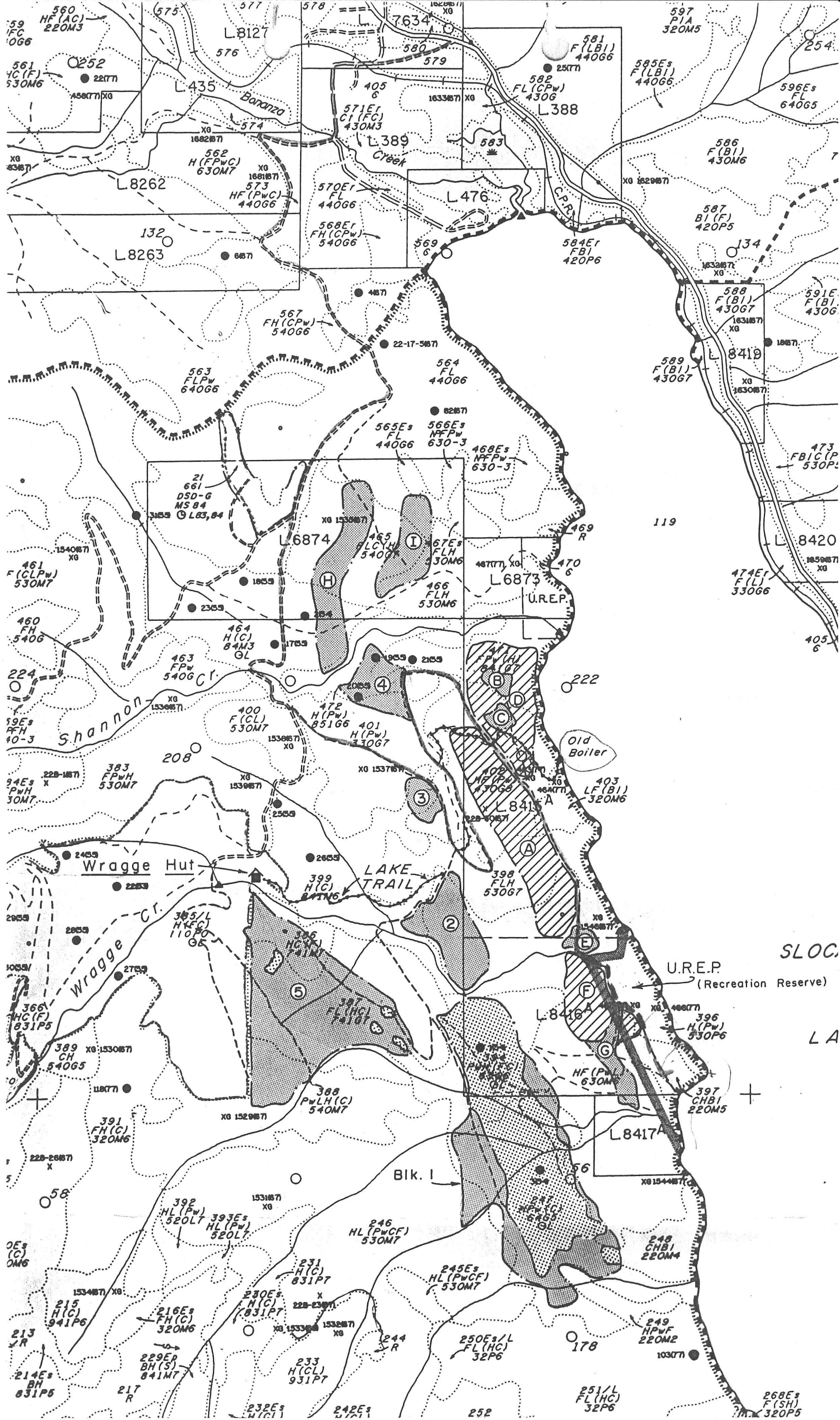
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