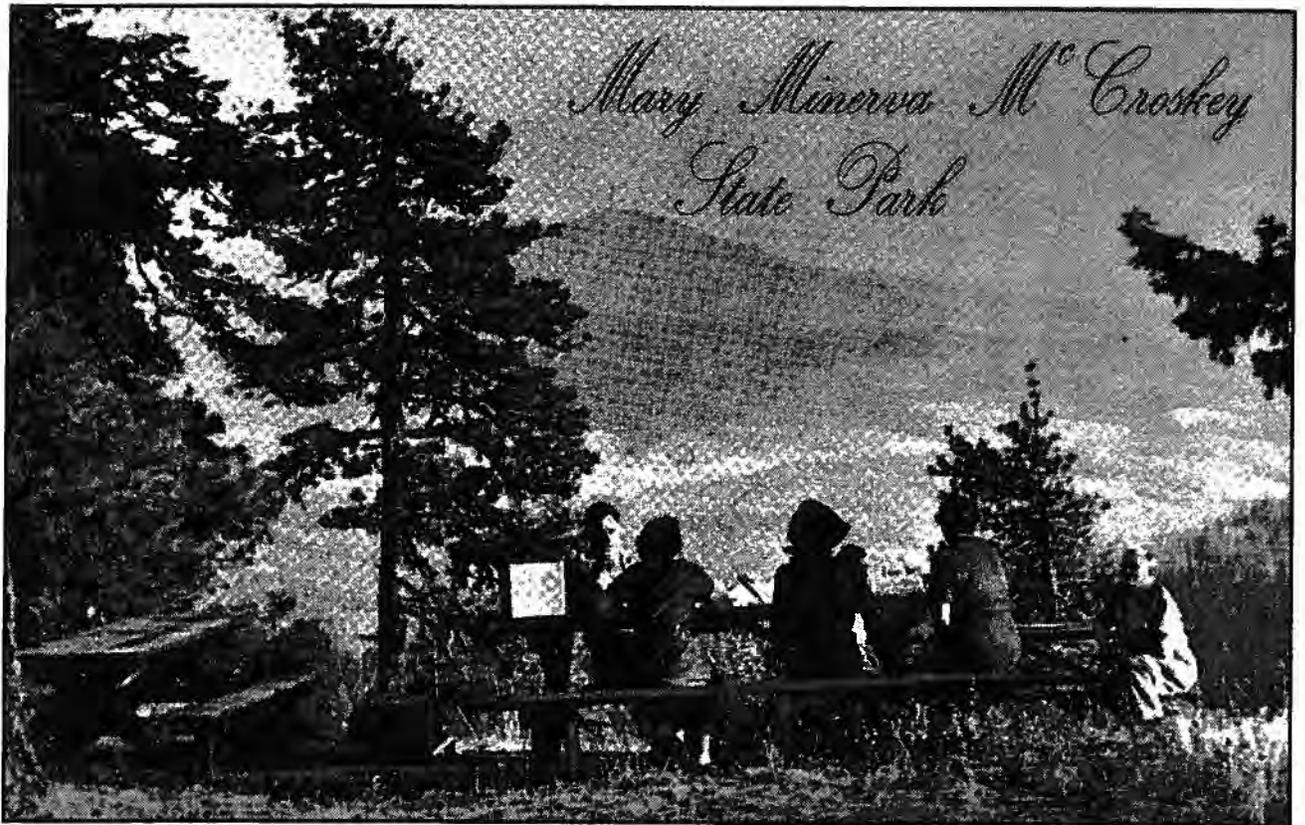


IDAHO DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION



GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The IDPR mission as defined by the Idaho Legislature

To formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development, and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities, and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged.

Mary Minerva M^o Croskey

State Park

-General Development Plan-



Cecil D. Andrus, Governor

Yvonne S. Ferrell, Director

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P r e f a c e

Dedication of Idaho's Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1933 3:05 P. M.

Sponsored by the
LAYAH COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Program

Hon. Jack McBride, Idaho State Senator Master of Ceremonies

SONG BY ASSEMBLY "America"
Conducted by Rep. Elvon Hampton
Accompanist, Mrs. Elvon Hampton

INVOCATION Rev. Earl Shoup
(Relative of Idaho's First Governor, the Late Gov. George Shoup)

VOCAL SOLO, "Trees," Klimer, Rasbach Hon. Elvon Hampton

ADDRESS: "A DREAM COME TRUE" Robert S. Gode
Agriculture Department Head, The University of Idaho

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
Led by Hon. Elvon Hampton
Official New Version Recently Adopted
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the
Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with
Liberty and Justice for all.

**DEDICATION OF IDAHO'S MARY MINERVA McCROSKEY
STATE PARK** Dr. D. H. Thompson
President, The University of Idaho
Representative of Gov. Robert E. Smylie

**PLACING OF FLORAL TRIBUTE IN MEMORIAM to Mary Minerva
McCroskey, Mother of Donor of Park, Virgil T. McCroskey, by two
of her great-grandchildren, Elaine McCroskey and Craig Hartwell.
Sounding of "Taps" by Mark Hodgson, bugler, Boy Scout Troop
345, Moscow.**

VOCAL SOLO

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL T. McCROSKEY Mrs. Raleigh Allright
Idaho State Mother, 1888 - Idaho State Regent, D.A.R.

Additional Tribute to Virgil T. McCroskey by Guests Hon. Jack
McBride, Master of Ceremonies, presiding.

RESPONSE Virgil T. McCroskey
Donor of Idaho's 100-acre Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, the
scenic 20-mile-long Skyline Drive. Also donor of 400-acre Boy Scout
Camp and 40-acre Bird Refuge controlled by Park. Donor of Washington's
Stanley State State Park.

SONG BY ASSEMBLY "And Here We Have Idaho"
BENEDICTION Rev. Earl Shoup

1933 OFFICERS, LAYAH COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION
President - C. E. Talbot
Vice President - Mrs. Earl W. Clyde
Secretary/Treasurer - Mrs. C. C. Cursons

Raising of U.S. Flag, Early Marching and Erecting of Parkline of Care by
Boy Scouts. Willie Hordemann, Moscow, Leader.

*Somehow I have a feeling that this
road, which opens so much beauty
to so many, will endure after my time*

--Virgil T. McCroskey--



**GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN,
JUNE 1993**

Adopted by the Idaho
Park and Recreation
Board at its regular
meeting in
Boise, Idaho,
June 18, 1993.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Board for approval the final draft of the General Development Plan for Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park; and

WHEREAS, this document reflects the Department's long-range development plan designed to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

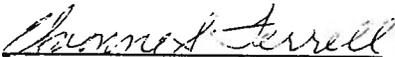
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Park and Recreation Board approves the final draft of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's General Development Plan for Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park dated June 18, 1993; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final draft of the Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park General Development Plan is amended as follows:

Objective 1.2 (under Goal 1 of the natural resource element) which currently states "*Hunting within the boundaries of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park will be phased out over a five-year time frame*" will be eliminated from the final document, as will the original section entitled *Hunting Management*. Objective 1.2 will be amended to state: *Enforce Board rules prohibiting the discharge of firearms and the molestation of animals within park boundaries.*



Glenn Shewmaker
Chair, Idaho Park and Recreation Board



Yvonne S. Ferrell
Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation



Merl Mews
Chief, Development Bureau



Bill Dokken
Chief, Operations Bureau

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The concepts outlined in this document were originally presented to the Park and Recreation Board at their August 3, 1990 meeting in Challis, Idaho. This presentation consisted of three components: (1) a topographic model of the park, (2) a 20-minute narrated slide presentation, and (3) the incomplete preliminary plan draft. These components were employed in concert to convey the character of the park, the range of issues and concerns, and the nature of proposed development. The final draft, therefore, differs substantially from the preliminary draft. The document is now free-standing and the concepts proposed are completely conveyed by its graphics and text. The essence of the original plan has not changed, with the exception of the hunting provisions which were modified at the direction of the Park and Recreation Board.

Photo on preceding page:
Park dedication ceremonies,
1955.



This act looks to the future. As our population increases we will need to set aside more and more scenic areas for the enjoyment of future generations. The addition of 4,400 acres to our park system without cost to the State until 1971 is therefore highly desirable. Future generations will thank Mr. McCroskey, and I feel certain that they will applaud the State's decision to accept his gracious gift.

—Governor Robert E. Smylie,
upon signing the bill
accepting the park

IDAHO SESSION LAWS, CHAPTER 252, (S.B. No. 174), AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS TO ACCEPT AND ADMINISTER CERTAIN LANDS OR RIGHTS THERETO, IN BENEWAH AND LATAH COUNTIES, WHEN DONATED TO THE STATE OF IDAHO BY VIRGIL T. McCROSKEY AND PROVIDING FOR THE SETTING ASIDE OF SAID LANDS AS A STATE PARK AS A MEMORIAL TO THE PIONEER WOMEN OF THE NORTHWEST, AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARY MINERVA McCROSKEY STATE PARK, AFTER THE MOTHER OF VIRGIL T. McCROSKEY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That the State Board of Land Commissioners is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to accept on behalf of the State of Idaho the donation of Virgil T. McCroskey of lands or rights thereto, in Benewah and Latah Counties, for the preservation of a scenic drive thereon and control of an area adjoining.

SECTION 2. That the State Board of Land Commissioners shall have the supervision and control of any lands or rights thereto, so accepted, and are further empowered, authorized and directed to set aside said lands for a State Park, as a memorial to the pioneer women of the Northwest and to be known as Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefore, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this Act shall be in force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved March 16, 1955.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Virgil McCroskey said his parks were to be "for all the people, forever and ever." I know that he would have been elated to witness the tremendous citizen participation in the planning process for this general development plan.

I express my sincere appreciation to the following members of the Planning Advisory Committee for their support and assistance in this effort, and for their photographic and written contributions: Rick Cummins, Nancy Johansen, Rich Morrison, Terry Doupe, Loring Jones, Harold Osborne, Jim Eagan, Bob and Jeri McCroskey, Ralph Papenfuhs, Dick Hodge, George Mills, Jr., and Charles Wellner.

Thanks to Rosemary Hardin for editing the copy, and for the layout and design of the document.

I would like to thank Jim Eagan and Tom Satterlee for their assistance in creating the topographic model of the park.

Thanks to Kathy Wagner for the production of the slide presentation.

I would like to recognize the contributions of the following agencies: University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences; U.S. Forest Service, Palouse District; Idaho Department of Lands; Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Thanks to Mary Reed and Keith Petersen for granting permission to reprint portions of *Virgil T. McCroskey—Giver of Mountains*.

Thanks to Paul Christian for producing the aerial photographs.

I would also like to acknowledge the citizens whose participation in public meetings provided valuable information.

I thank the Idaho Park and Recreation Board for their contribution to this effort at their August 1990 meeting.

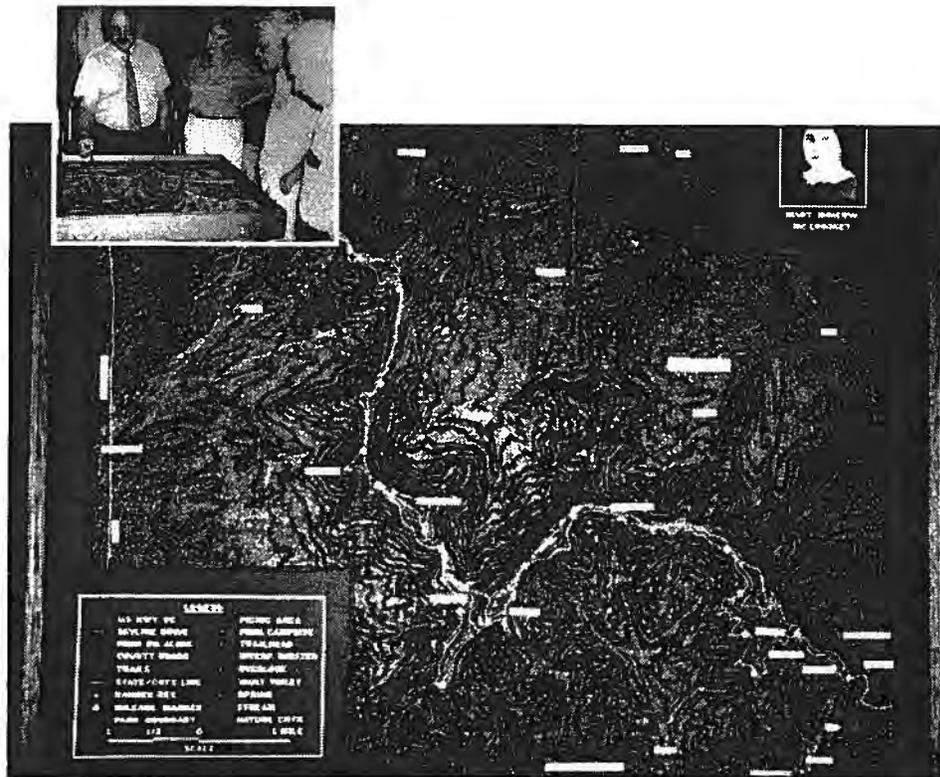
Finally, I express my gratitude to Virgil T. McCroskey for his invaluable gift to the people of Idaho.

David F. Okerlund , IDPR Development Planner

TOPOGRAPHIC MODEL and SLIDE PRESENTATION

A large, portable topographic model of the park and a 20-minute narrated slide presentation were developed concurrently with this general development plan. The model served as a planning tool and as basis for discussion during the public-participation process. The slide program effectively conveyed the visual essence of the park. These components of the original GDP presentation have been incorporated into an exhibit on display at the Chatq'ele' Interpretive Center, Heyburn State Park. The center is located on Highway 5, approximately seven miles east of Plummer.

This exhibit will be transferred to Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park when it can be securely housed in a visitor center that is slated for construction during the park's latter stages of development



The topographic model was an invaluable public-involvement tool.

Chapter One

Introduction



Park logo

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*Mary Minerva McCroskey
General Development Plan
Advisory Committee members
at stone fireplace at main
picnic area.*

PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT in IDAHO: AN OVERVIEW

Authority

In 1965 the Idaho State Legislature enacted enabling legislation creating the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The legislation reads in part:

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged.

- The Park and Recreation Board is responsible for administering, conducting, and supervising the IDPR. The Legislature has given the Board the power to:
- Make expenditures for the acquisition, care, control, supervision, improvement, development, extension, and maintenance of all lands under the control of the department.
- Appoint local or regional advisory councils to consider, study, and advise in the extension, development, use, and maintenance of any areas to be considered as future parks.
- Cooperate with the federal government and state local governments for the purpose of acquiring, developing, extending, or maintaining lands which are designated as state parks.
- Construct, lease, or otherwise establish public park or recreational facilities and services, and charge and collect reasonable fees to operate these facilities and services.
- Apply to any appropriate agency or officer of the federal government for aid from any

federal program respecting outdoor recreation and obligate the state regarding the responsible management of any federal funds transferred to it for the purpose of federal enactment.

Policy

The Park and Recreation Board has established operational policies to guide the IDPR staff in the acquisition, planning, development, and protection of land for public outdoor recreation use.

Acquisition

Acquisition of recreation lands is vital to the state-park system and should progress commensurate with the needs of a growing population. Public use of these acquired areas should be made possible as soon as practicable.

Planning

Few responsibilities of a state-park system are more important than planning, thus to ensure that the needs of the people will be met in respect to the state park system, there should be current and advance planning for recreation facilities and services. Such planning shall follow *The Planning and Development Process* document adopted by the Board. Planning shall be in conformance with the supply, demand, and needs as outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Idaho.

- A state-park classification system has been adopted to aid in the proper planning, development, and management of recreational land. Five major classifications have been defined: Natural, Recreational, Historical, Cultural, and Off-Road Vehicle State Parks.
- In all stages of planning, and in the allotment of priorities, the use of existing water-based areas for recreational development shall be emphasized.
- The department shall plan for appropriate conservation education facilities and activities that will enhance the use and enjoyment of the system by the public.

- The department shall plan for creative, informative, interpretive programs. In the planning, development, and implementation of interpretive programs, the department shall identify and emphasize the values which are of primary importance for each particular park.

Development

Services and facilities shall be in accord with the general development plan and classification for use and development of each park. Considerations for facilities and service shall be:

1. Within the park system, provision shall be made for a wide range of interests and activities enjoyed by Idaho residents and tourists.
2. Each park will be developed for as many activities as is consistent with the classification, wise use, and protection of the facility or resource.
3. To allow full park use by individuals who may or may not own recreational equipment, the IDPR may consider the rental and sale of items appropriate in parks.
4. Park facilities developed to facilitate service and provide recreational opportunity shall be architecturally suited to the theme and purpose of the park.
5. No facilities or services shall be permitted within a park which encourages or contributes to the rapid deterioration of the park environment or adjacent property.

Protection

Lands acquired for the state park system should remain dedicated to that use and protected against exploitation contrary to that purpose.

Goals

Long-range guidelines need to be established so that IDPR can effectively develop outdoor recreation programs and land. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) establishes these guidelines. It identifies six goals for the implementation of outdoor recreation programs:

- Ensure that Idahoans and visitors will have adequate amounts of quality outdoor recreation opportunities in the future, with special emphasis on urban centers.
- Maintain, identify, and protect outstanding examples of Idaho's natural, cultural, recreational, and historical resources for the future enjoyment of Idahoans and visitors.
- Enhance Idaho's outdoor recreation environment.
- Encourage programs which emphasize non-consumptive energy-related outdoor recreation programs.
- Ensure the provision of a full range of environmental interpretation services for all user groups in Idaho.
- Ensure that outdoor recreation programs and developments are compatible with land-use policies and resource limitations in Idaho.

In addition to the six general goals identified in the SCORP, the IDPR has adopted three goals related to energy, life-cycle costing, and revenue-generating recreation facilities:

- To seek innovation and new technology in energy conservation relative to park and recreation areas and facilities. This would include project elements that would demonstrate innovative and cost-effective, on-site generation of energy in forms which are not dependent on extractive fuels (e.g., solar hot water systems and active solar heating systems). It also includes project elements which demonstrate innovative and cost-effective methods of conserving energy through the design of sites and buildings (e.g., use of natural features such as sun, wind, plantings, and topography to passively heat, cool, and illuminate).
- To initiate life-cycle costing as a technique whereby the long-term maintenance and operating costs of a building or product are considered in addition to its original purchase price or construction costs.

• To develop revenue-generating recreation facilities. Operating budgets for all Idaho state agencies, including IDPR, are increasingly more limited. For IDPR, it translates into difficulty fulfilling the growing need for recreational facilities and

services. To combat current economic trends (i.e., budget limitations and inflation) IDPR has directed that recreation facilities capable of generating revenue be developed to supplement or sustain operating budgets.