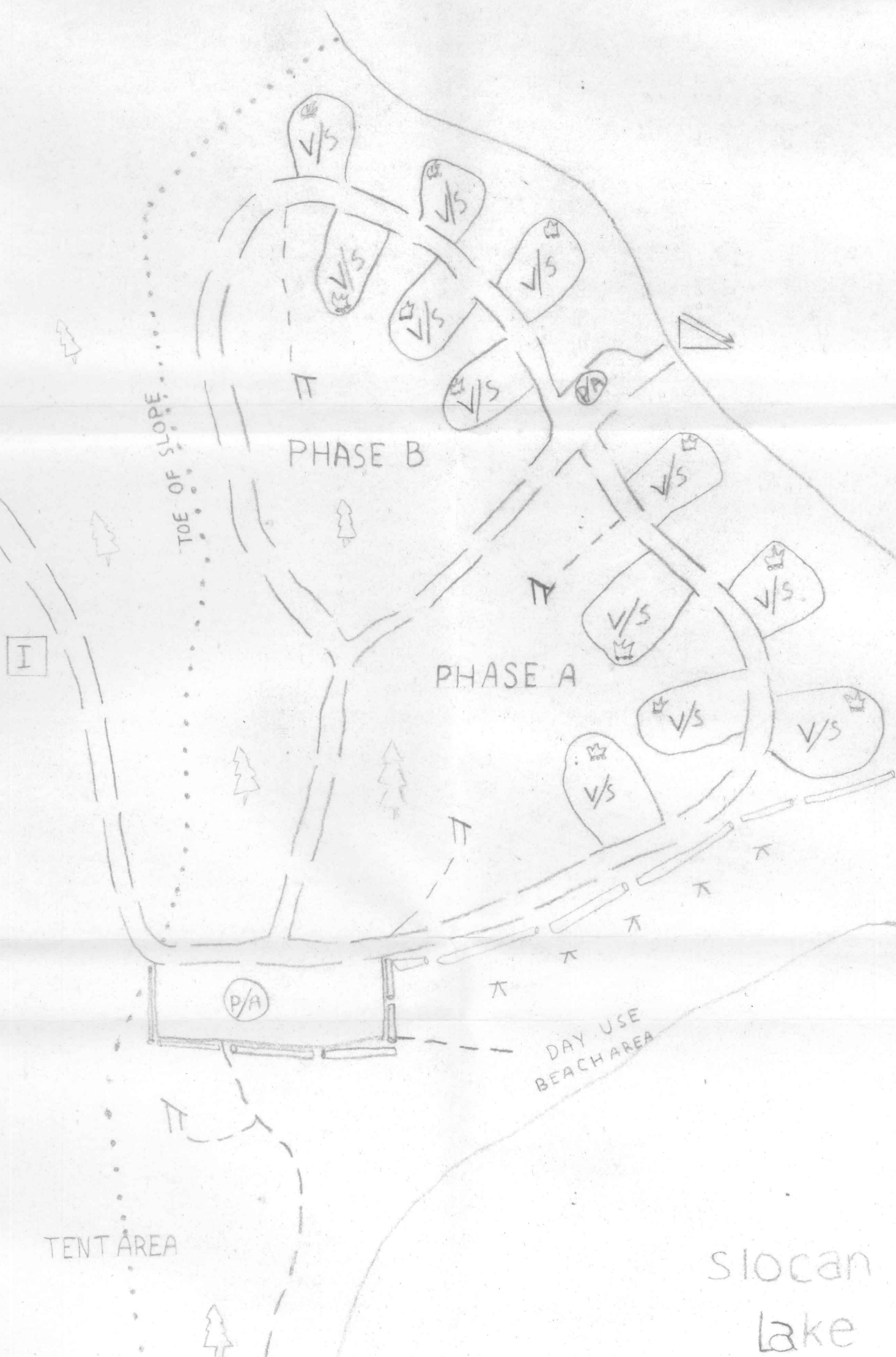
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WRAGGE BEACH