*The deer are
so beautiful,
how can man
shoot them?
--Virgil T.
McCroskey*



*One of Mary Minerva
McCroskey State Park's
more timid residents, a
white-tailed deer.*

For All the People, Forever and Ever

Virgil McCroskey and the State Parks Movement

Reprinted with the
permission of
Keith Petersen and
Mary E. Reed

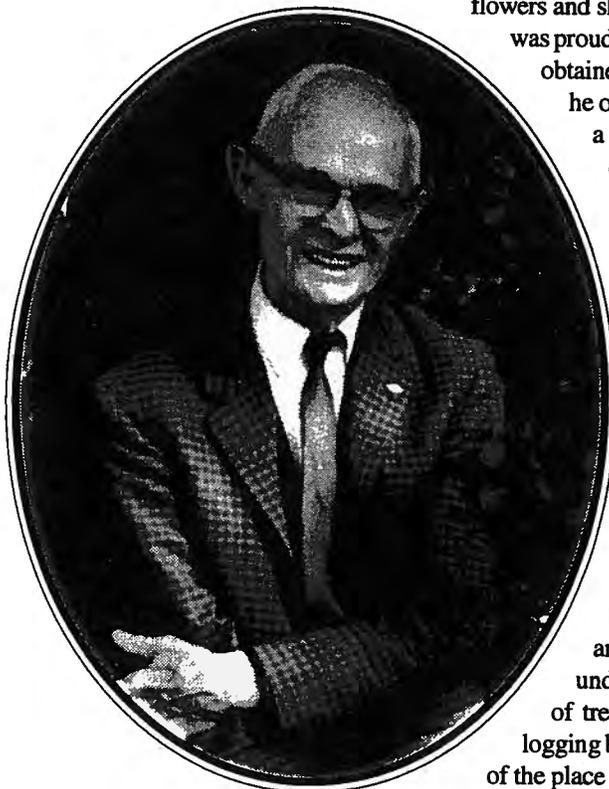
Just across Latah County's northern boundary on U.S. Highway 95, a small sign marks the entrance to Skyline Drive. The few travelers venturing onto this dirt and gravel road ascend steeply into a quiet world of fir, pine, and cedar, interlaced with a thick tangle of wildflowers and ferns. The wooded drive meanders for twenty-five miles or so in Latah and Benewah counties. It marks the northeastern edge of the Palouse, a country of treeless hills crested with wheat, peas, and lentils. At places Skyline Drive opens to majestic panoramas of the Palouse below; at others the traveler is enclosed in forest.

Those journeying along the drive are usually unaware that they are in Idaho's third oldest state park. The only locational marker is the inconspicuous one on Highway 95 identifying it by its local name, Skyline Drive. No sign properly designates Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park; no roadside plaque commemorates Virgil McCroskey's gift in 1955 of 4,400 acres to the people of Idaho.

McCroskey was a man of nearly boundless energy, and he needed more than travel to occupy this time after early retirement. He first turned his attention to the family farm, planting flowers and shrubs and decorating the grounds with strutting peacocks. He was proud of the sixty varieties of trees he planted around his place, many obtained on world travels. "I've always been a worshipper of trees," he once said, and he turned his home into an arboretum, making it a showplace in the Palouse. He was not satisfied, though, especially since it took all his time to maintain the grounds. "Some folks spend their whole lifetime beautifying an estate," he said years later. "They spend a lot of money but sometimes all the beauty quickly disappears after they are gone, particularly if the property falls into the hands of someone who has not similar interests."

In 1939, at the age of sixty-three, McCroskey embarked on his most ambitious task, the construction of twenty-five-mile-long Skyline Drive in Latah and Benewah counties, Idaho.

Looking east from a hill behind the McCroskey family farm, a forested ridge stands in sharp contrast to the cultivated fields below. When Virgil was a boy, the McCroskey family traveled an old country road to this ridge to pick huckleberries, picnic under the trees, and enjoy the view. Virgil McCroskey, worshipper of trees, loved the spot—the closest woods to his home. When logging began on the ridge in the 1930's, he determined to preserve a bit of the place that had so delighted him as a child. In 1939, with the help of the Farmington, Washington Community Club, he purchased the first road right-of-way on what was to become Skyline Drive. Although the Community Club quickly lost



Virgil T. McCroskey

interest, McCroskey committed himself to the project, which became his life's work for the next thirty-one years.

By 1941 McCroskey had secured 500 acres and was laboriously making footpaths with a hoe. Friends soon made regular trips to the ridge with tractors and equipment to begin road building. In fact, so many improvements were made that the Forest Service approached McCroskey about donating the property to that agency. But he had different plans. He had given a state park to Washington and now proposed to do the same for Idaho. In 1946, after securing 650 acres and building nearly seven miles of road, he publicly announced: "I hope one day . . . the State of Idaho will accept this for a state park." Idaho's governor, Arnold Williams, expressed immediate interest, but McCroskey was not yet ready to make the gift.

Over the next four years McCroskey worked almost daily on his project. As he tried to purchase land for the road, he generally found willing sellers, because their property had little value. When landowners refused, McCroskey persisted, usually convincing them to sell. Sometimes he resorted to more forceful means. When a Farmington resident refused to sell half an acre for the right-of-way, McCroskey convinced the Whitman County Commissioners to begin condemnation proceedings. The farmer finally relented and sold the land.

McCroskey had learned how to survey while watching road construction at Steptoe. Now he used that skill in personally surveying Skyline Drive. He hired a bulldozer driver to cut the trail, which in places took peculiar bends. McCroskey explained one such swing: "The road was supposed to come across here. But when we got here with the bulldozer, I saw it would go through this lovely little bed of kinnikinnick." The kinnikinnick won; the road swerved. McCroskey not only went out of his way to preserve resident plants, he transplanted many of his favorite trees and flowers to the ridge, painstakingly transporting water to them each hot day from his home in Oakesdale, thirty miles away. He gave each scenic feature a pet name—Point Sublime, Veil of Cashmere, Field of Ferns. To some seventy-year-olds this would have been overwhelming work. To him it was a pleasurable adventure. "This forest is inhabited by silent and benevolent spirits," he once told a reporter. "I can work all alone in this park, where I spend most of my waking hours, and not see another human being and never be lonely."

*Tom Wahl,
Bert Gamble,
and Virgil
McCroskey on
Skyline Drive.*



Finally in 1950 McCroskey was ready to make his gift to Idaho, having accumulated over 2,000 acres. When he approached the State Board of Land Commissioners with his potential gift, they thanked him and helped get his proposal before the state legislature the next year. McCroskey's

offer to the legislature provided clear title to over 2,000 acres of land and nearly twenty-five miles of road. Within the proposed park were first-growth cedar, pine and fir and an abundance of wildflowers. From the drive, Steptoe Butte, the Bitterroot and Blue mountains, and Canada were clearly visible. To the west, verdant Palouse hills stretched for miles. McCroskey believed the state could not lose. "I will improve and maintain the drive as long as I am able to do so," he assured the legislature. "And I hope to provide for its upkeep after I am gone." A bill was introduced, but the legislature rejected his offer.

Although Idaho's state parks movement had gotten off to an early start with Heyburn, by the 1950's the state still had no

parcs department. The Department of Lands maintained Idaho's two state parks on a shoestring budget. Many legislators were concerned about maintenance costs if additional property were accepted. But McCroskey was a man of patience. He waited until the 1953 legislature convened and presented his proposal again. By now his holdings had grown to 2,800 acres, and this time he offered to give \$500 per year for fifteen years of the park's upkeep. His only stipulations were that cattle and sheep be prohibited from grazing, and that the park be named after his mother and in honor of all pioneer women of the Inland Empire. This was an offer the Idaho House of Representatives could not refuse, and it passed that house by a 40-to-17 vote. However, the bill fell two votes short in the Senate. The two senators who protested the loudest were, ironically, north Idaho's Ernest Gaffney of Benewah County and William Costley of Lewis County. Along with concerns about maintenance costs, they worried about removing property from tax rolls—a loss of \$178 a year to Benewah County. Senator Costley claimed that the area “provides nothing as a tourist attraction,” while his colleague questioned the wisdom of a park with a road “luring” tourists from Idaho into Washington. Further, since neither McCroskey nor his mother had ever lived in Idaho, Gaffney thought the state could surely find Idahoans to name its park after.

The second refusal of the legislature caused McCroskey to reevaluate his tactics. Mere patience might not work. He was, after all, seventy-seven years old. So with the support of influential Latah County friends, McCroskey set about pressuring the 1955 legislature into accepting the gift. A Skyline Drive Association was incorporated and began a campaign of incessant publicity. While Washington had over 70 state parks and Oregon nearly 140, Idaho had only 2, which meant the Gem State was “missing her share of . . . tourist revenue.” The state needed more parks, the Association argued, and a good way to begin was with McCroskey's gift. When the State Land Commissioner retorted that the area “would require considerable expenditure of money to make it attractive” and that “other areas in the state could be developed for less money and would be of more recreational value,” the Association charged the state with looking a gift horse in the mouth. Neither McCroskey nor the Association claimed Skyline Drive was the most spectacular spot in Idaho. It was merely a lovely ridge with a good road, accessible to many people on leisurely drives. Further, since McCroskey wanted the park kept in a primitive state, maintenance would be minimal. Finally, McCroskey again offered to pay for park maintenance for fifteen years if the state would only accept it.

The Skyline Drive Association enlisted the support of the Idaho Federation of Women's Clubs, the Moscow Branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Latah County Pioneer Association. North Idaho schools held an essay contest on “Why Idaho Should Accept Mary Minerva McCroskey Park as a State Park.” While McCroskey worried lest his supports get overly enthusiastic, he nonetheless recognized the value of publicity and capably directed the campaign. He wrote letters to state officials, made public speeches, and led tours along the drive. He allowed the University of Idaho Ski Club to construct a ski lift on the ridge, thinking the publicity would help. He and friends built a handsome fireplace and picnic grounds to lure tourists. Tom Wahl, who constructed the fireplace and often worked on the drive with McCroskey, remembered how hard his friend labored to have the park accepted: “He just kept struggling along just like he would if he were digging a hole. He persevered and succeeded . . . Every button he could touch he touched it somewhere or other.”

When the 1955 Idaho legislature convened, its members found Virgil McCroskey on hand, waiting with a deed of gift. This time his proposed park contained 4,400 acres, and he still promised to personally maintain it for fifteen years. The legislature was more willing to listen than it had been in past years, and the Senate passed the authorizing bill by a 35-to-5 margin. The House vote was much closer, the bill gaining acceptance by only three votes. Lobbying had helped secure the legislation, but the 1954 election of Governor Robert E. Smylie was equally helpful. Smylie, campaigning on a platform of increasing tourism and improving the environment, believed new state parks would fit in perfectly with his plans. McCroskey's park

was the first of several accepted during Smylie's three terms. In signing the bill accepting the park, Smylie wrote:

This act looks to the future. As our population increases we will need to set aside more and more scenic areas for the enjoyment of future generations. The addition of forty-four hundred acres to our park system without cost to the State until 1971 is therefore highly desirable. Future generations will thank Mr. McCroskey, and I feel certain that they will applaud the State's decision to accept his generous gift.

It was McCroskey's poet-friend Bert Gamble who succinctly captured the essence of the ordeal, wiring him: "Congratulations on your victory over the hordes of mammon and the malcontents."

The state's acceptance of the land gave McCroskey little rest, for he was obliged to maintain it for fifteen years—no easy obligation for a seventy-nine-year-old. McCroskey went to the park every day the roads were passable. He cleared brush, planted flowers, and worked on the drive. He realized he could not do all the labor himself, but he knew how to recruit others. He loved to lead tours and picnics and then innocently ask guests: "Would you like to come and help me pull a log?" He recruited Boy Scouts and Oakesdale youths who piled into his pickup until it was overflowing. McCroskey then took them on a day of adventure—and work—on "Virgil's Mountain." Still, he did much of the physical work himself, even into his eighties and nineties.

McCroskey also actively acquired more land for the park. He donated additional acreage in 1961 and 1963 and diligently encouraged land trades to increase state holdings along Skyline Drive. Some of his exchange efforts succeeded and some failed. When a landowner whose property adjoined the drive suggested he might construct a tavern, Virgil became alarmed and successfully encouraged the state to exchange forty acres away from the drive for the twenty-five acres the man owned. McCroskey failed to facilitate exchanges between state and federal agencies. As early as 1957 he suggested that Idaho trade certain property away from the park for acreage closer to the drive owned by the Forest Service. However, the state's attorney general ruled that a trade of state grant lands for federal properties was unconstitutional. McCroskey then purchased as much private property as possible for exchange purposes, while never giving up on the idea of securing Forest Service land. In 1968 the Forest Service agreed to trade certain properties with the state, but the State Land Board refused because it did not want to lose potential income from timber sales and McCroskey Park property could not be logged. Still, the park did grow beyond its 1955 boundaries, though not as much as its donor would have liked.

During the fifteen years McCroskey maintained the park, occasional controversies arose. He was very concerned about the wildlife and could not understand the motives of a hunter any more than he could those of a logger. "The deer are so beautiful," he once said. "How can man shoot them?" But his gift had no provisions forbidding hunting in the park; when he later tried to have the state post the area, he failed.

As at Steptoe, McCroskey felt he always had to be vigilant against farmers and ranchers encroaching upon McCroskey Park. In 1955 the State Land Board granted permission for a farmer to remove a fence between his property and the park "for the purpose of curbing the weeds thereon." McCroskey, usually mild-mannered, could become quite outspoken when protecting his parks, and this event brought his assertiveness to the surface. "I was surprised and disgusted . . . to find that (the farmer) had plowed and seeded land in our new State Park," he indignantly wrote the State Land Commissioner. "He has plenty of thistle in his fields and so have his neighbors. In fact, it is all around . . . The answer to his proposition should have been an emphatic NO. . . (He) is not interested in destroying Canadian thistle. He wants to

Virgil McCroskey takes a moment to reflect in the park.



augment his income.” The state granted the farmer cultivation privileges for two years. For the entire period, McCroskey barraged the land department with complaints. His arguments were persuasive, and at the end of two years the land commissioner asked the farmer to leave the park and replace the fence.

Although McCroskey was a conservationist, he was not a preservationist in the strictest sense. He enjoyed transplanting non-native plants on Skyline, and he carefully tended them until they took root. His enthusiasm for flowers worried some botanists who felt he should not introduce new varieties to the park. While they never convinced him to stop planting, they did try to have him keep a locational record so future researchers would be able to distinguish native from non-native species.

If McCroskey had a fondness for flowers, he had a passion for trees. His favorite poem began “If you love a tree, we are brothers” and ended “If you love a tree, in your heart is a shrine/For the love of a tree is a love half divine.” As he often said, “Don’t look at a tree and think of an ax.” But trees have enemies other than man. Jim Mitchell was a young Forest Service employee when he first met McCroskey at Mineral Mountain Lookout, near the park. McCroskey had stopped to visit and noticed that the lookout railing was covered with caterpillars of the tussock moth. “Tears started down his face,” Mitchell later recalled, for McCroskey knew what the moth could do to his park. While some encouraged him to let nature run its course, he could not sit by and see his trees destroyed. He decided to use chemical sprays and was successful in combating the pest.

These controversies, however, were minor—largely because McCroskey Park was one of the state’s best-kept secrets. Not totally convinced that the park’s acceptance had been a good idea, and hampered with a limited budget, the parks department never devoted much time or money to the site. In 1968 Theodora Smith, an active member of the old Skyline Drive Association, became upset because the park still did not have an official highway marker. She wrote:

Today, Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park would seem, definitely, Idaho’s “Cinderella” Park! Whereas her sister parks receive attention, improvements, allocations for development—Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park still awaits recognition, due appreciation and enjoyment of all she represents!

Sixteen year after that letter was written, the park was still awaiting a highway marker and “due appreciation.”

While McCroskey was disappointed at the lack of attention, he did not let it interfere with his own commitment. Although slowed by age, he still did as much as possible and became frustrated when he could not do more. In 1970, at the age of 93, he wrote: “I guess I am almost a hopeless cripple and never can accomplish much any more! I’ve been up in Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park three or four times but never a lick of work . . . Soon, I hope to get up there with others who can work.”

McCroskey died on September 14, 1970, just three weeks short of his 94th birthday and fifteen years after the park’s acceptance. He fulfilled his promise to maintain the property and left nearly his entire estate—approximately \$45,000—to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to care for the site.

While Steptoe and Mary Minerva McCroskey were Virgil’s most impressive philanthropic efforts, they were not his only ones. His first land donation, a forty-acre Skyline Drive tract given to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1941 for a wildlife refuge, was later transferred to McCroskey State Park. In 1943 he gave 200 acres near Skyline Drive to the Inland Empire Boy Scout Council. This tract was deeded back to him two years later in exchange for 400 acres of virgin pine and cedar on the north side of the ridge. McCroskey labored on this wooded tract for years, developing a “Cathedral in the Pines.” The site, named Camp McCroskey, became a popular wilderness outing spot for Scouts from throughout the Inland Empire.



Long before the ecology movement of the 1960s, before Earth Day and environmental impact statements, people like Virgil McCroskey demonstrated their determination to work persistently, even relentlessly, to preserve it. McCroskey’s parks were not on the dramatic order of a Yosemite or Yellowstone; nor was he, preferring to work largely without publicity, as outspoken in his support of land preservation as some better-known conservationists like John Muir. It is understandable that historians have concentrated more on the glamorous national park movement than on state parks, more on nationally important figures like Muir than on those with local significance like McCroskey. But to truly understand the American impulse to preserve public lands, none must study more than the monumental and the spectacular. Virgil McCroskey was an unselfish philanthropist, but he was not unique, and therein lies his historical significance. Hundreds of community and state parks throughout the country have been preserved through the efforts of foresighted individuals like McCroskey, often laboring with little recognition or reward. As population grows and leisure time increases, people will need more recreational retreats like Skyline Drive and Steptoe Butte. If there are such things as historical lessons, much can be learned from examples set by the Virgil McCroskeys. Their generosity can inspire, and perhaps understanding of their struggles can make it easier for future philanthropists to improve the public welfare in their own individual ways.

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McCROSKY STATE PARK CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS. 1939 to PRESENT

1939--Farmington Community Club purchases first road right-of-way for what is to become Skyline Drive.

July 1941--Virgil McCroskey's first donation of land to the state of Idaho--40 acres near Skyline Drive. Given to the Department of Fish and Game as a wildlife refuge.

1943--Virgil McCroskey donates 200 acres to the Inland Empire Boy Scouts.

1945--Boy Scouts deed back 200 acres to McCroskey who donates present 400-acre Camp McCroskey to Inland Empire Boy Scouts.

1947--Supervision of state parks transfers to the state highway department.

July 1, 1949--Supervision of Idaho state parks transfers to the State Land Department.

February 14, 1951--Latah County Commissioners send a resolution to the 31st Legislature favoring acceptance of McCroskey donation.

1951--Legislators vote against accepting McCroskey's donation of approximately 2,000 acres.

January 17, 1953--Latah County Pioneer Association petition the 1953 Legislature to accept Virgil T. McCroskey's gift offer of 2,800 acres.

1953--Idaho House of Representatives pass bill to accept McCroskey donation; bill fails in the Senate.

July 12, 1953--Dedication of stone fireplace and grill built by Tom Wahl at the Latah County Pioneer Society annual picnic.

October 1953--Article on Skyline Drive and park area appears in *American Magazine*.

February 20, 1954--Vandal Ski Club and the Skyline Drive Association cooperatively install rope tow in 240-acre ski area.

June 1954--Article on Virgil McCroskey--"He Buys Mountains"--appears in *Ford Times*.

March 16, 1955--Virgil T. McCroskey's gift of 4,400 acres accepted by Senate vote of 35-5; area becomes Idaho's third state park.

July 1, 1955--Mary Minerva McCroskey Park story appears in *Life* magazine.

August 7, 1955--Park is dedicated in a ceremony at the park.

November 3, 1959--Fish and Game Department quit-claims 40-acre "wildlife preserve" to the Department of Lands for inclusion into the park.

November 8, 1961--Legislature approves an act incorporating Section 13, T43N., R5W., B.M., and SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 16, T43N., R5W., B.M. into the park (680 acres).

July 1, 1965--Legislation creating the Idaho State Parks Department becomes effective.

December 12, 1969--Virgil T. McCroskey is given a certificate of award by the Soil Conservation Society of America for his dedication to conservation.

September 14, 1970--Virgil T. McCroskey dies at age 95. He was buried in the Colfax Cemetery, Colfax, Washington.

February 1974--Jim Eagan prepares master's thesis entitled *Analyzing Visual Landscape and Recreation Resource Potential of Ridge Road Parks: A Case Study Approach*, focusing on Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

December 2, 1982--The Idaho Park and Recreation Board officially designates 305 acres within the park as natural areas to provide protection for specific unique natural features.

1983--Mary Reed and Keith Peterson publish *Virgil T. McCroskey - Giver of Moun-*



tains.

1988--Idaho House Speaker Tom Boyd sponsors legislation enabling revenue from the McCroskey Endowment to be freed from the state general fund and applied to the park.

April 28, 1989--Public meeting and kick-off to planning effort at park. Director Yvonne Ferrell and IDPR staff visit with local residents about park's future.

December 1989--Western extremity of park recommended for designation as National Natural Landmark status illustrating the ponderosa pine/deciduous shrub subtheme in the Columbia Plateau Natural Region.

January 12, 1990--First planning meeting of the General Development Plan Advisory Committee.

February 23, 1990--Friends of McCroskey State Park Association formed at second advisory committee workshop.

July 13, 1990--Presentation of draft plan to public at Latah County Courthouse.

August 3, 1990--IDPR Board meeting, Challis, Idaho. Board reviews draft of McCroskey State Park General Development Plan.

June 18, 1993--IDPR Board approves final general development plan at meeting in Boise.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is increasingly recognized as the foundation for good planning. Public participation in all stages of the planning process is necessary so that planning can be responsive to people's needs. Much of the information for the Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park General Development Plan was provided by local citizens.

Many people living in the area were knowledgeable about the park's history and natural features; some even knew Virgil McCroskey and provided insight into his philosophies and aspirations. Others had valuable input about what kinds of activities and facilities might be appropriate, and what kinds of problems might have to be overcome.

The planning process for the park began in April 1989. IDPR sponsored a public meeting and picnic at the park in order to identify local concerns. In October 1989 a 13-member planning advisory committee was formed to assist development bureau staff to formulate the plan. Five advisory committee workshops and an all-day committee-familiarization tour of the park were conducted. A draft GDP was presented to the public at a meeting in Moscow in July 1990. Comments and concerns surfacing at that time were incorporated into the plan prior to its submittal to the Park and Recreation Board for review and approval in August 1990.

PARK ISSUES--CONCERNS and OPPORTUNITIES

The following list outlines concerns and opportunities pivotal to the successful development and operation of the park. These issues were identified at the initial public meeting held at the park in April 1989. These issues were further developed during a subsequent series of advisory committee meetings. Finally, these topics were the focus of IDPR staff's presentation of the draft plan to the park board in August 1990.

Advisory committee members review draft general development plan.



Transportation/Circulation

- The existing eastern entrance to the park from Highway 95 is extremely hazardous. Sections of Skyline Drive, particularly at the west end, are poorly constructed, have poor drainage, and are sometimes impassable.

- Several north-slope road alignments invite snow accumulation that delay the spring opening of the park.

Recreation

- Abandoned logging roads throughout the park make an excellent base for a multiple-use trail system.

- Hunting in the area is a local pastime, however, it presents a safety hazard to other park visitors, and violates the existing the IDPR rule - "prohibiting the molesting, injuring or killing of any wild creature . . ."

- No developed campsites are available.

- Day-use activities, like driving for pleasure, picnicking, nature study, photography, and trail use are the primary recreational activities in the park.

Land Ownership

- Existing park land ownership is not contiguous. The USFS has expressed interest in divesting themselves of their land holdings contiguous to the park.

- There is a need to purchase and/or exchange those tracts required to achieve contiguous park ownership along Skyline Drive. During his lifetime, Virgil McCroskey used land exchange as one method to achieve these aims.

Natural Resources

- The existing natural areas, and potential national Natural Landmark Site located within the park need to be protected.

- Other than two springs and several small streams, few water resources are available within the park.

- Skyline Drive exhibits a unique gradient

from grassland steppe to mesic forest vegetation types along its route.

Facilities

- The ITD Mineral Mountain rest stop on Highway 95 is ideally located to serve park visitors.

- There is no potable water available.

- There is a broad-based desire to keep the level of development intensity *low*.

Orientation/Interpretation

- Currently, inadequate signing exists within the park and visitors can easily get disoriented.

- No interpretive facilities exist within the park.

- There is a need to improve existing scenic overlooks and construct additional overlooks at appropriate locations.

Development Constraints

- The majority of the park's land slopes 10 percent to 40 percent, providing little area for development.

- Electricity is only available at the eastern and western ends of the park.

Adjacent Land Use

- Land-management practices of adjacent land owners can negatively impact the park; e.g., timber cutting and aerial agricultural spraying.

Wildlife

- There is a desire to improve habitat and water availability for park wildlife.

Park Management

- Four major entrances into the park complicate park management and present a security and vandalism problem.

- The exact location of park boundaries is unknown.

- Park staffing needs to be increased, and staff housing eventually needs to be constructed on site.

DIRECTIVES: McCROSKEY STATE PARK GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. The GDP will follow the *Planning and Development Process* and be consistent with all policies adopted by the Park and Recreation Board.

2. All actions proposed by the GDP will be sensitive to the philosophies and aspirations of Virgil T. McCroskey and be in accordance with the provisions of his last will and testament.



Virgil, right, on Steptoe Butte in his youth.

3. The GDP will inventory the existing natural and cultural resources and analyze this information to determine the limitations and opportunities presented by the site.

4. The GDP will establish the classification of the park utilizing the criteria outlined in *The Classification System for the Recreational Resources in the State of Idaho*.

5. The GDP will identify recreational activities compatible with the classification that satisfy recreation needs identified in the *Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*.

6. The GDP will protect and preserve the examples of old growth and vegetational sequence previously designated as natural areas by the Park and Recreation Board.

7. The GDP will present a master plan which provides long-term development direction, establish a design theme, and provide a cost estimate outlining a phased acquisition and development program.

8. The GDP will establish park goals, resource management objectives and an interpretive context to provide guidance to future stewards of the resource.

9. The GDP will be finalized upon review and approval by the Park and Recreation Board.

Chapter Two

Resource Inventory

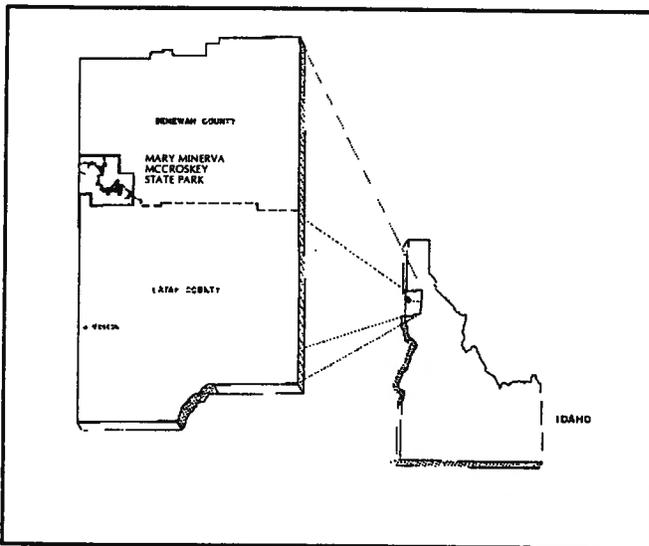


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NATURAL SYSTEMS SURVEY

LOCATION

Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, Idaho's third largest and third oldest, is situated roughly at 47° north latitude, and 117° west longitude, in the southwestern portion of the Idaho Panhandle. The eastern entrance of the park, located on U.S. Highway 95, lies 26 miles north of Moscow and 58 miles south of Coeur d'Alene. The park lies in the Columbia Plateau Physiographic Region (Map 2.1). From U.S. 95, the park extends 22 miles westward along a series of ridges that delineate the Latah County-Benewah County line. The western boundary of the park



Map 2.1

terminates less than one mile from the Washington state (Whitman County) line. For planning purposes, the park straddles the boundary between Idaho Planning Regions One and Two.

TOPOGRAPHY

The predominate topographic character of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is that of a steep, serpentine ridge system. This curved ridge forms a portion of the Palouse Divide, which separates the Palouse River and Spokane River watersheds. Over 90

percent of the park is situated on severe slopes that limit potential development almost exclusively to ridge-top areas.

Hillside slopes at the ridge tops are gentle with gradients of 10 to 20 percent. They steepen to as much as 60 percent gradient as they drop in elevation and approach drainages. The main ridge line, which serves as the Benewah County-Latah County border, lies on a northwest-southeast axis. The surrounding farmland meets this ridge system roughly at an elevation of 2,600 feet. Skyline Drive, winding snake-like 22 miles along the park's ridge tops, averages 3,600 feet in elevation and provides spectacular views of the rural communities 1,000 feet below.

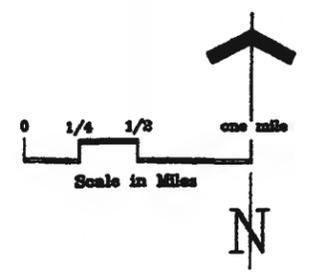
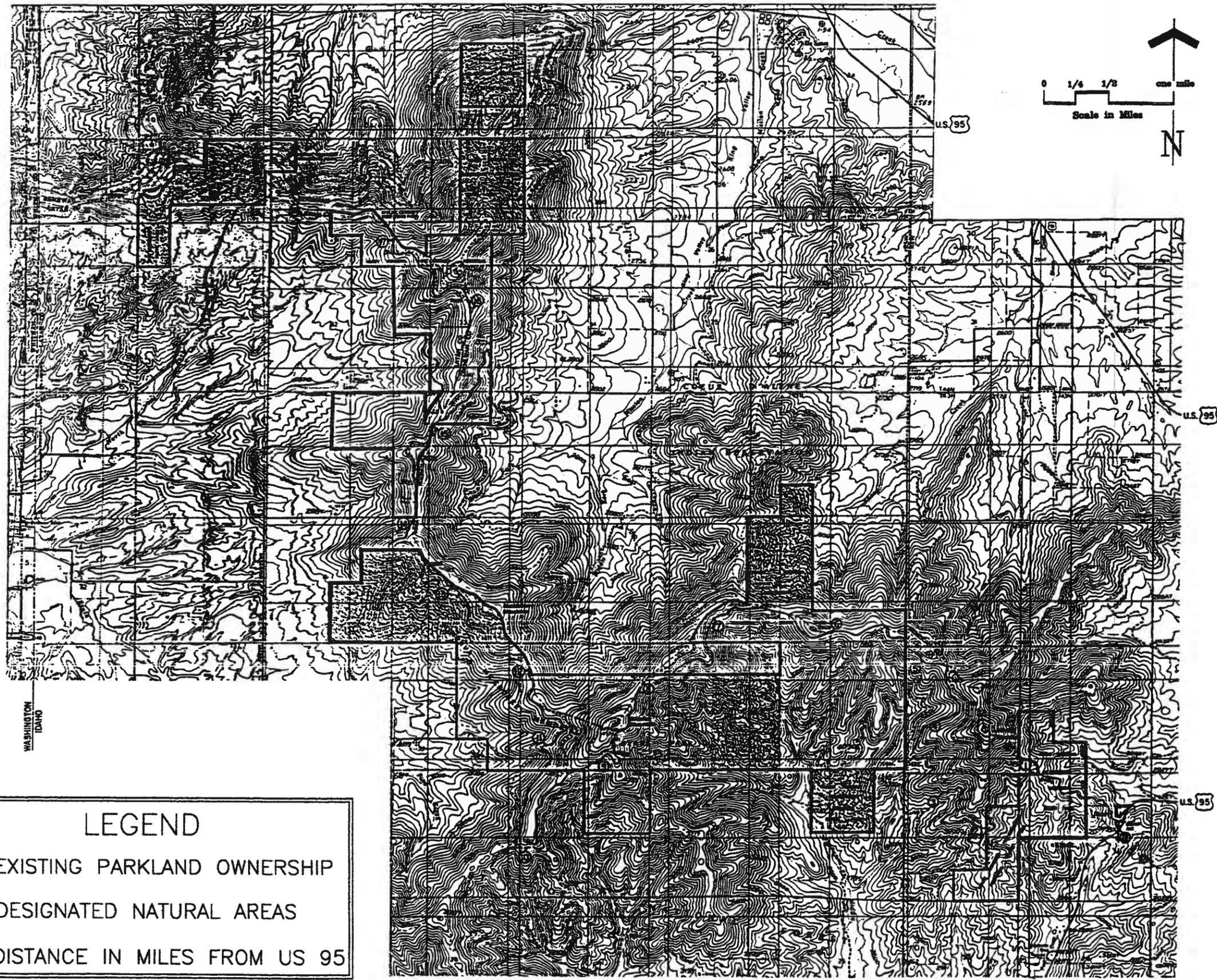
The highest elevations in the park are found at the summits of Mission mountain, 4,324 feet; Mineral Mountain, 4,128 feet; and Huckleberry Mountain, 4,100 feet. The serpentine character of the park is illustrated by USGS topographic mosaic Map 2.2.

GEOLOGY

Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, rising majestically from the Palouse region, is located in a transition zone in which two physiographic regions are recognized. The mountains of Skyline Drive, situated on the eastern most extent of the Columbia plateau, also represent the western ragged edge of the northern Rocky Mountains.

In early geologic history these mountains were formed by shallow sea and tidal flat deposits accumulating and becoming deeply buried and indurated. These metamorphosed sediments have undergone lifting, folding, tilting, and faulting, and extensive water erosion to produce the highly dissected Clearwater and Bitterroot mountain ranges of the northern Rockies. These mountains are located from north to southeast of the park and can be seen from Mineral Mountain and Mission Mountain.

The Palouse Range, visible to the south, is



LEGEND

— EXISTING PARKLAND OWNERSHIP

 DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS

 DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
 MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAP 22
 Page 17

an intrusion of granitic and quartzose material into the much older Precambrian rock. Kamiak Butte and Steptoe Butte in Washington to the southwest, represent residual quartzite erosion monadnocks. Liberty Butte and Plummer Butte to the north were formed by similar geologic processes. Far on the south-southwest horizon the Blue Mountains of Oregon are approximately 65 miles away.

The mountain ridge forming the spine of the park is composed of metamorphic rock of Precambrian sediments. These are principally Libby and Stiped Peak formations of the Missoula Group of the Belt Series. They are slightly metamorphosed sandstones, siltstones and clay shales that have been converted to quartzites, siltites, and argillites ranging from 0.8 to 1.45 billion years in age. These rocks were deposited long before more complex forms of life had evolved, and contain fossilized blue-green algae (stromatolites) and fossil stocks and stems of primitive seaweeds (fucoids).

During the upper Miocene period, lava flowed through fissures in the Earth's crust and repeatedly covered these basement rocks with layers of basalt that ranged from a few down from the adjacent mountains. Most of the Palouse's potable water is found in these sedimentary interbeds.

Eventually, the prebasalt peneplain landscape was completely engulfed in molten rock. Only a few small steptoes--the tops of the highest mountains--were spared. None of these outpourings reached as high as the park; however, the flows poured layers of basalt around the western side of the ridge and into the valleys to the north and south.

The most evident feature of the Palouse region is its rolling, asymmetrical hills. During the Pleistocene, the basalt flows were covered by a veneer of loess--windblown fine silt particles that collected into dunes that have been reshaped by wind, snow, and mass. Loess is mostly associated with cool climates and formed in arid areas near glaciated regions. These

deep windblown soils, composed predominantly of quartz, feldspar, mica, and small amounts of volcanic glass, make up the rich Palouse farmlands to the north, south, and west of the park.

The loessal material, more than 150 feet deep in places, also forms a cloak over much of the ridge country, usually deeper on north and east facing slopes. The source of the loess was most likely from the fine-grained Ringold Formation of the eastern margins of the Cascades or from the Touchet Beds in the Pasco Basin, Washington and were carried to the east and northeast by prevailing winds.

During the Holocene, the epoch in which we now live, the climate warmed, and modern soil was developed in the Palouse loess. Volcanoes in the Cascade region have repeatedly covered the Palouse with thin layers of ash. One of the largest eruptions was from Mount Mazama (Crater Lake), about 6,700 years ago. The eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 deposited from one to two centimeters of ash over the entire park area.

Some mineralization is also present. Most common are white quartz veins. Secondary fissure and cavity fillings of reddish brown iron oxide and a few iron sulfide (pyrite) cubes also occur. A prominent milky quartz dike strikes across the Skyline Drive in the vicinity of Vista Point, and at various locations prospect digs containing some quartz and iron oxides can be found. Some of the finger-like ridges extending from Skyline Drive contain quartzites exhibiting a higher degree of metamorphism. On one ridge extension, in Section 21, T44N, R5W, open pit limonite mining occurred during the early to mid 1960s. Small quantities of this ore were shipped to Spokane and used as an additive in making cement; however, the low grade ore is in small deposits and is neither significant nor economical as a source or iron ore.

As this summary of the geologic history of the Palouse indicates, the present landscape was formed over a time span of millions of years. The ridge is a product of folding, water erosion and deposition. From the lava flows of 17 million years ago to the ashfall of

1980, the park region has been continually altered and shaped by a series of violent natural events.

SOILS

Because of a lack of county-wide standardized interpretation of soil types, identification and classification of soil has been difficult. Various interpretations by soil scientists working for Latah and Benewah counties have led to discrepancies between soil groups on or near the political boundary. As a result, there is little transposition of soil types along and across the boundary line and interpolation of data becomes necessary in certain areas. Portions of the area have not been studied at all by the county agencies, (especially the western portion of Latah County—west and north of Section 16, Township 43 North, Range 5 West) necessitating a third-party interpretation of soil groups. Because of the soil data discrepancies between the counties a third symbol system is presented to simplify description. Table 2.2 correlates the map symbols with the soil types and indicates the county where they are located.