LEGEND

TREE

BROADLEAVED
TREE

SWAMP

ACCESS ROAD

TRAIL



SITE SIGN



TOILET



BARREL



LOG BARRIER



TABLE

Scale 1:1000

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WRAGGE CREEK RECREATION SITE PROPOSAL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report defines my purpose and objectives for doing a site plan at Wragge Creek. The location and the description of the area are well stated. The present situation is described along with the site potential. In this report, I have recorded the research I have done regarding resource management and campsite design. I have also done considerable research into Forest Service Policy regarding recreation sites, and this is reflected in this report.

1.1 PURPOSE STATEMENT

The overall purpose of my practicum is to develop the plans for a public use campsite on crown land. Due to the popularity of this site and the need for integrated plans, the Forest Service realizes that there is recreational potential for the Wragge Creek area and wishes to develop it.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this practicum will be:

- to design and layout a road providing access into the area while minimizing impact.
- to design a campsite, taking into consideration issues such as: maintenance, drainage, exposure to the elements, and type of use.
- to create a day use area for people who do not wish to remain overnight, but want to use the area.

- to design a boat launch that will complement the overall design of the site.
- to locate parking lots in areas where they will cause the lest amount of disturbance, but still be positioned with in easy walking distance of the facilities.
- to remain concerned about environmental factors such as compaction of soil, trampling of vegetation, and vandalism.

1.3 LOCATION

The recreation site will be located in a U.R.E.P. (Use Recreation Enjoyment of the Public) on the north-west corner of Slocan Lake and just north of the Valhallas north east boundary (Please refer to key map). The Slocan Valley is located in the west Kootenays which can be found in the south east corner of B.C.

1.4 DESCRIPTION

Known locally as "The Islands", this recreation site covers 36.4 hectares. The name of this U.R.E.P. is derived from the creek that forms the north boundary of the reserve - Wragge Creek. The south west corner extends about 300 meters into the lake and includes 2 small islands. The west boundary remains about 225 meters from the shore-line. The entire beach is composed of white sand and is present for the whole length of the reserve. The sand creates a beach ideal

for sun bathing, swimming and picnicking. See figures 1 and 2 below.



figure 1
Beach area looking west towards the day use and tent area.



figure 2
Beach area looking north towards the proposed boat launch.

The parent material on which the U.R.E.P. is located is coarse^xgrained bedrock which is overlain with colluvium . This colluvium deposit ranges from moderately to very stony and are greater than 1.5 m in depth. Textures range from moderately coarse with gravelly loamy sand to gravelly sandy loam common near the surface. These soils are a Orthic Ferro - Humic Podzol which are strongly acidic. This type of soil is well drained (Jugen J.R. 1981).

The recreation reserve is located in steep mountainous terrain. The landforms have parallel drainage patterns with V-shaped gullies. The elevation is 1800 meters above Sea Level (Valentine K.W.G. 1978).

This area is located in the Interior Wet Belt of the ICH zone. Annual precipitation is about 760 to 1520 mm. and the average freeze-free period is 130 days (Wittneben V. 1980). Cedar and Hemlock are the tree species that dominate the site, but species such as Larch, Douglas fir, and the odd White pine also can be found here. This area has an east aspect and will receive lots of early morning sun.

2.0 PRESENT SITUATION

There is logging road access up to the north boarder of the U.R.E.P., but there is no road system within its

boarders Except for a cleared right of way into the area.
See figure 3 below.



figure 3
Cleared right of way within the
reserve.

There is and will be logging operations in the area. The type of logging around the U.R.E.P. borders and along the access road will be a selective harvest done by small businesses. All Fir and Larch in the blocks will be reserved and all Cedar under 20 cm. dbh and all trees under 17.5 cm. dbh will be left uncut. In some of the

more visual cut blocks, the top one third or one quarter of the cut block will be feathered into the standing timber so that there will be no harsh, distinct line. All slash will be burned, and the right of way along the road will be seeded with grass. From an aesthetics point of view, this will reduce the visual impact of the logging.

At present, there is some use of the beach at Wragge Creek by the public. This use is at present uncontrolled and unmonitored. This has lead to the construction of makeshift camping structures and unsanitary toilet facilities. See figures 4 and 5 below. There is also an old one room cabin on the beach that provides shelter to the users. See figure 6 on page 7. These old facilities make the site look untidy and unsanitary thereby detracting from the overall aesthetics of the area.



figure 4
Makeshift shelter and campsite left behind from previous campers.



figure 5
Unsightly and unsanitary conditions created by the use of
makeshift toilets.



figure 6
Old single room cabin that presently overlooks the beach.