There are three primary soil series in the park area: Huckleberry, McCroskey, and Minaloosa. Huckleberry soils are loamy, with thin light gray A2 horizons, pale brown silt loam horizons, silt loam IIC horizons, and shale at about 32 inches. These soils are on rolling to very steep uplands and mountains at elevations of about 3,000 to 6,000 feet. Slopes range from about 15 to 70 percent. At the lower elevations the areas have only a northerly aspect. Most of the solum is formed in a silty mantle of loess and volcanic ash mixed with some coarse fragments and other finer materials from the underlying materials. The silty mantle overlies mostly residuum weathered from quartzite, sandstone, shale and slate. In places some of the materials may be colluvium. The climate is subhumid with dry summers. Mean annual precipitation is 25 to 45 inches, including three to 12 feet of snowfall. Mean annual temperature is about 43° F. Average frost-free period is 50 to 100 days.

The McCroskey series is also loamy, usually

dark grayish brown and brown gravelly silt loam A horizons, very gravelly silt loam medium acid B horizons, fractured bedrock between 20 to 40 inches and consolidated bedrock below five feet. McCroskey soils occur on moderately steep and steep mountain slopes at elevations of 2,500 to 3,500 feet. Slopes range from 10 percent to about 80 percent with slopes of 30 to 40 percent being dominant. The average annual precipitation is 26 to 32 inches which occurs on northerly slopes at the lower ranges and southerly slopes at higher elevations. The frost-free season ranges from 80 to 220 days.

The Minaloosa series is a fine loamy silt developed in residuum from metasedimentary rocks mixed with some windblown silty material. The soil is a pale brown loam. The Minaloosa soils occur on gently sloping to very steep uplands on metasediments influenced by loess at elevations of 2,200 to 3,800 feet. The average annual precipitation is 26 to 32 inches. They occur on northerly slopes at the lower ranges and southerly slopes at higher elevations. The frost-free season ranges from 80 to 110 days.

Recreation development on all of these soils is limited. For picnic and camp areas the soils limitation ratings are severe due to the steep slopes. Path and trail development ratings are severe on Huckleberry and Minaloosa soils and moderate on McCroskey soils.

CLIMATE

The climate in the area of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is typical of the east-central portion of the Pacific Northwest, with cool wet springs, dry warm-to-hot summers, cool wet autumns, and relatively long winters.

Located approximately 300 miles from the Pacific Ocean, the region is affected by maritime air, borne eastward by prevailing westerly winds. During the winter months, this maritime influence causes greater cloudiness, greater frequency of precipitation, and mean temperatures which are above those at the same latitude and altitude at mid-continent. There is no

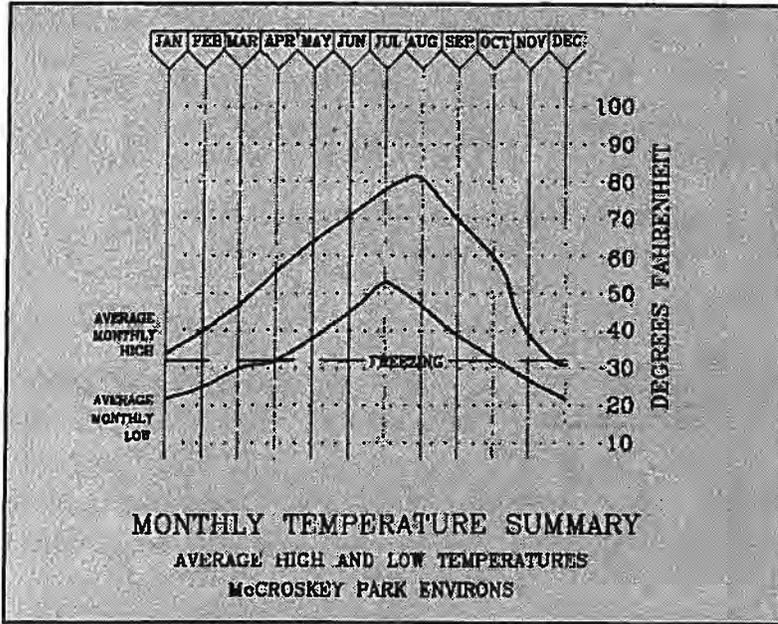
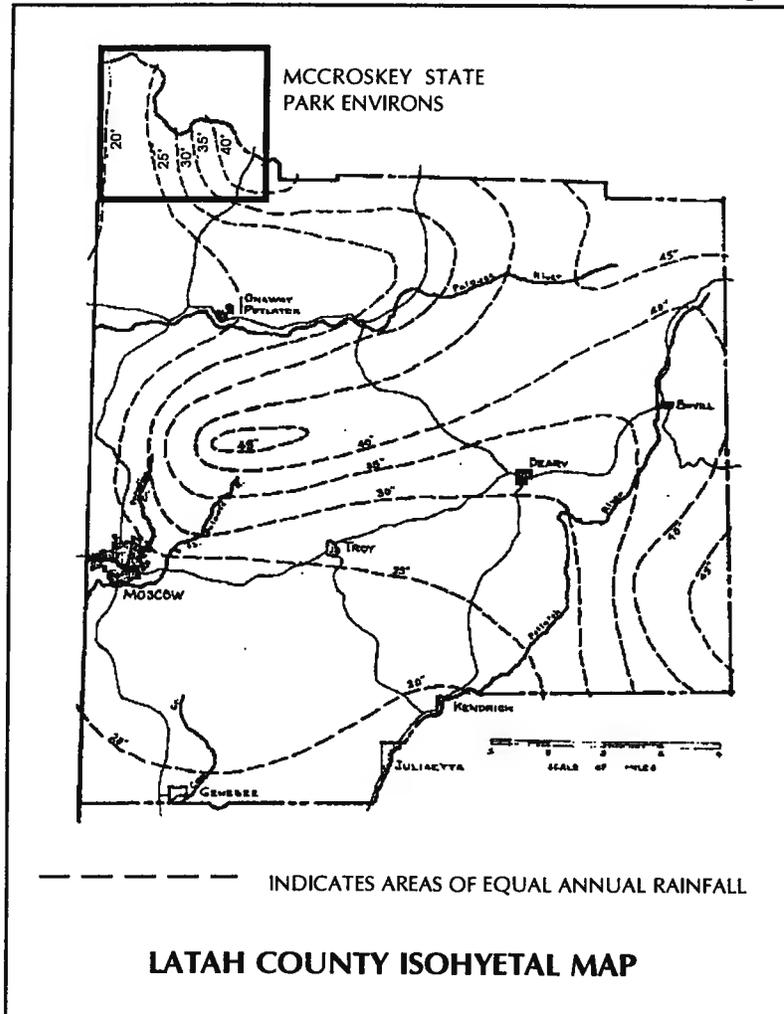


Table 2.1

Map 2.3



climatic data available for the park itself; the following climatological information was collected at the Potlatch Station, 10 miles south of the park, at an elevation of 2,500 feet.

Temperature

As typical for all of Idaho, periods of extreme summer heat are quite rare, as well as extended periods of extreme winter cold. In both cases, the progress of weather systems across the state provides frequent change. Park-area extremes range from a record high of 110 degrees F to a record low of 42 degrees below. The mean temperature in January is 28.7. The mean temperature in July is 65.6.

Precipitation

Annual mean precipitation for the area is 24.5 inches. Most of that comes during November and December. August is the driest month. Thunderstorms occur on about 16 days each year, mostly in summer.

Map 2.6 outlines the precipitation patterns for Latah County and demonstrates the variety of precipitation rates found within the park's boundaries. The western portion of the park, near the Washington state line, receives approximately 20 inches annually. Precipitation rates increase eastwardly and as the park's altitude increases. Eastern sections of the park receive 40 inches of annual precipitation. This variation in annual precipitation is responsible for the wide range of microclimates within the 22-mile traverse of Skyline Drive.

Snowfall

Snowfall is affected by both available moisture and elevation. The mean seasonal snowfall at the Potlatch Station is 38.4 inches. Most of that falls in January.

Humidity

The average relative humidity at mid-afternoon is about 50 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 65 percent.

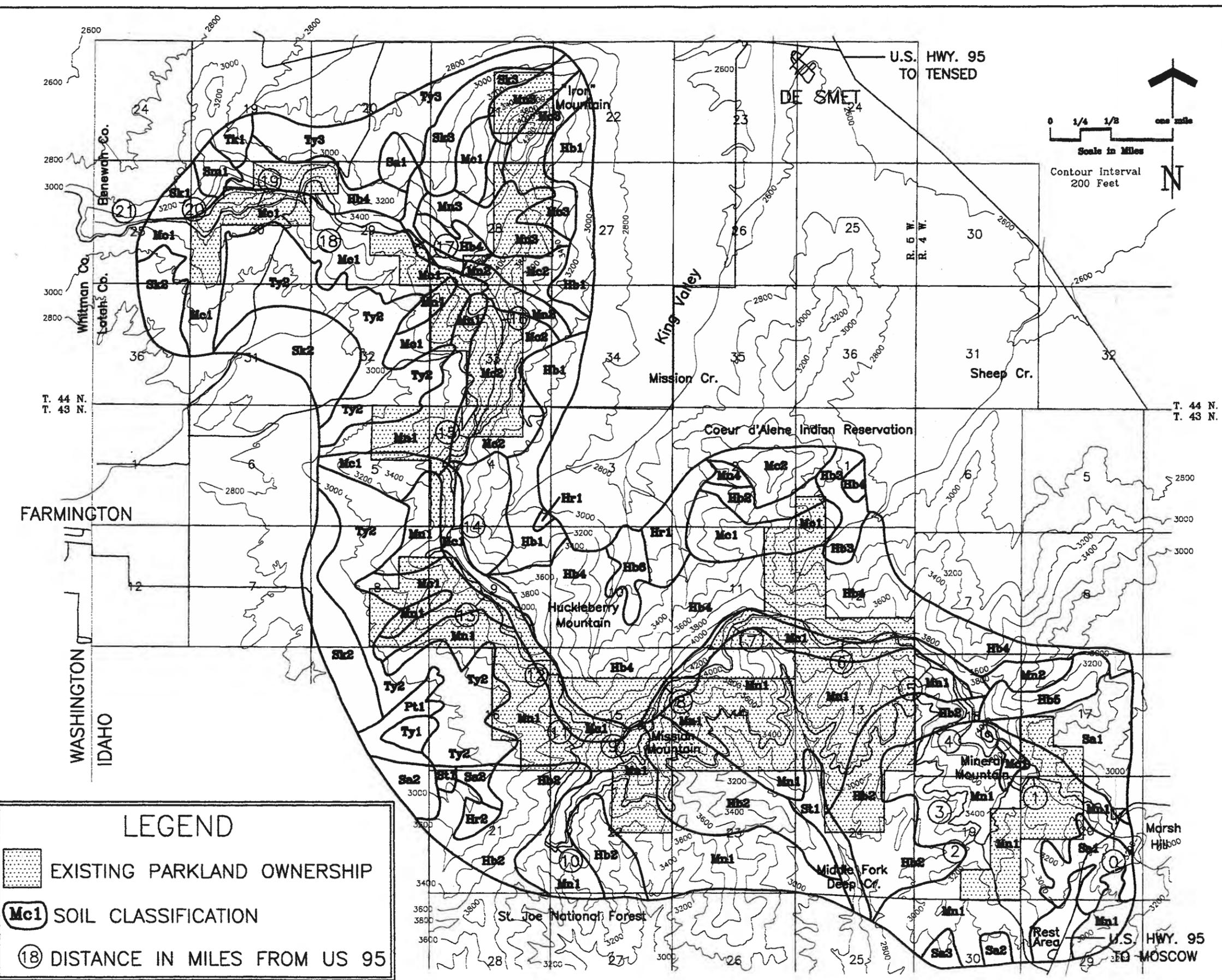
HYDROLOGY

Water is a precious commodity at McCroskey State Park, and its scarcity has impeded the park's development.

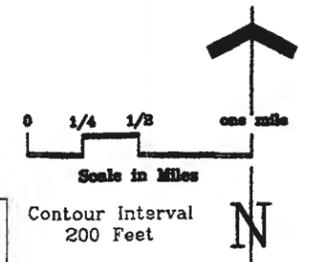
TABLE 2.2

**SOIL MAPPING UNITS AND DESCRIPTIONS
MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK**

SOIL SYMBOL	SCS SYMBOL	SOIL DESCRIPTION	COUNTY LOCATED IN
Hb1	Hb1Ad	HUCKLEBERRY SILT LOAM, MOD. DEEP, 0 TO 20% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Hb2	Hu2	HUCKLEBERRY SILT LOAM	LATAH
Hb3	Hb1EG	HUCKLEBERRY--MINALOOSA ASSOC., MOD. STEEP, 20 TO 35% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Hb4	Hb4	HUCKLEBERRY--MINALOOSA ASSOC., STEEP	BENEWAH
Hb5	Hb1HJ	HUCKLEBERRY SILT LOAM, MOD. DEEP, 35 TO 65% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Hb6	Hb2HJ	HUCKLEBERRY SILT LOAM, 20 TO 35% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Hr1	Hr1AD	HELMER SILT LOAM	BENEWAH
Hr2	Hr2	HELMER SILT LOAM, 20 TO 35% SLOPES	LATAH
Mc1	Mc1	MCCROSKEY--MINALOOSA ASSOC., STEEP	LATAH/BENEWAH
Mc2	Mc2	MCCROSKEY--TEKOA ASSOC., STEEP	BENEWAH
Mc3	McHJ	MCCROSKEY--MINALOOSA ASSOC., STEEP	BENEWAH
Mn1	Mn1	MINALOOSA--HUCKLEBERRY ASSOC.	LATAH
Mn2	Ma2	MINALOOSA--HUCKLEBERRY ASSOC., STEEP	BENEWAH
Mn3	MaLHJ	MINALOOSA--MCCROSKEY, STEEP	BENEWAH
Mn4	Ma4	MINALOOSA--MCCROSKEY ASSOC., MOD. STEEP	BENEWAH
Pt1	Pt1	PORRETT SILT LOAM	LATAH
Sa1	SaLBD	SANTA AND CARLINTON SILT LOAMS, 5 TO 20% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Sa2	Sa2	SANTA SILT LOAM, 5 TO 20% SLOPES	LATAH
Sa3	Sa3	SANTA SILT LOAM, 20 TO 35% SLOPES	LATAH
Sk1	Sk1DF	SOUTHWICK AND LARKIN SILT LOAMS, 12 TO 30% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Sk2	Sk2	SOUTHWICK SILT LOAM, 12 TO 25% SLOPES	LATAH
Sk3	Lr3FH	LARKIN SILT LOAM, LOAMY VARIANT, 25 TO 40% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Sm1	Sm1FH	MINERVA SILT LOAM, 25 TO 40% SLOPES	BENEWAH
St1	St1	STANFORD SILT LOAM, 25 TO 40% SLOPES	LATAH
Tk1	Tk1EG	TEKOA GRAVELLY SILT LOAM	BENEWAH
Tk2	Tk2EG	TEKOA GRAVELLY SILT LOAM, 20 TO 35% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Ty1	Ty1	TANEY SILT LOAM, 0 TO 7% SLOPES	LATAH
Ty2	Ty2	TANEY SILT LOAM, 7 TO 25% SLOPES	LATAH
Ty3	Ty1CE	TANEY AND JOEL SOILS, 2 TO 25% SLOPES	BENEWAH
Ty4	Jo1CF	TANEY AND JOEL SOILS, 7 TO 25% SLOPES	BENEWAH



U.S. HWY. 95
TO TENSED



LEGEND

- EXISTING PARKLAND OWNERSHIP
- SOIL CLASSIFICATION
- DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95

SOILS CLASSIFICATION MAP
MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAP 2.4
Page 22

Two natural springs exist adjacent to Skyline Drive at miles 10.9 and 11.3 from Highway 95. In October 1989, these springs were producing 0.5 and 2.0 gallons per minute, respectively. Water samples taken at the same time indicated a high coliform count, rendering them unfit for human consumption. A third spring, located on the Corinth Road in Section 22, T43N, R5W, has not yet been tested for flow or water quality.

The major ridge system which forms the park is also the divide between two of Idaho's major drainage basins, the Panhandle Basin to the north, and the Snake River Basin to the south. Intermittent streams forming the headwaters of Andrews Spring Creek, Mineral Creek, Sheep Creek, and Mission Creek provide drainage for the northern and eastern slopes of the ridge system, and direct their waters northward to Hangman Creek, a tributary of the Spokane River. The north, middle and south forks of Deep Creek, and the north fork of Pine Creek, drain the southern and western slopes of the ridge system and direct their waters southward to the Palouse River.

At the IDPR Development Bureau's request, Idaho Department of Fish and Game performed a preliminary examination of a potential 25-acre reservoir site on the middle fork of Deep Creek. Currently in private ownership, this site is located in Section 24, T43N, R5W, contiguous to the existing park boundary. Water quality and quantity appeared to be adequate. Although Fish and Game is actively seeking new sites in Region II, other more desirable sites would take priority over this one.

DEVELOPMENT of POTABLE WATER SOURCES

Contributed by Joe Baldwin, Environmental Hydrogeologist, Department of Health and Welfare.

In June 1990, the geology and hydrology on the western side of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park was reviewed. A water supply for park visitors is needed in this area, and a groundwater supply is the most feasible source.

The rocks in the area consist of alternating thin and thick bedded silty sandstone and sandy siltstone, probably of Precambrian age. In surface outcrop, the sandstone is fractured and jointed. At the west end of the park the sandstone dips to the east while in the middle of the park, the sandstone dips to the west. This information indicates that folding and/or faulting of the rocks occurs across the park.

Folding and faulting can create fractures which can be expected to increase the permeability of the rocks, so increase the amount of production from a well drilled in these rocks. However, the fractures probably close off with increasing depth below land surface. The combination of fine-grained rocks and decreasing permeability with depth probably will result in small yields from wells drilled in the area.

The best location for a well on the western side of the park would be in the lower part of the drainage located in the northwest quarter of Section 30, T44N, R5W. This drainage is bordered on the east by a park access road. A well located in the lower part of this drainage would have the benefit of recharge from snowmelt and rainfall from the upper reaches of the canyon. A well located farther down the drainage, north of the park boundary, might have a better yield as it would have a larger drainage area for precipitation to recharge the aquifer.

Information about wells north of the park would be helpful in interpreting the hydrogeology of the area. If a driller's log exists for the well in the north part of Section 19, T44N, R5W, it would be useful in evaluating the potential for well yields. If this well can be pumped, a water sample from the well would be useful in evaluating the aquifer's water quality. Water samples from other wells immediately north of the park would also be useful in evaluating water quality.

A spring is considered to have a groundwater source if the temperature is relatively constant over the year, the water is free of turbidity, and the raw water is coliform free. Cedar Springs does appear to have potential for development as a source of drinking-

I've always been a
worshiper of trees
... don't look at a
tree and think of
an ax.
--Virgil T.
McCroskey

water, provided it can be shown to have a groundwater source.

VEGETATION

Contributed by Charles A. Wellner, Affiliate Professor, College of Forestry, U of I

The significance of McCroskey State Park is its diversity of vegetation. Skyline Drive, as it traverses the park, crosses a vegetational gradient from grassland steppe to mesic forest. Table 2.3 lists the habitat types that occur within the park and an estimate of their approximate acreage. Map 2.5 depicts habitat types to series level. The park is so diverse and dissected that a map to the level of habitat types would require an extensive inventory.

The rough fescue/Idaho fescue habitat type is new to northern Idaho, and the occurrence of rough fescue is rather limited. McCroskey State Park is the only natural area in northern Idaho or eastern Washington where it occurs. The steppe, or grassland, types occur rather sparingly in the western part of the park. They form a fringe between the cultivated fields below and the forest above. Ponderosa pine habitat types also are located on the western slopes of the park. They form a narrow band on lower, steeper slopes, usually between grasslands and Douglas fir habitat types. In some places the grasslands merge directly into Douglas fir habitat types without an intervening ponderosa pine habitat type.

The Douglas fir types make up about a third of the park area. Ponderosa pine trees, both in young stands and in old-growth forests, usually dominate the sites, but the climax Douglas fir occurs both in the overstory and usually in the understory. The two Douglas fir habitat types occur mainly on western and southern slopes in the western half of the park, according to soil depths and slope and aspect of the site.

The more mesic grand fir/pachistima habitat type occurs on the northern and eastern slopes in the western half of the park and on the southerly and westerly slopes in the eastern part, and probably occupies about a fourth of

the park. Mature trees of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and western larch may occur with grand fir in the overstory. Grand fir usually predominates in the understory.

The moist western red cedar/pachistima habitat type occurs on northerly and easterly slopes in the eastern half of the park. It also occurs along streams of southerly slopes. All of the species previously mentioned, plus western white pine occurs with western red cedar in the overstory. Grand fir and western red cedar are most abundant in the understory. Vegetation species identified during examination of the park are listed in appendix E.

One of the major attractions and values of McCroskey State Park is the presence of large mature trees, especially the ponderosa pine. Forests of the surrounding country are being managed for timber production and have already removed large areas of old-growth forest. As a result, the large old-growth trees of McCroskey State Park are becoming a rarity and of considerable interest and historic value.

Other areas may have better examples of particular habitat types, but not one includes the same range of habitat types found in McCroskey State Park. Those that contain steppe vegetation do not contain the moist coastal forest vegetation; those that contain western red cedar types do not contain steppe vegetation.

DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS

By Charles A. Wellner

In 1982, the Park and Recreation Board designated six parcels of McCroskey State Park as natural areas. This action was taken on the recommendation of the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee which designates small undisturbed tracts of Idaho land to represent the state's natural diversity. The purpose is to preserve and maintain areas undisturbed by humans for scientific studies of native vegetation, and as comparison

baseline areas for determining the effects of management practices applied to similar ecosystems. The natural areas also were selected to protect old-growth forests which are habitats for birds, animals, and plants that require old-growth forests for survival.

Wild lands of Idaho are classified by a system developed by Dr. Rexford Daubenmire, who served as a professor of plant ecology at the University of Idaho and at Washington State University. His system recognizes plant species that will eventually dominate a particular tract of land if the land is left undisturbed. For example, most of McCroskey State Park, if left undisturbed, would eventually be dominated by forests of western red cedar, grand fir, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and grasslands of Idaho fescue.

Coupled with each of these dominant species in the classification are understory species that indicate a moisture gradient within the range of the dominant species. For example, sites where western red cedar will eventually dominate are divided by the understory species, queencup beadlily, at the dry end of the moisture gradient, and ladyfern at the moist end. The combination of the dominant overstory species and the indicator understory species is termed a habitat type. Thus we have western red cedar/queencup beadlily and western red cedar/ladyfern habitat types.

Table 2.4 is a list of the designated natural areas within the park, the acreage of each, the general direction of exposure, the plant species that will eventually dominate sites within each natural area, and the presence of old-growth forests within each natural area. Map 2.8 indicates the location of the six natural areas.

SCIENTIFIC or NATURAL AREA

A. Purpose of Establishment:

To protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed state, individual features of unique

natural or scientific significance or areas of land or water which possess inherent conditions of exceptional natural scientific or educational value.

B. Resource and Site Qualifications

1. Resources which have exceptional natural, scenic, and educational values include, but are not limited to:

a. Outstanding geological formations or features significantly illustrating geological processes.

b. Significant fossil evidence of the development of life on Earth.

c. An ecological community significantly illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome.

d. A biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climatic climax community.

e. An ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change.

2. State Scientific and Natural Areas should embrace a sufficiently comprehensive unit as to:

a. Permit the effective management of a continuing representation of the inherent natural values.

b. Permit effective research or educational functions consistent with preservation of the basic values.

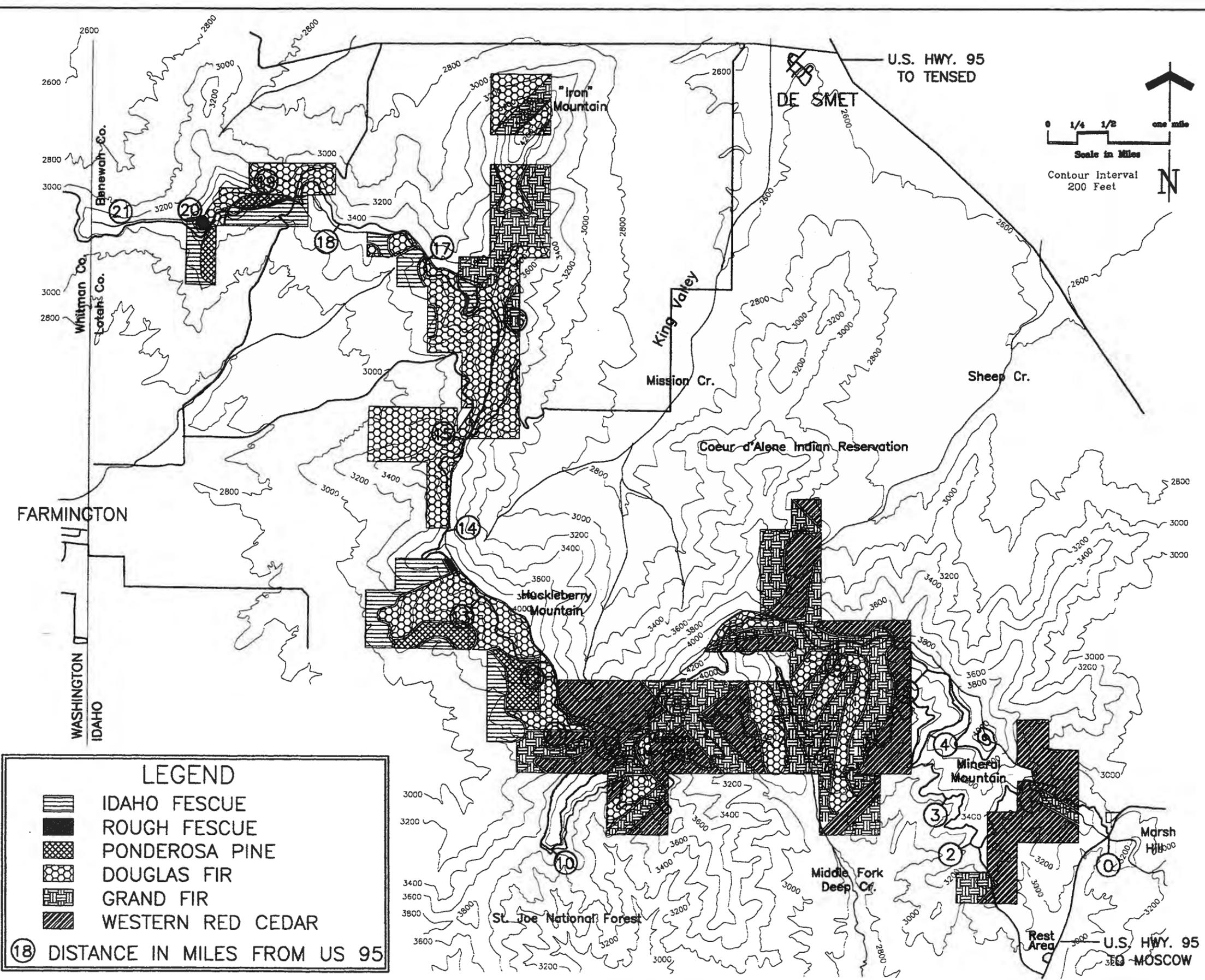
3. Scientific and Natural Areas usually involve lesser acreage than state parks and are not intended to support a broad range of visitor-use programs.

4. Scientific and Natural Areas may be established as separate areas or as subareas within larger components, such as state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, etc., but will be administered by the agency having jurisdiction over the larger unit. Areas not within larger components shall be managed by the most appropriate

TABLE 2.3

ECOLOGICAL HABITAT TYPES and EXTENT within
MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

<i>HABITAT TYPE</i>		<i>SYMBOL</i>	<i>ESTIMATED ACREAGE</i>
STEPPE			
<u>Agropyron spicatum/Festuca idahoensis</u>	(Bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue)	GSP/FEID	100
<u>Festuca idahoensis/Symphoricarpos alba</u>	(Idaho fescue/Common snowberry)	FEID/SYAL	400
<u>Festuca scabrella/Festuca idahoensis</u>	(Rough fescue/Idaho fescue)	FESC/FEID	5
TEMPERATE XEROPHYTIC FOREST			
<u>Pinus ponderosa/Festuca idahoensis</u>	(Ponderosa pine/Idaho fescue)	PIPO/FEID	5
<u>Pinus ponderosa/Symphoricarpos alba</u>	(Ponderosa pine/Common snowberry)	PIPO/SYAL	145
<u>Pinus ponderosa/Physocarpus malvaceus</u>	(Ponderosa pine/Ninebark)	PIPO/PHMA	15
TEMPERATE MESOPHYTIC FOREST			
<u>Pseudotsuga menziesii/Symphoricarpos alba</u>	(Douglas fir/Common snowberry)	PSME/SYAL	400
<u>Pseudotsuga menziesii/Physocarpus malvaceus</u>	(Douglas fir/Ninebark)	PSME/PHMA	1,200
<u>Abies grandis/Pachistima myrsinites</u>	(Grand fir/Pachistima)	ABGR/PAMY	1,000
<u>Thuja plicata/Pachistima myrsinites</u>	(Western red cedar/Pachistima)	THPL/PAMY	1,180
<u>Thuja plicata/Athyrium filix-femina</u>	(Western red cedar/Ladyfern)	THPL/ATFI	20



LEGEND

	IDAHO FESCUE
	ROUGH FESCUE
	PONDEROSA PINE
	DOUGLAS FIR
	GRAND FIR
	WESTERN RED CEDAR

⑱ DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95

G E N E R A L I Z E D
V E G E T A T I O N M A P
 M A R Y M I N E R V A M C C R O S K E Y S T A T E P A R K

MAP 2.5

Page 27

agency.

5. If a Scientific or Natural Area contains significant historic or prehistoric resources, management of those resources shall be patterned after the Historic Park component to the extent compatible with management and use objectives. These resources and values are most appropriate to the Historic Park component and shall not constitute the primary basis for establishing Scientific and Natural Areas.

Ponderosa pine along Skyline Drive.



C. Location and Distribution:

1. The primary determinant for the location of Scientific and Natural areas will be the geographic occurrence of the resource to be protected and studied. These resources are not necessarily distributed throughout the state with any degree of uniformity.

2. The ultimate system of Scientific and Natural areas should seek to preserve a truly representative sample of the various resources outlined in B-1. The relative merits of each potential site for research, education, or public interpretation should be determined.

3. Priority for acquisition (protection) shall be determined for the Scientific and Natural areas by:

a. Significance - A measurement of the public value to be derived from research, education, or public interpretation programs.

b. Integrity - The present resemblance of a site to its original condition when European humans first arrived in Idaho.

c. Scarcity - The original or remaining geographic distribution of the resource or particular combination of resources inherent to a site.

d. Degree of Enhancement - Threat of loss to other uses.

e. Accessibility to Permitted Users - Accessibility is not normally considered an important criteria in determining the location of these areas. In fact, it can be detrimental. However, particularly for public interpretation and education, good accessibility can be an important factor. If two sites have equal value as Education Units, the site nearest to a large base of students is most likely to be used more often and should receive the higher priority for acquisition.

D. Management Principles:

1. Resource Management - Management will be directed at preserving and perpetu-

TABLE 2.4

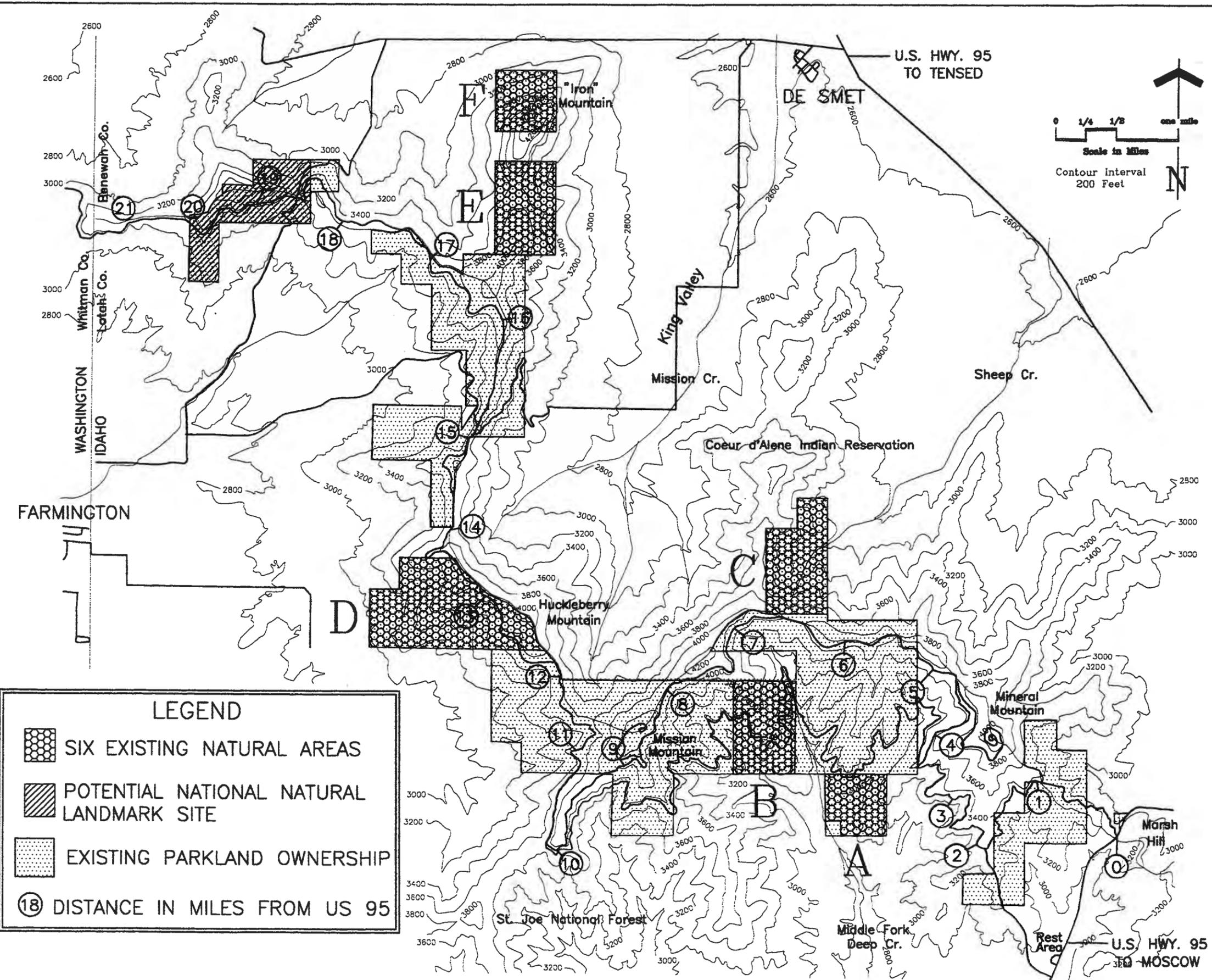
DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS WITHIN MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

NATURAL AREA ¹	APPROX. ACERAGE	EXPOSURE	CLIMAX SPECIES ²	OLD GROWTH ³
A	150	SOUTHERLY	WESTERN RED CEDAR GRAND FIR DOUGLAS FIR	SOME
B	240	SOUTHERLY	DOUGLAS FIR GRAND FIR WESTERN RED CEDAR	CONSIDERABLE
C	280	NORTHERLY	WESTERN RED CEDAR GRAND FIR	EXCELLENT
D	400	SOUTHWESTERLY	DOUGLAS FIR PONDEROSA PINE IDAHO FESCUE	SOME
E	240	NORTHERLY	GRAND FIR DOUGLAS FIR	EXCELLENT
F	160	NORTHERLY	DOUGLAS FIR GRAND FIR	SOME

1 SEE ACCOMPANYING MAP.

2 THE INDIVIDUAL PLANT SPECIES WHICH WILL DOMINATE AS PARTICULAR SITE OF THE NATURAL AREA IF THE AREA IS LEFT UNDISTURBED OVER TIME.

3 OLD GROWTH IS CONSIDERED TO BE A STAND OF LIVE LARGE TREES AT LEAST 160 YEARS OLD WITH DEAD SNAGS AND DOWN TREES.



LEGEND

-  SIX EXISTING NATURAL AREAS
-  POTENTIAL NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK SITE
-  EXISTING PARKLAND OWNERSHIP
-  18 DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95

DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS
 MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

ating those resources having exceptional scientific and educational value, protecting them from unnatural influences. A management plan, including rules and regulations, will be prepared for each area.

2. Resource Use - Resource use shall be dictated by the limitation of the basic source. In no case shall any use be permitted that impairs that resource. Emphasis shall be placed on research and educational functions. In those areas that permit, interpretive services may be provided for the general public.

3. Physical Development - Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research and educational projects, and where applicable for interpretive services.

WILDLIFE

Animals

Big-game animals that have been seen inside the park include whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, and black bear. Nongame species found within its boundaries include coyotes, porcupines, and a variety of squirrels and mice. A more complete list of animals inhabiting the Palouse Range is included in appendix C.

Ground squirrel.



Large game, such as elk and deer, are found predominately in the eastern portion of the park in the more rugged areas with higher elevation and dense vegetation. As the ridge system tapers down to the west and habitat vegetation decreases, more prairie animals like ground squirrels are found.

Birds

A list of bird species likely to inhabit the park

was compiled by the Palouse Audubon Society in the early 1970s, and is included in appendix D.