2.1 SITE POTENTIAL

The basic factors of project location and user pressures determine the priority for development. The guidelines used for such a determination are as follows:

Location factors

- A - tributary to logging road or fresh water navigable access.
- B - within "wilderness" area not served by road or fresh water access.
- C - close to a settlement, main highway, or other developed recreational areas managed by other agencies or areas served by marine access only.

Use Factors

- H - the present level of use or potential level of use is relatively high when compared to other similar locations within the district.
- M - as above, but a moderate use demand.
- L - as above, but a low use demand.

Priority Class

- 1 - high priority for development.
- 2 - moderately high.
- 3 - moderate.
- 4 - low.

The Wragge Creek Recreation site can be rated as a class 1 - a high priority for development. This is because for location, Wragge creek rates an A - tributary to logging road and a fresh water navigable access, and the use factor rates an H - the present use is high. With both the location and use factors rating so high, the priority for development is high.

The development of a campsite would greatly increase the use of this area. This site is ideally suited for camping, hiking, fishing, site seeing, and picnicking. Due to a rich mining history in the area plus old relics from the past industries, such as an old boiler, there is a very good opportunity for interpretation. The close proximity of a large water body also enriches the potential for this site by increasing the recreational activities available. These activities include fishing, boating, sailing and swimming.

There has been a trail proposed from the recreation reserve at Wragge Creek to the mouth of Wee Sandy Creek in the Valhalla Park. This trail would link the campsite users to a very high quality hiking and camping experience within the park.

3.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS

The main components of the forest resource upon which recreation is based are aesthetic, topography, hydrographic, biological and cultural features. All of these features are sensitive, to some degree, to management activities; therefore, the management of the forest resource base must include consideration for recreational values (Watts, Susan B. 1983).

In B.C., the access to, and the recreational use of all crown forested land is a right of the public. The manager of the forest land has the responsibility to ensure that recreational values are considered and integrated in the management of the resources for the "... greatest contribution to the social and economic welfare of the province..." (Forest Act. 1978).

3.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The objective is to maintain or enhance the recreational productivity of the forest land. There are four basic phases involved.

- Resource inventory or identification of recreational values.
- Determination of sensitivity of recreational values to recreational use and to management or harvesting of other resources components.

- Establishment of management options on a site specific basis to mitigate the negative impact of external conflict.
- Implementation of selected management options (Watts, Susan B. 1983).

3.2 FOREST SERVICE POLICY

3.2.1 PRINCIPLES OF SITE DESIGN

Objective: To design low-key, rustic sites with the minimum amount of environmental disturbance and the minimum number of facilities necessary to satisfy public recreation needs and environmental protection requirements at a particular location. (B.C.F.S. 1979)

Principles:

- To maintain the terrain in its natural state with minimum environmental modifications.
- To utilize natural openings when possible.
- To keep roads narrow and winding to create interesting routes.
- To design circuit loops within the site for access to assist the traffic flow.
- To place as few signs as possible on the site but to satisfy public health and safety requirements.

- To locate developments on larger lakes, back from immediate water frontage to avoid monopolization by a few people.
- To keep day-use areas away from overnight camping areas to avoid conflicts due to noise etc.
- To ensure the boat launch has an adjacent parking area to relieve congestion of the actual launch ramp.
- To locate individual camping units as far apart as possible for privacy.
- To locate pit toilets at least 30 meters from high water mark of a body of water.
- To locate pit toilets and fire rings downwind from public use areas (B.C.F.S. 1979).

3.2.2 PRINCIPLES OF SITE PLANNING

POLICY: Policy is to keep sites as natural as possible so that a rustic environment is insured. Each site is planned for development in several stages so that it can be constructed in one year or a number of years (B.C.F.S. 1979).

CRITICAL FACTORS

1) Access roads.

Roads must stay at least 15 meters from a body of flowing water. These roads will be kept narrow and winding. Old roads will be utilized for minimum soil disturbance and site alteration. Circuit loops will be designed if possible.

2) Trails.

Trails will be for multi-use (protection, viewing, etc.) and will use the lee side of ridges. The trails will take advantage of viewpoints and points of interest. There will be at least one trail for each recreation site. Soil erosion will be avoided by using switch-backs on steep terrain.

3) Sanitation facilities.

Toilets will be erected at least 30 meters from the high water mark. They will be hidden from view and will be marked with a directional sign on a well defined trail. There will be one toilet established for 2 - 8 camping units and one

for the major parking lot on the side.

4) Camping units.

Camping units will not be placed across from each other, they will be placed for maximum privacy. There will be a leave strip of 15 meters between each unit.

5) Picnic sites.

Picnic sites will be denoted by a concentration of picnic tables. They will be adjacent to a parking lot, shaded if possible and no vehicles will be allowed within this area.

6) Signs.

Signs will be erected only where it is absolutely necessary and will be mounted on a standard pole and not a tree.

7) Firewood.

The use of firewood on a recreation site is primarily for social reasons rather than for cooking/heating. It therefore is not an essential service on most sites. Firewood should only be supplied where it is a demonstrated demand (such as repeated requests or unacceptable tree damage) and where a natural supply is not readily available.

8) Site rehabilitation.

To avoid soil compaction and trampled vegetation, the following guidelines will be implemented.

- Paths will be defined to keep people on specified routes.
- Areas of open ground will be seeded with grass or trees will be transplanted.
- Cars will be kept away from problem areas using log barricades.
- To keep people from debarking or cutting trees, firewood will be supplied and paper signs will be posted that say "No Tree Cutting".

3.2.3 SITE CONSTRUCTION.

POLICY: The preservation of the natural setting and a high quality of work are emphasized. The use of small machines to do the work is encouraged as this would minimize damage to the surroundings (B.C.F.S. 1979).

Critical factors.

1) Camping units.

Camping units will be level and constructed with a 5 meter diameter, a 4 meter entrance, and a 3 meter width.

2) Closure control.

Closure control will consist of logs, posts or boulders buried in soil; earth mounds will be planted with grass.

3) Fireplaces.

Fireplaces will be built primitive with a pit 0.6 meters in diameter and 15 cm. deep with a ring of rocks set around the circumference. Fireplaces will be located downwind from tent or table areas. They will be located away from overhanging trees and at the back of the camping units.

4) Parking Lots.

Parking lots will consist of a flat area with crush topping if natural gravel is not available.

Log barriers will delineate the extent of the parking lot.

5) Roads.

Access to the site will be provided by a winding, one lane road. Within a site, a one-way circuit loop should be utilized, if possible. This road should be 5 meters in width with a 6 meter right of way. Good surfacing with an adequate amount of culverts will be provided.

6) Signs.

Signs will be 50 cm. by 50 cm., planned cedar planks, roistered, stained, and painted. The lettering will be 10 cm. high and 5cm. wide, painted with Forest Service yellow green. Trail and toilet signs will be bolted on one stained post each.

7) Tables.

Tables will be placed in picnic areas within the site and not at each camping unit. The tables will be positioned for convenience and will be constructed according to F.S. standards.

8) Tent Sites.

Tent sits will be constructed so that a good , level, hard packed sand surface remains for the pad. They will be 2,5 meters by 3.5 meters with a fire pit at one end. The tent sites will be fire proof at least 3 meters around site and a supply of firewood will be maintained.

8) Toilets.

Toilets will be constructed according to F.S. standards. They will be located at least 30 meters from the high water mark. The door will be oriented for maximum privacy.

9) Trails.

Trails will be constructed with an 45 cm. travelling surface and a 120 cm. right of way.

Branches and logs will be cut off as high as a person and axe can reach. Switch-backs will be utilized to avoid soil erosion. Vistas or points of interest will be taken advantage of and directional signs will be erected at strategic points.

4.0 CAMPSITE DESIGN

At this point in time, Wragge Creek is under utilized and is sometimes abused by those who use it due to a lack of development and of public education.

Development is the key to the Wragge Creek Recreation Site. The objectives of this development plan is to protect the environment by controlling:

- the types of recreation possible at this site.
- the number of recreationists that use the site.
- the type of recreationist.