Fish

No fish species are known to exist within the park. The few streams inside the park are flow continually only at the higher elevations, and are categorized as Class II by Idaho State standards. These are described as "headwater streams or minor drainages that are used by few, if any, fish for spawning or rearing."

Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species

No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species are known to exist within, or in close proximity to, Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

POTENTIAL NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK SITE within MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

1989 was the third year of a four-year project by the Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Natural Heritage Programs to classify ecological themes on the Columbia Plateau Natural Region, evaluate potential sites, and recommend the sites that best represent a particular theme or subtheme. McCroskey State Park was evaluated in three theme/subtheme categories, indicating the quality and diversity of vegetation that it contains.

Upon completion of the evaluation, a specific area of the park was chosen as the site most representative of the ponderosa pine/deciduous shrub forests subtheme of the ponderosa pine forests theme. The site selected contains approximately 288 acres, and is completely encompassed by the park boundaries in Section 30, T44N, R5W.

The recommendation targets the driest forest site on the western extreme of the park. Stands representing the subtheme



View of the Palouse region and Steptoe Butte from Mission Mountain overlook.

are dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*) and have deciduous shrubs in the understory. The site illustrates the ponderosa pine/snowberry (*Symphoricarpos Albus*) and ponderosa pine/ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*) associations along a steep environmental gradient. The site contains open ponderosa pine forests that form a narrow, broken zone between bunchgrass communities on the lower slopes, and more mesic forests on the higher elevations and protected aspects. Of the 13 sites evaluated, the combination of condition, variation in ponderosa pine types, educational value and diversity of other forest communities caused the McCroskey site to be chosen over the other candidates. The evaluation concludes by stating that the site is nationally significant, and recommends its designation as a National Natural Landmark.

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS PROGRAM

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service*

The National Natural Landmarks Program was established in 1962 by the Secretary of the Interior to encourage preservation of the best remaining examples of major biotic communities and geologic features in the

United States. More than 500 of these areas, showing the great diversity of our country's natural environment, have been designated since the program was implemented.

In broader terms, this program seeks to encourage the preservation of natural diversity, which comprises species, biotic communities and their associated habitats. The preservation of natural diversity has important scientific, economic, educational and aesthetic value. Natural areas are linked further to the functioning of the biosphere, upon which mans survival ultimately is dependent.

The objectives of the program are (1) to encourage preservation of sites illustrating the geological and ecological character of the United States; (2) to enhance the scientific and educational value of the sites thus preserved; (3) to strengthen public appreciation of natural history; and (4) to foster a greater concern in the conservation of our nation's natural heritage.

Fifty-six of 61 natural region studies have been completed for all 33 physiographic provinces of the United States. Sites recommended in these studies are evaluated in the field by natural scientists. The NPS analyses this information to determine which sites qualify for nomination to the secretary of Interior. If the secretary agrees with the

findings, the site is designated as a National Natural Landmark. Designation does not restrict the owner as to the use or future development of the site; however, owners are encouraged to conserve the important natural values of the site. The owner is invited to enter into a non-binding agreement with the NPS to protect these values by adopting basic conservation practices. Owners making this commitment are eligible for a bronze plaque that recognizes the significance of the site.

HUMAN SYSTEMS SURVEY

ADJACENT LAND OWNERSHIP. JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY and LAND USE

The development and operation of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is complicated by various geo-political realities. These factors include noncontiguous park land ownership, a patchwork of neighboring private land holdings, bicounty jurisdictional authority, interspersed ownership by federal and state land management agencies, and the challenges presented by potentially incompatible adjacent land uses and management practices.

Land Ownership

The ownership of land near the park is identified on Map 2.9. The description of park lands, totalling 5,292.16 acres, is outlined in detail in the next section of this chapter. Of the total acreage, 716.68 acres is owned by the Idaho Department of Lands. The USFS owns 1,239.20 acres adjacent to and interspersed with park property. Regional timber companies, including Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Forest Industries, and Pacific Crown Lumber Company, also manage large tracts adjacent to the park. In 1945, 400 acres of adjacent land was donated by Virgil McCroskey to the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of

America and it remains in their ownership today.

Jurisdictional Authority

The ridge line forming the backbone of the park defines multiple boundaries. Park lands situated north of this line are in Benewah County, Planning Region One, and are within the boundaries of the Coeur d' Alene Indian Reservation. Park lands situated south of this line are in Latah County, Planning Region Two, and are located within the boundaries of the Palouse Ranger District of the St. Joe National Forest.

Adjacent Land Use

The predominate use of private land in the park environs is for agricultural purposes, primarily crop production and cattle grazing. Local crops include wheat, barley, and lentil. The private timber companies manage their tracts for maximum timber production. The USFS parcels are managed with the goals of timber production, recreation, and the protection of visually sensitive areas along Skyline Drive in mind. The rural farming community of Farmington, Washington and the reservation community of DeSmet, Idaho lie at the base of the ridge's western and eastern slopes, respectively.

DESCRIPTION of LANDS WITHIN McCROSKEY STATE PARK

T44 N,R6 W,B.M.

Section 25

Portion of Lots 2, 3, 7, and 8 - (Approx. 6 acres)

T44 N,R5 W, B.M.

Section 21

S 1/2 NE 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4 - (160 acres)

Section 28

NE 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4, SW 1/4 SE 1/4, Lots 1, 2 and a portion of Lot 3 - (340.61 acres)

Section 29

NW 1/4 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 SE 1/4, Lots 3, 4, 5 and a portion of Lot 6 (south 100 ft.) - (169.46 acres)

Section 30

Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, Portion of Lot

11 - (302.39 acres)
Section 33
 W 1/2 NW 1/4, Lots 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8, North
 12 acres of NW 1/4 SW 1/4 and a portion of
 Lots 3 and 4 - (324.59 acres)
 T. 43 N., R. 5 W., B.M.
Section 1
 SW 1/4 SW 1/4 - (40 acres)
Section 4
 Lots 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 - (202.80 acres)
Section 5
 Lot 1 and 2, S 1/2 NE 1/4 - (161.79 acres)
Section 8
 SE 1/4 NE 1/4, SE 1/4, portion of NE 1/4 NE
 1/4, and the north 24' 9" of the SW 1/4 -
 (202.51 acres)
Section 9
 W 1/2 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4, SW 1/4 SE
 1/4, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Portion of Lot 1 -
 (228.83 acres)
Section 11
 E 1/2 NE 1/4, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 - (226.32
 acres)
Section 12
 W 1/2 NW 1/4, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
 - (281.11 acres)
Section 13
 Entire section - (636.68 acres)
Section 14
 S 1/2 NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/
 4,
 Lot 3 - (479.95 acres)
Section 15
 S 1/2 SW 1/4, S 1/2 SE 1/4, SW 1/4 NE 1/4,
 Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 - (493.21
 acres)
Section 16
 W 1/2 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4,
 SE 1/4 SE 1/4, Lot 1 - (277.86 acres)
Section 22
 NE 1/4 - (160 acres)
 T. 43 N., R. 4 W., B.M.
Section 17
 NW 1/4 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Lot 2 and
 part of Lot 1 - (111.66 acres)
Section 19
 SE 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4, S 1/2 SE 1/4 -
 (160 acres)
Section 20
 SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Lots 1, 2, 5, and Portion of
 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4 - (172.39 acres)

TOTAL 5,292.16 acres

**UNITED STATES FOREST
 SERVICE LANDS**

McCroskey Park lies within the Palouse
 Ranger District of the St. Joe National For-
 est. The Palouse Ranger District is adminis-
 tered as part of the Clearwater National
 Forest. The Forest supervisors office is in
 Orofino; the Palouse Ranger District Office
 is in Potlatch. The USFS owns four tracts of
 land contiguous to the park. The acreage and
 legal descriptions of this land are as follows:
 T43N,R.4W,B.M.

Section 7
 Lot 1 (8.50 acres)
Section 18
 Lots 1-8, SW 1/4 SE 1/4, E 1/2
 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4 (369.52 acres)
Section 19
 Lots 1-4, NE 1/4 NE 1/4, W 1/2
 NE 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4, E 1/2
 SW 1/4, E 1/2 NW 1/4 (400.24 acres)
 T.43N., R.5W., B.M.
Section 14
 Lots 1-2, N 1/2 NE 1/4 (128.84 acres)
Section 22
 W 1/2 (320.0 acres)
 T.44N, R.5W., B.M.
Section 4
 (12.10 acres) Lot 5

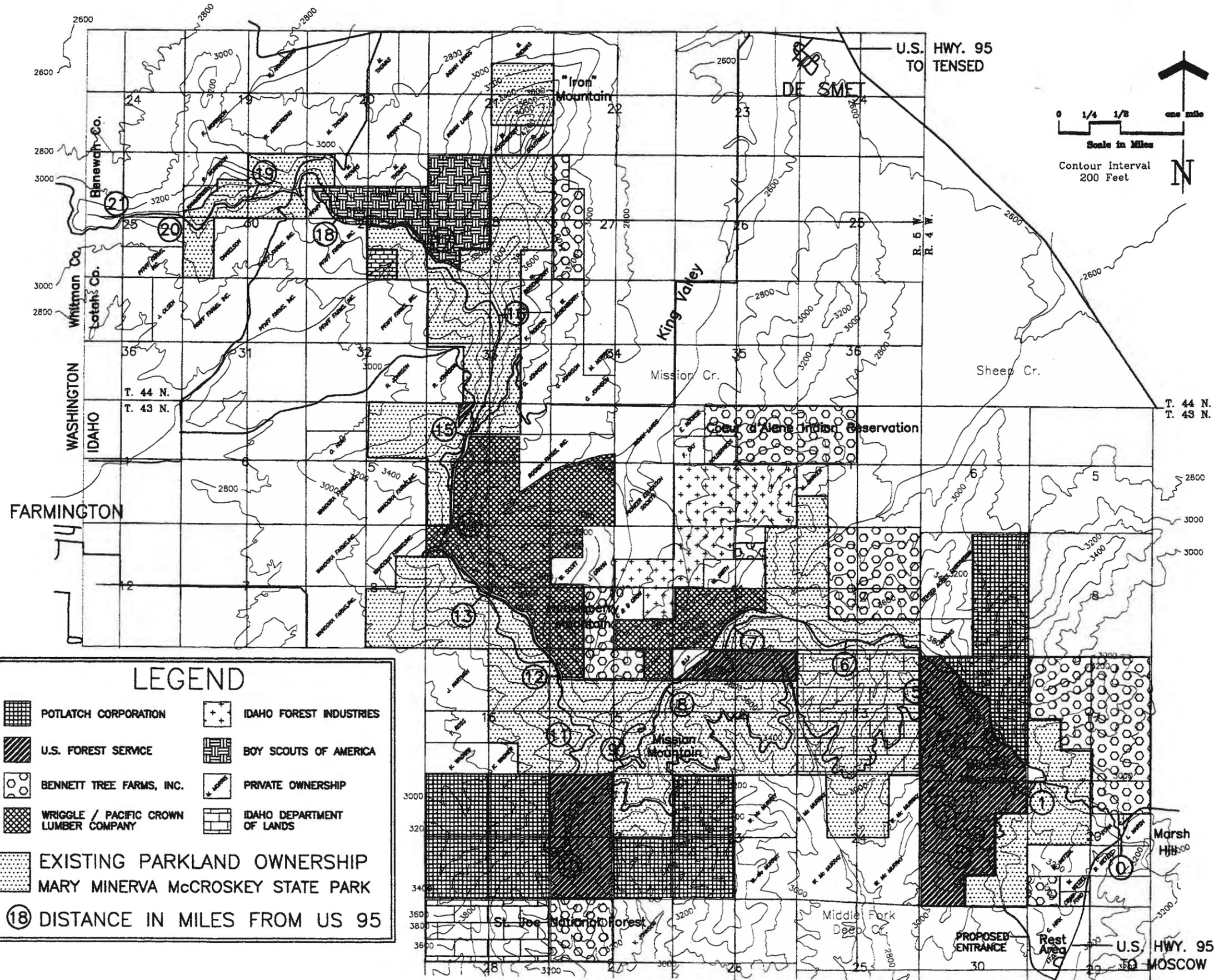
TOTAL 1,239.20 acres

The Clearwater National Forest Plan iden-
 tifies these four tracts as lying within
 management area E1. The current forest
 service management philosophy for these
 areas is to:

“Provide optimum, sustained production
 of wood products. Timber production is
 to be cost effective and provide adequate
 protection of soil and water quality.
 Manage viable elk populations within areas
 of historic elk use based on physiological
 and ecological needs.”

Goals and standards of management area E1
 that are particularly relevant to the park
 include:

1. **RECREATION STANDARDS**
 - a. Manage a roaded natural setting for
 dispersed recreation.



LEGEND

	POTLATCH CORPORATION		IDAHO FOREST INDUSTRIES
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE		BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
	BENNETT TREE FARMS, INC.		PRIVATE OWNERSHIP
	WRIGGLE / PACIFIC CROWN LUMBER COMPANY		IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
	EXISTING PARKLAND OWNERSHIP MARY MINERVA McCROSKEY STATE PARK		
	DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95		

EXISTING LAND OWNERSHIP
 MARY MINERVA McCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAP 2.7
 Page 35

b. Manage areas seen from Management Areas A4, A5, and A6 to meet the adopted VQOs.

2. *WILDLIFE and FISH*

Standards

a. Provide forage and hiding cover (edge effect) for white-tailed deer in Idaho Fish and Game big game management units 8 and 8A in the Palouse District.

3. *TIMBER STANDARDS*

a. Schedule timber harvest using logging and silvicultural methods appropriate for the stand and the terrain.

b. Identify and maintain suitable old-growth stands and replacement habitats for snag and old-growth dependent wildlife species.

4. *LANDS GOAL*

Seek opportunities to consolidate land ownership through land exchange.

Standards

a. Dispose of isolated tracks not needed for special administrative or other use.

5. *FACILITIES GOALS*

a. Manage for all levels of difficulty of ORV use on trails.

b. Regulate use of roads and trails (to

motorized vehicles) where needed to accomplish wildlife, watershed objectives, or property values. Manage seasonal and year-long road closures to provide security for elk to meet area objectives.

6. *PROTECTION GOALS*

a. Limit the size of individual wildfires.

b. Use prescribed fires from planned ignitions to treat activity and natural fuel loadings.

The Clearwater National Forest Plan identifies 2.3 miles of Skyline Drive as a visual travel corridor lying within management area A-4. These management areas consist of land along both sides of selected travel corridors where timber harvest is permitted.

Management area A-4 consists of narrow corridors of land within the foreground viewing area (generally a half mile or less in width) of designated roads and trails and around lakes and developed recreational sites considered important for recreational travel and use. It also encompasses a variety of dispersed recreational occupancy sites used for day use, parking and overnight camping.

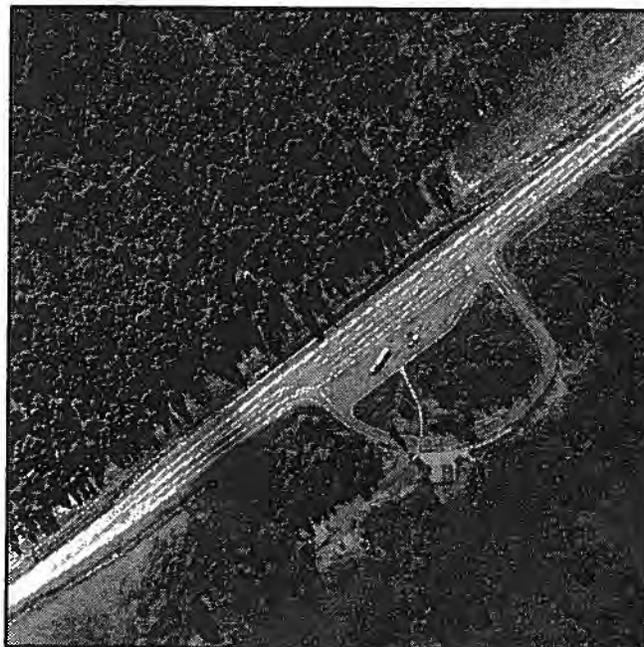
This management area is designed to maintain and enhance an aesthetically pleasing natural appearing forest setting surrounding the roads, trails, and areas of concentrated public use. Maintain and enhance opportunities for dispersed recreation in conjunction with management of suitable timber lands within and surrounding the corridors for production of timber. Permit wildlife habitat improvement and livestock grazing within constraints necessary to maintain recreational opportunities.

Goals and standards of management area A-4 that are relevant to the park include:

1. *RECREATION GOALS*

a. Identify and maintain for recreation, existing and potential dispersed recreational occupancy sites and natural features with recreational attraction.

Aerial view of Mineral Mountain Rest Area.



b. Manage to maximize opportunity for dispersed camping within limits necessary to maintain aesthetic qualities and social limits of settings through which corridors pass.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT of LANDS PARCELS

The Idaho Department of Lands owns three tracts of land within the boundaries of McCroskey Park. The legal descriptions and acreage of these parcels are as follows: T.43N., R.5W., B.M.

Parcel 1 - Section 13

All (636.68 acres)

Parcel 2 - Section 16 (endowment)

SE 1/4 NE 1/4 (40.0 acres)

T.44N., R.5W., B.M.

Parcel 3 - Section 29

SW 1/4 SE 1/4 (40.0 acres)

TOTAL 716.68 acres

Research into the background of these parcels revealed the following facts:

PARCEL 1 - This 636.68 acre parcel was purchased by the State Forestry Department from the White Pine Sash Co. on January 17, 1951 for \$3,200.00 with monies from the land acquisition fund. The entire area has been heavily logged by the White Pine Sash Co. In 1960 the State sold an additional 3,007 cedar poles and 61,390 board feet of cedar saw logs off the section for \$21,647.88.

PARCEL 2 - This 40 acre parcel was the last remaining state-owned land in the public school section.

On November 8, 1961, the State Board of Land Commissioners resolved that Parcels 1 and 2 become a part of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, with the stipulation that fee simple title and the right to harvest timber be reserved to the State Department of Public Lands.

PARCEL 3 - In July, 1941, this 40 acre tract was donated to the Idaho Fish and Game Department by Virgil T. McCroskey for use

as a wildlife preserve. On November 3, 1959 the Fish and Game Department, having no further use for the area, quit-claimed the parcel to the Idaho Department of Lands so that it might be used in connection with the park.

COEUR D'ALENE INDIAN RESERVATION LANDS

The portion of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park located in Benewah County lies within the boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. The Coeur d'Alene Indians are descendants of a people who originally came to this land 15,000 to 20,000 years ago from what is now known as Siberia. These people crossed the Bering Sea over the Siberian-Alaskan land bridge and settled in what is now British Columbia.

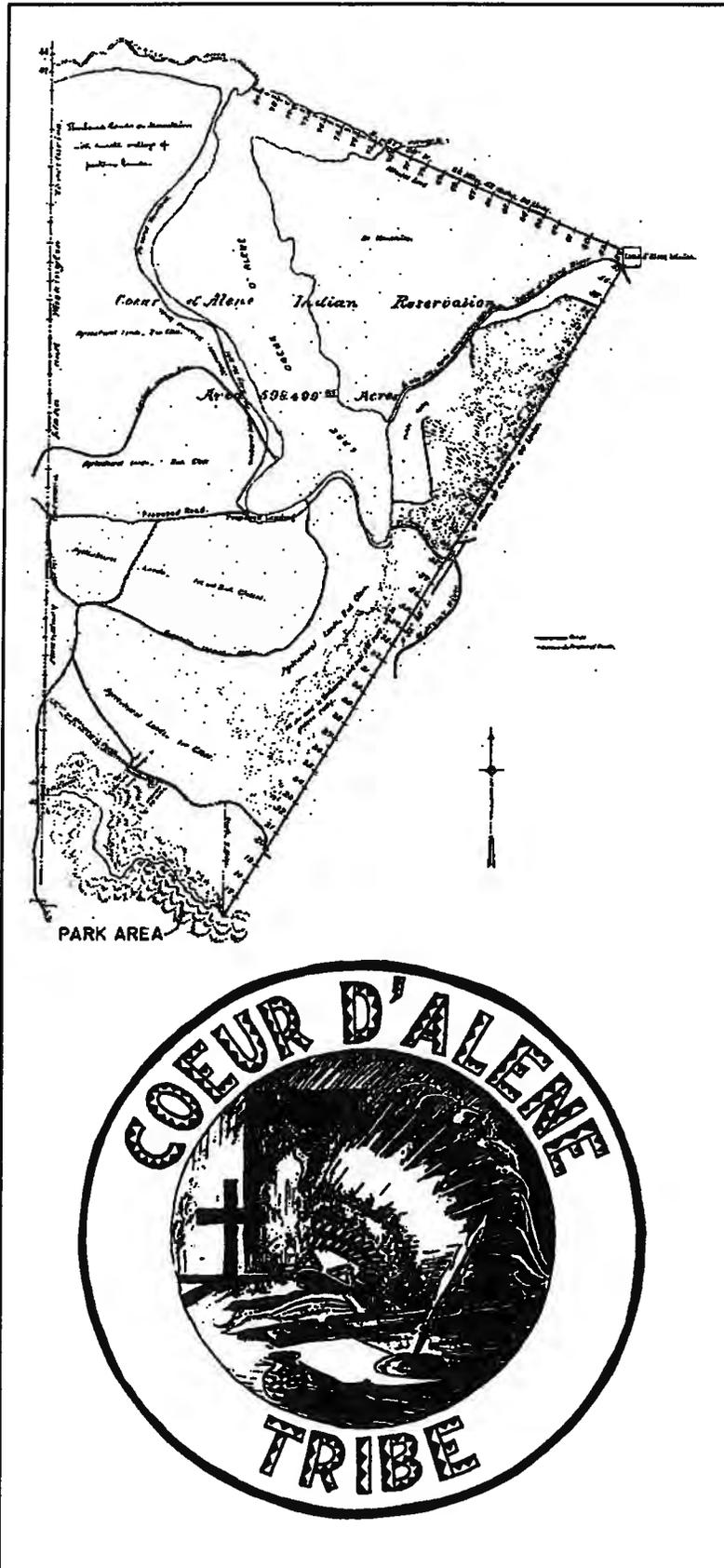
The ancestral lands of the Skeet-So-Mish Tribe were the valleys of Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the shores of the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe rivers. French fur trappers and traders gave them the name Coeur d'Alene--*heart of an awl*--which symbolized the tribe's shrewd business manner.

A permanent tribal wintering place is said to have existed on upper Hangmans Creek, at a spring near the foot of the hill just south of DeSmet. The existence of this village just outside the park boundaries indicates that the park's forests were probably used by the tribe as hunting grounds. Today, the old village area, now known as Tepee Town serves as a tribal ceremonial site.

Father Pierre-Jean DeSmet, a Jesuit missionary, met the Coeur d'Alenes on his first trip to the Northwest in the spring of 1842, and promised to send a missionary to live among them. That fall, Father Nicholas Point arrived and by 1843, he had established the first permanent mission. It was located at a bend in the St. Joe River, about five miles downstream, from present-day community of St. Maries.

Map 2.8

Original Coeur d'Alene Tribe reservation boundary



This mission flourished until successive flooding forced the mission to move to the Cataldo site in 1846. The Cataldo area was satisfactory until hordes of settlers and prospectors migrated to the Coeur d'Alene country, lured by agricultural, timber, and mineral wealth.

An executive order on June 14, 1867, subsequently amended by an executive order on November 8, 1873, created the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, initially encompassing approximately 598,500 acres, or 935 square miles.

Mounting population pressure, and a desire to shorten the distance to produce markets in Walla Walla, Washington caused the mission site to be moved once again. In 1876 the Sacred Heart mission was moved to its present location on reservation lands at the Camas Prairie, a place called lil' whee loos—spring on a hillside—now known as DeSmet. The DeSmet Mission Church was established in 1877, and a mission school for Native American children was constructed at DeSmet in 1878 when the Sisters of Providence arrived from Vancouver.

Negotiations with the United States government initiated in 1887 resulted in the sale of approximately 185,000 acres, or 289 square miles of reservation land to the government on September 9, 1889. This land was transferred to public domain, and through homestead entry, was available for settlement. Subsequent transactions further reduced the reservation area until today it is approximately 343,700 acres.

EXISTING AGRICULTURAL LEASE

Arthur Wagner, dba Wanooka Farms, Inc., currently leases 91 acres of agricultural land within the park boundaries. This lease is for farming purposes; crops have included wheat, barley, and lentils.

The state of Idaho, acting through the Park and Recreation Board, entered into this agreement on August 23, 1977. Since then, the

lease has been renewed on an annual basis.

The leased parcel is located in Township 43 North, Range 5 West, Latah County, Idaho. Eighty acres are situated in the SE 1/4 of Sec. 8, and 11 acres are situated in the SW 1/4 of Sec. 9.

The annual rental rate has been established at one-quarter of the value of all crops harvested from the premises. In the past 10 years, this lease has generated more than \$30,000 in revenue, which is deposited into a fund dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the park.

LOCAL PLANNING and ZONING AUTHORITY

Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park was established by the state Legislature in 1955, prior to the adoption of the Idaho Local Planning Act and prior to the adoption of zoning ordinances by either Benewah or Latah counties. Significant development of the park, however, has not occurred. The established park use, within existing boundaries, therefore, has grandfather rights. However, all new development or expansion of park boundaries is subject to local planning and zoning regulations. The general development plan should be reviewed and approved by the planning commissions of both counties prior to implementation.

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANS and ORDINANCES

IDPR recognizes that the park's general development plan must comply with the provisions of local comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances. Conversely, these provisions must be understood and used in the future, if necessary, to protect the park from potential negative effects of incompatible land-use proposals. Relevant goal-and-policy statements of Benewah and Latah counties' land-use plans have been identified and listed below. Those selected primarily address land-use and resource-management issues.

BENEWAH COUNTY

GENERAL

2. THE RURAL NATURE OF BENEWAH COUNTY SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND PRESERVED.

3b. Retain steep slope areas or slippage areas as open space.

RECREATION

1. PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF A WIDE VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF AND VISITORS TO BENEWAH COUNTY.

1a. Cooperate with state and federal agencies, cities, adjoining counties, and private associations in the planning and development of all types of recreational activities and facilities.

1b. Encourage private recreation areas and facilities to be established to fulfill the recreational needs of the county residents and visitors.

1d. Encourage the development of a park plan for the county.

RESOURCES

1. ENCOURAGE THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF ALL NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS FOREST FIBER, AGRICULTURAL LANDS, MINERALS, LAKES, AND RIVERS TO MAINTAIN THE ECONOMY, LAND PRODUCTIVITY AND TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

1b. Encourage the retention of timberland resource areas and discourage land uses or practices which take them out of production.

1d. Ensure that resources are not eliminated from future utilization by encroaching development.

ENVIRONMENT

1. MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS CAUSED BY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OR LAND USE SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

1b. Soil erosion and pollution on construction sites, farms, forest land, and



Sign along Skyline Drive.

built-up areas of the county and cities.

- 1c. The preservation of adequate wildlife habitat to ensure the continued existence of wildlife species in Benewah County.

HISTORICAL

1. IT IS A GOAL OF BENEWAH COUNTY TO RECOGNIZE THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF STRUCTURES AND SITES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL HISTORY.

- 1a. Benewah County shall encourage those sites and structures which are deemed to be of significant historical importance to be identified, and if possible, restored and preserved.

Benewah County has not adopted a zoning ordinance, however, all park and contiguous nonpark lands situated in Benewah County are designated rural district lands by the Benewah County land-use plan. This plan states that rural districts:

... refer to those areas which contain very low-intensity land uses, i.e. very low-density residential. It could also

include areas designated for agriculture use or woodland. Also compatible in this district are isolated industrial or commercial uses such as a sawmill, excavation, grange supply, and grain storage or farm sales. Generally, low-intensity uses, such as large acreage residential areas, or woodland or agriculture should be encouraged and higher-intensity uses, such as residential subdivisions or other types of commercial, and industrial uses should be discouraged.

LATAH COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

- 1. Agriculture and forestry land shall be protected from scattered urbanization.

NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

- 7. Wildlife habitats, particularly critical winter range, shall be protected from encroachment by development.

SPECIAL AREAS AND SITES ELEMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND PRESERVE SITES OF HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, OR SCENIC SIGNIFICANCE.

RECREATION ELEMENT

TO ENCOURAGE A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND OPEN SPACES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY TO MEET THE RECREATIONAL AND AESTHETIC NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS.

- 2. The Latah County Parks and Recreation Commission should coordinate the efforts of other interested agencies in providing recreation opportunities.

All park and contiguous nonpark lands in Latah County carry the AF (Agriculture-Forestry) zone designation. The Latah County zoning ordinance states that the purpose of the AF zone is:

... to foster agricultural and forestry land uses while providing for limited, low-density residential land uses which will not conflict with farm and forest

practices nor place inappropriate demands on rural public services nor promote the indiscriminate conversion of farm and forest land to other uses.

Permitted uses in the AF zone include: agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, and agricultural service industries. The ordinance further states:

A single-family dwelling unit may be occupied on a lot one acre or larger in size in the AF zone, PROVIDED that said lot has either been created in conformance with the Latah County Subdivision Ordinance provisions for Land Partitions in the AF zone, OR PROVIDED that the subject lot existed prior to the date of adoption of the ordinance as a separately deeded and recorded lot of at least one acre.

Parks, campgrounds and seasonal recreational camps are identified as conditional uses in the AF zone.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Natives came to the area of De Smet to collect roots and berries, and to hunt big game. It is likely that they ventured into the park area during their quest for food. Evidence of the activity would be limited since camps were usually established in



Skyline Drive.

the low lands. Local residents have found evidence of their activities. In 1976, the USFS conducted an archaeological survey of several ridge areas within the park to located evidence of aboriginal trails, religious areas or areas of habitation. None were found. However, much more recent evidence of human presence in the park area have been documented:

Mineral Mountain Fire Towers

In 1935, the Forest Service and the Idaho State Department of Lands constructed a 40-foot wooden fire lookout tower on the summit of Mineral Mountain. Nothing remains of this structure but it was replaced by a 52-foot steel tower in 1966. All that remains of that structure are four concrete piers. This site is located in the SE 1/4 of Section 18, T43N,R4W. After years of disuse and vandalism, a local crop duster dismantled the steel structure and re-erected it next to his air strip near Moscow.

Mission Mountain "Crow's Nest"

This historic lookout site was built in 1936 and consisted of a tent camp and wooden "crow's nest" constructed in a 90-foot white fir tree. This fire-watch position was located on the summit of Mission Mountain in the SE 1/4, Section 15, T43N,R5W.

Pioneer Homestead

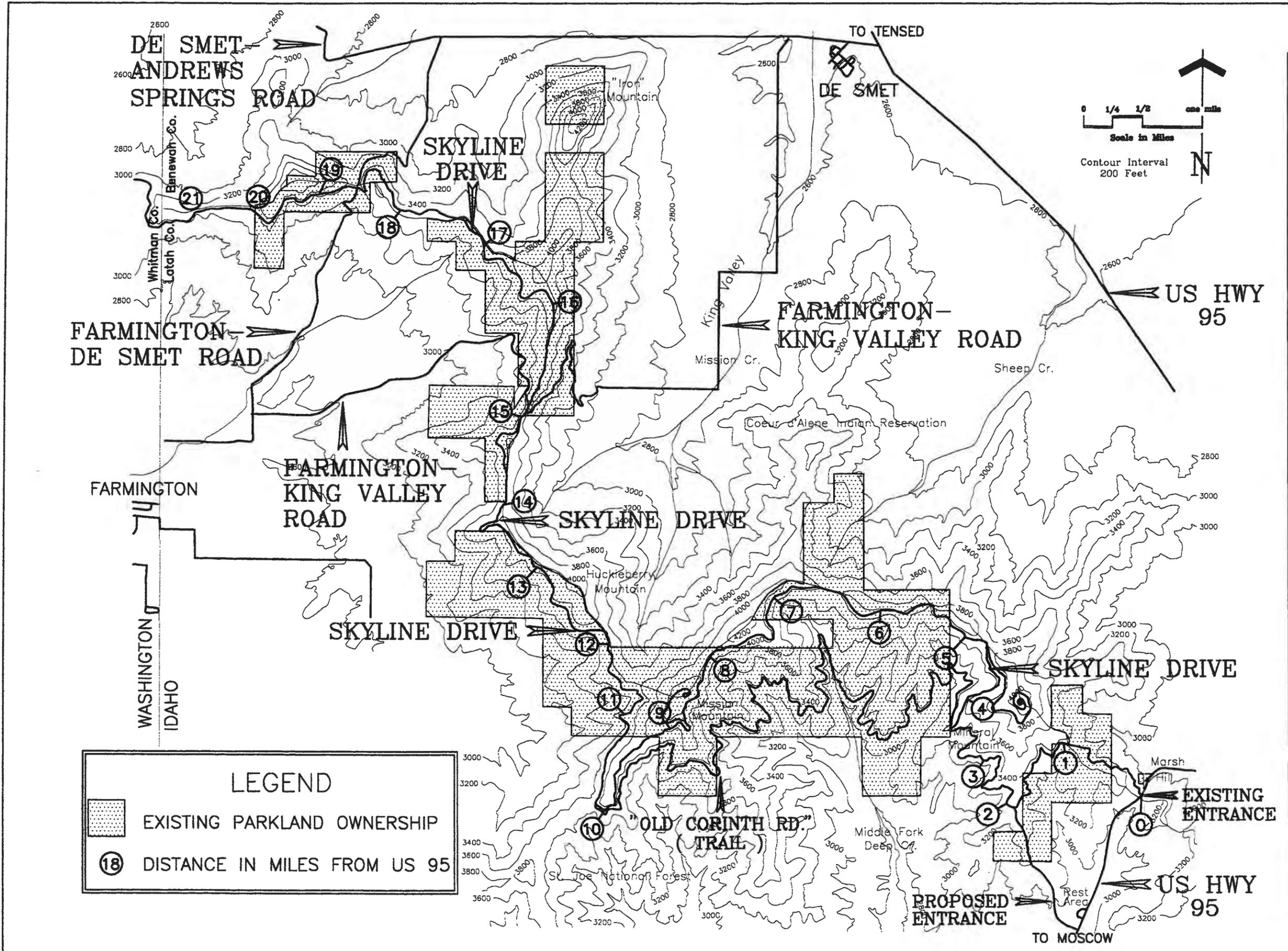
A long-abandoned orchard and portions of stone foundation are the only visible remnants of a pioneer homestead located at the extreme western end of the park in the SW 1/4 of Section 30, T44N,R5W.

Open-pit Limonite Mine

One finger-like ridge, unofficially referred to as Iron Mountain by local residents, retains the scars of an open-pit limonite mine. Located in the SE 1/4 of Section 21, T44N,R5W, this operation was active during the early to mid 1960s. Small quantities of this ore was used in making cement.

Stone Fireplace

This original native-stone picnic fireplace, built in 1953, is in excellent condition, and



LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
 MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

is still in use at Camp McCroskey. This site, at mile 6.5 in the SE 1/4 Section 11, T43N,R5W, continues to serve as the primary day-use picnic area along Skyline Drive.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The eastern entrance to the park is accessed via Highway 95. The park's western entrance is accessed via the Farmington-DeSmet Road, which crosses Skyline Drive at mile 18.6. This intersection is known locally as Four Corners and is located 5.7 miles from DeSmet and 3.8 miles from Farmington, Washington. Central portions of the park can be accessed via the Farmington-King Valley Road which crosses Skyline Drive at mile 15.1 (Map 2.9). From this intersection, it is 7.3 miles to DeSmet and 4.5 miles to Farmington. The DeSmet-Andrews Springs Road runs east-west just north of Iron Mountain and provides a link from DeSmet to Seltice, Washington.

EXISTING UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Overhead electrical lines and underground telephone lines parallel Highway 95 on the park's eastern entrance. These utilities also parallel this Farmington-DeSmet Road on the park's western extremity, crossing Skyline Drive at Four Corners.

EXISTING PARK IMPROVEMENTS

A review of Virgil McCroskey's correspondence indicates that he never had grandiose plans for development of park. His goal was solely to provide safe access and simple improvements that would allow visitors to have an enjoyable experience as they traversed his ridge road. Today, in recognition of Virgil's intentions, the park's level of development remains limited. IDPR has made continued improvements of Skyline Drive, and provide well-maintained picnic and sani-

Interpretive panel at ITD Mineral Mountain Rest Area.



tary facilities. Existing improvements include:

Skyline Drive

The eastern terminus of Skyline Drive joins Highway 95 on a curve at the brow of Marsh Hill, approximately 26 miles north of Moscow. Currently, poor visibility at this intersection and the lack of a turn lane make ingress to and egress from the park dangerous.

From this point, Skyline Drive winds 22 miles toward the western end of the park, located one mile east of the Washington state line. The single-lane road averages 16 feet in width and contains many short-radius turns and blind corners. Passing turn-outs are located at frequent intervals. Approximately 7-1/2 miles of roadway are gravel surfaced. The road parallels the ridge line and its slope seldom reaches 10 percent. Roadside swales and drainage culverts effectively divert surface run-off. The road is usually passable shortly after snow melt in the spring, although stubborn drifts on shaded, northern road cuts can delay early-spring access to the park by several weeks.

Summit Access Roads

Single-lane, unimproved roads diverge from Skyline Drive and spiral upward to the summits of both Mission and Mineral mountains.

Signage

Standard IDPR entrance signs stand adjacent to Skyline Drive at the eastern and western entrances to the park. Unobtrusive markers, which display the park's logo, have been erected along Skyline Drive to keep visitors from inadvertently wandering onto numerous side roads. The absence of mileage markers makes orientation within the park difficult.

Picnic Areas

Picnic tables and fire rings are available at Lone Pine picnic site, Camp McCroskey, and at the Mission Mountain picnic area.