This site, if properly developed, could provide a quality outdoor experience for the recreationists that use the area. By way of this proposal, a higher standard of user integrity will be encouraged. It will also protect the environment against unnecessary damage.

4.1 SCHEDULE.

The Wragge Creek Rec. Site will be developed in two phases. Phase "A" will consist of six overnight camping spots, a day use beach area, a boat launch, a parking lot, and a tent area. Phase "B" will consist of six additional overnight camping spots. Phase "A" will be constructed first and if the demand in the following years exceeds the supply, Phase "B" will be implemented.

4.2 ACCESS.

The logging companies that are logging in the area will bear the burden of constructing most of the access road. Since the logging will take place along parts of the west border of the reserve, there will be very little additional road needed. The road that must be constructed will be a one way circular loop with a travelling surface of about 3 meters with a five meter right of way.

4.3 PARKING.

There will be two parking lots constructed on the Wragge Creek Recreation Site. The main parking lot will be located adjacent to the day use beach area and the tent area. This parking lot will be approximately 20 meters by 60 meters to provide room for about 15 vehicles. This parking lot will service the day users and the tenters plus anyone who wishes to hike in the area. This lot will be built on a terrain with practically no slope, thereby reducing the amount of disturbance to the ground during construction. The boundaries of this lot will be delineated thru the use of large logs.

The other parking lot will provide parking for people who are launching their boats. The capacity of this parking lot will be two or three vehicles with trailers. It will be located at the boat launch. Since

this is located at a corner in the loop, there will be lots of room to turn and back vehicles pulling trailers with boats onto the boat ramp.

4.4 BOAT RAMP.

The boat ramp was placed in this spot for several reasons. A contributing factor was to place it away from the day use area for congestion reasons. Another reason was to keep the boats away from people who would be using the beach and swimming. Also, the slight beach indentation will provide a natural wind break and, consequently, will reduce wave action.

4.5 CAMPING UNITS.

There will be six camping units in phase "A", and an additional six units in phase "B". A leave strip of 9 meters will be left between each camping unit to obtain the greatest number of units possible without detracting from the outdoor experience. Each unit will be constructed six meters wide and 15 meters long. Since the ground is already flat, there will be little soil disturbance during construction. There will be a fire pit in each camping unit.

4.6 TENTING SITES.

The tent sites will be situated for maximum privacy. They will be 2.5 meters by 3.5 meters and each site

will be approximately 10 meters apart. A firepit will be constructed at each tent site.

4.7 FIREWOOD.

Firewood will not be supplied unless trees within the recreation site are being damaged. There is an abundant supply of drift wood that has accumulated along the beach. This will provide a wood source. See figure 7 below.



figure 7

The beach area has an abundant supply of firewood.

4.8 PICNIC SITE.

The picnic site will be denoted by a concentration of picnic tables. The area will also be separated from vehicle traffic by way of a large log barrier. The trees and under brush will be left if when possible to

further deter vehicles from driving onto the beach. This picnic site will accommodate the day-users wishing to use the beach area. There will be about ten picnic tables in this area. It is located south of the overnight campers and therefore is upwind from any odors or smoke.

4.9 TOILETS.

There will be five toilets plus an additional one in phase "B". These toilets will be located out of plain view and will be located at least 30 meters above the high water mark. They will be built according to F.S. standards. One will service the tenters, one the overnight campers, and the other will accommodate the day users.

4.10 SIGNS.

Very few signs will be erected and none will be nailed to trees. A site sign will be posted just before the main parking lot. A one way sign will be posted at the beginning of the circular loop. Signs indicating the direction of toilets will be posted. There will be a sign that denotes the tenting site and one in the parking lot stating that overnight camping is prohibited in parking lot.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The forest service recreation program is designed to satisfy the needs of people who use crown land to pursue outdoor recreation. By way of careful planning, this program is designed to protect the natural wildland recreation values. Wragge creek has demonstrated a need for such a program by way of present use by the public. My goals and objectives are to plan a recreation site considering recreation values through the management of road and trail access, camp sites, facilities, as well as maintaining a quality environment.

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