Toilet Facilities

Single-unit vault toilet buildings have been erected at Camp McCroskey and at the Mission Mountain picnic area.

Trails

There are approximately 35 miles of overgrown logging roads and Jeep trails in the park. An 11-mile section of the old Corinth Road diverges from Skyline Drive at mile 3.6, runs along the lower southern slope of the park and rejoins Skyline Drive in the vicinity of mile 10.1.

These trails are used by all kinds of trail users. The abundance of trails and their dispersion have accommodated multiple-use with little conflict. Historically, trail users have provided their own trail maintenance. Today, most of the trails are in good condition. The scope of repairs required in these areas is beyond the capability of these small user groups.

Mineral Mountain Rest Area

Although not located within the park, the Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD) Mineral Mountain Rest Area is ideally located to serve park visitors on the north side of Highway 95, approximately one mile south of the park's east entrance. The facility's heated restrooms, flush toilets, wash basins, and hand dryers offer a level of service appreciated by the traveling public, but inappropriate and infeasible to provide within the park's boundaries. A large interpretive panel detailing the park and recognizing Virgil's efforts and generosity is prominently displayed at the site.

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Contributed by Jim Eagan

Skyline Drive, which winds through McCroskey State Park, forms a classic ridge-road system. A ridge road is a road that traverses the tops of several mountains and the intervening saddles and crest lines. Typically, portions of a ridge road are just below the mountain top, and an up-slope condition exists on one side. This up-slope landscape restricts the observer's view and sightseeing occurs on the down-slope side

This forest is inhabited by silent and benevolent spirits. I can work all alone in this park, where I spend most of my waking hours, and not see another human being, and never be lonely.

--Virgil T.
McCroskey

where only vegetative restrictions may occur.

There are several variations of the basic pattern associated with ridge roads. In McCroskey State Park, the spiral ridge road and switchbacks become part of the mountain view crest road described above. Spirals are located at Mineral and Mission mountains, and switchbacks occur frequently along the 22-mile Skyline Drive.

Although the environment and interpretation are of particular interest, an analysis of the visual resources and landscape aesthetics is necessary prior to determining the recreation potential of a ridge-road park. Since the scenic landscape is vitally important to ridge-road parks, it is necessary that we understand basic concepts relating to the landscape.

The components of the visual resource are a complex array of flora, fauna, land, water, air, and manufactured objects. The elements of a landscape refer to light, distance, form, spatial definition, sequence, and observer position. These elements act upon the components of the visual resource to form the landscapes we see. Of the elements, form is perhaps the most important because of its visual dominance, particularly when viewed from a high position. However, the element that most stimulates our sense of vision is light. The direction or orientation of light changes to emphasize surfaces, textures, edges, shapes, and interspaces. Combine this with atmospheric conditions and an ephemeral landscape scene may be produced. This scene may leave a lasting impression will be imprinted upon a visitor's mind.

MCCROSKEY STATE PARK and RIDGE-ROAD ENVIRONS

In McCroskey State Park there are unlimited opportunities to experience the landscape. Throughout the eastern and central portions of the park a variety of enclosed

landscapes, canopied forest, hints of views, and openings with vistas result in great diversity of visual and psychological awareness. Toward the western third of the park, there are more opportunities to view the panorama. During the drive, the dominate landscape changes from scenes of the Skyline Drive corridor and Rocky Mountains to panoramas of the Palouse Hills, remnant steptoes, and farm communities.

Our personal feelings change as we drive through pine-enclosed forest to open vistas. Our senses react to changes from cool, damp, cedar groves to warmer, drier pine and grassland environments. We experience confinement in a close focal landscape and a sense of freedom from open fields of wild flowers. This stimulus of change and variety adds to enrichment experiences. The perception of isolation and solitude is affected little by the occasional encounter with another vehicle.

SCENIC INVENTORY

There are many systems that deal with rating and ranking evaluations of the visual elements of landscape. Some of these include environmental quality analysis and classification descriptions of corridors. It is interesting to note that these systems do not take into consideration the special case of ridge roads. Nevertheless, it is important that an inventory or assessment of the scenery pertaining to ridge roads be made.

Since viewing for pleasure is a primary recreation activity from the ridge road, the landscape inventory aids the planner in making decisions where observations and interpretive opportunities might occur. A scenic inventory provides a more complete and descriptive analysis of landscape as seen from a ridge system. It helps to detect areas with foreground and middle-ground visual limits and locate points where viewing limits are restricted only by the distant background.

David Linton, in his *Assessment of Scenery as a Natural Resource*, indicates that elements of scenery influence people's reactions and that these basic elements can be mapped showing their variation over an area of study. Linton

*It is difficult when
one catches a
vision of the
magnitude of Virgil
T. McCroskey's
proffered gift to
Idaho - Mary
Minerva
McCroskey State
Park - his amazing
generosity, not to
be carried away
with enthusiasm.
--Grace Martin,
Skyline Drive
Association, 1954*

writes that there are two truly basic elements in the scenic resource:

One is the form of the ground, not as defined by the contours of the topographic surveyor, but rather by the land form categories of the geomorphologist. The other is the mantle of forest and moorlands, farms and factories, natural vegetation and human artifacts, by which the hard rock body of the landscape is clothed.

The edges between forest and farmland, and the mountains, hills, valleys, and steptoes are the basic forms viewed from the ridge. These can be viewed in part through the mantle of forest or as panoramas from open landscapes. The density of the forest plays a major role when considering viewing pleasure. However, the most aesthetically pleasing landscape development is the result of high versus low viewing opportunities and a blending of other landscape types like canopies, enclosures, or focus point landscapes. Map 2.10 presents a scenic inventory which gives direction of view and indicates what features can be seen along Skyline Drive.

INTANGIBLE VALUES of the PARK

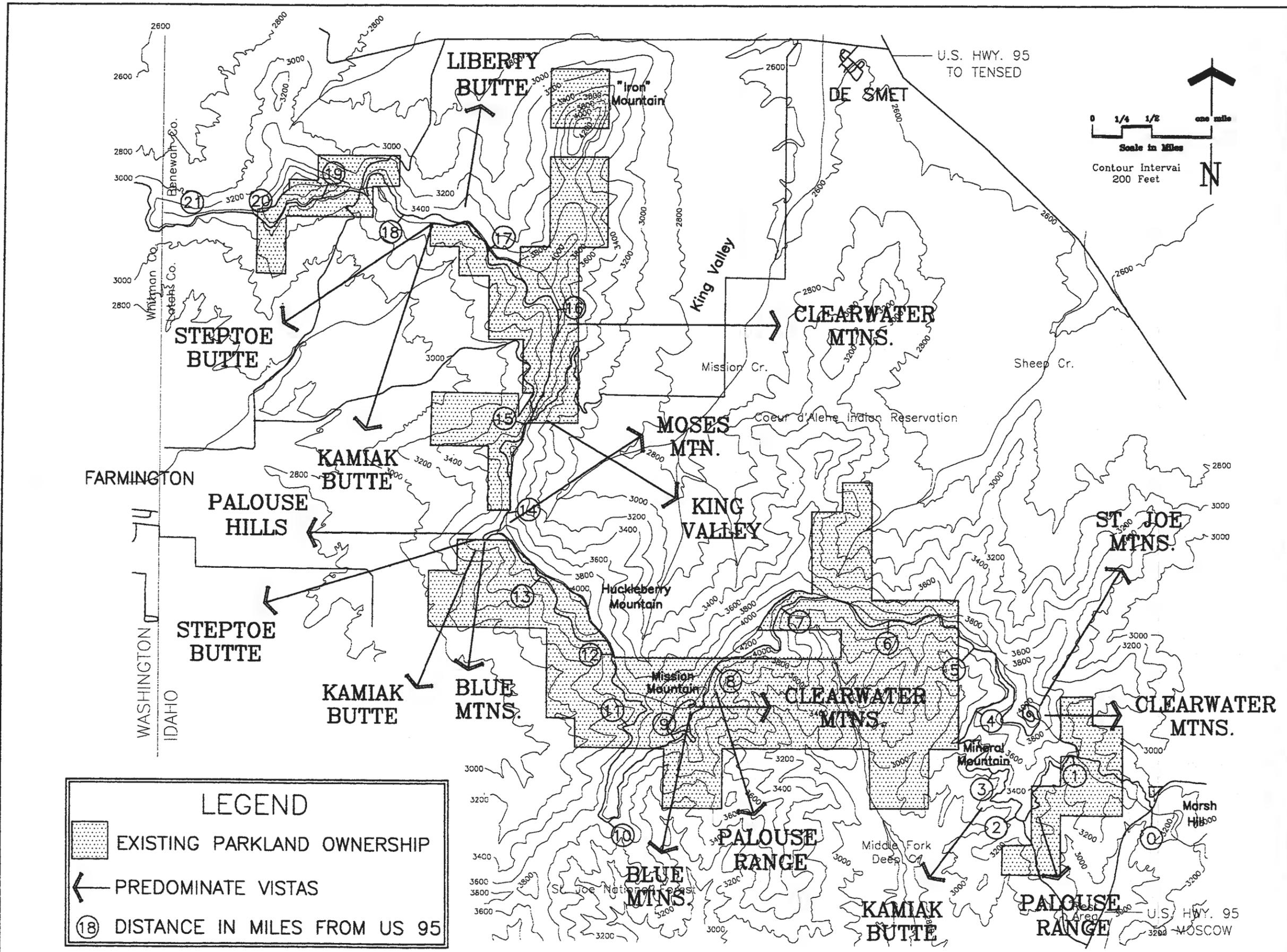
Intangibles such as security, beauty, freedom from stress, and self-satisfaction are

important in recreation planning and evaluation. The visual resource is one of those illusive intangible values which humans perceive in an array of landscape components. Perception is determined by each individual's sensitivity to the environment. Wilderness users, outdoor sports enthusiasts, conservationists, and other user groups perceive visual experiences differently.

The concept of "existence value" might apply to McCroskey State Park. This is a value that individuals who have no intent of ever visiting a particular site or environment feel just knowing that environments such as this exist.

CONCLUSION

Panoramic viewing is one of the major pleasures experienced from driving along a ridge road. Other associated passive recreational activities such as photography, observing wild flowers and birds, picnicking, camping, interpretive walks, and seeking solitude are unquestionably appropriate for natural and scenic parks. Visual enhancement, accomplished by the selective removal of vegetation, may be desirable at vista points, at pullouts, and along interpretive trails.



SCENIC LANDSCAPE
INVENTORY

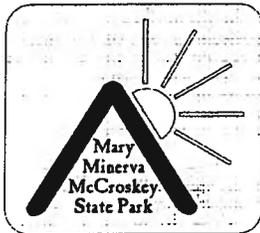
MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAP 2.10

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Chapter Three

Supply-and-Demand Analysis



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SERVICE AREA

For most regional parks, a 50-mile radius is considered to be the primary service area. This represents a one- to 1½-hour travel time, and is considered the maximum distance most recreationists are willing to travel to visit this kind of recreation facility. A 50-mile radius centered on the eastern park entrance at U.S. Highway 95 encompasses all of Benewah and Latah counties, and most of Kootenai County in Idaho, and most of Whitman and Spokane counties in eastern Washington. Major Idaho population centers within this service area include Lewiston (pop. 27,730), Moscow (pop. 17,790), and Coeur d' Alene (pop. 24,690). Major population centers in Washington in the same area are Pullman (pop. 23,160) and Spokane (pop. 172,890).

Due to the undeveloped nature of the McCroskey State Park, and purposefully low profile, many regional residents are unaware of its existence. Consequently, most of the park's use has been local rural residents who near the park. This indicates that a service area comprising of

a 25-mile radius from the park's eastern and western entrances is more realistic. The resident population in this area is approximately 53,000 (Map 3.1).

EXISTING REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following inventory describes the outdoor recreational facilities that currently exist within the service area of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. The location of these areas is depicted in Map 3.2. The 3-year visitation statistics are outlined in Table 3.1.

- Laird Park Recreation Area is a 26-unit US Forest Service campground located on the Palouse River about five miles northeast of Harvard, Idaho on Highway 6. This unit also has seven picnic sites.

- Giant White Pine Campground is a 13-unit USFS campground 8.5 miles north of Harvard and is also accessed from Highway 6.

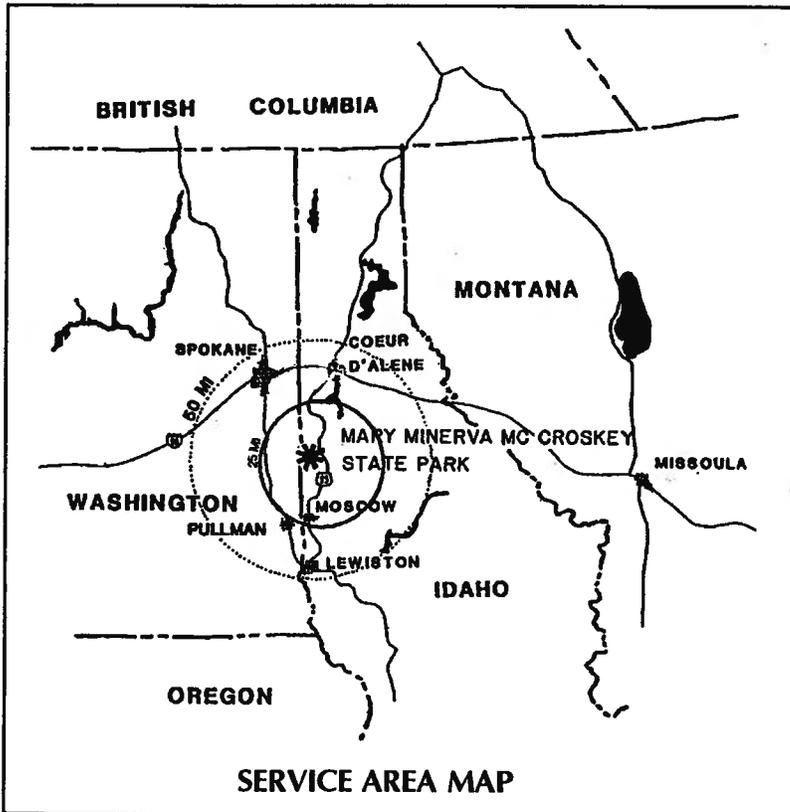
- Little Boulder Creek Campground, operated by the USFS, has eight campsites and three picnic sites. It is located two miles south of Helmer, Idaho.

- Spring Valley Reservoir is a 50-acre reservoir approximately five miles east of Troy, Idaho on Highway 8. The area is primarily developed for day use. Aquatic recreational opportunities are the area's biggest attraction.

- Heyburn State Park, operated by IDPR is five miles east of Plummer, Idaho on Highway 5. This unit is located on the shores of Lake Coeur d' Alene. There are 133 campsites; boat launching facilities; picnic areas; and miles of interpretive trails.

- Kamiak Butte County Park is operated by Whitman County Parks Department and is 15 miles north of Pullman, Washington, off Highway 27. This park encompasses 298 acres along a linear butte,

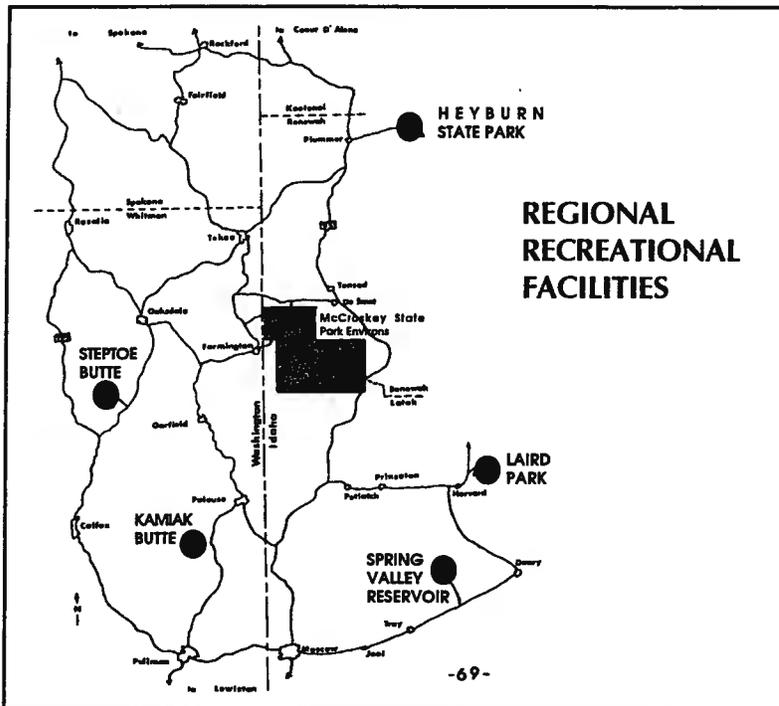
Map 3.1



RECREATION FACILITY	NUMBER OF VISITORS		
	1990	1991	1992
LAIRD PARK RECREATION AREA	38,000	38,500	40,000
GIANT WHITE PINE CAMPGROUND	12,500	13,000	13,000
LITTLE BOULDER CREEK C.G.	16,000	15,500	16,000
HEYBURN STATE PARK	271,882	248,623	247,245
KAMIAK BUTTE COUNTY PARK, WA	55,000	55,000	55,000
STEPTOE BUTTE STATE PARK, WA.	1,900	21,442	48,604

Table 3.1

Map 3.2



and has a campground and picnic area. The primary attraction is a winding two-mile scenic hiking trail to the top of the butte.

- Steptoe Butte State Park is operated by the Washington State Park system and is 12 miles north of Colfax, Washington on Highway 195. Virgil McCroskey donated a large portion of this 150-acre day-use area to the state of Washington. The park is recognized as a National Historical Monument for its role in the last Army/Indian conflict in eastern Washington.

1989 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In an attempt to better understand the role of outdoor recreation and leisure travel in the state of Idaho, three important studies were conducted in 1986 and 1987. The first was the Governor's Task Force on Idahoans Outdoors opinion survey of Idaho residents conducted in 1986. Its purpose was to help managers establish priorities for the use of the limited funds available for recreation management in the state. The second, the 1987 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Survey, interviewed heads of households in Idaho on the households' recreation use patterns. The third, the University of Idaho Wildland Recreation Department's 1987 Leisure Travel and Recreation Study, studied the opinions and behaviors of Idaho's recreation and leisure travelers.

The 1989 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) used these three surveys to determine the role of outdoor recreation and leisure travel in Idaho. The SCORP subsequently provided a needs assessment to guide the future of outdoor recreation in the state. The plan does not attempt to provide detailed resource analysis of concise proposals for future development, rather it provides a general discussion from which policy and decision makers may gain insight and guidance. However, the "Facility and Opportunity Needs Assessment Priority Index" in the SCORP is intended to direct the expenditure of public recreation funds over the next five years.

For planning purposes, Idaho has been divided into six planning regions. McCroskey State Park straddles the boundary between regions one and two. For this reason, recreation needs of both regions will be analyzed. Table 3.2 identifies regional recreational needs that McCroskey Park can help satisfy with an asterisk (*). Categories ranked 6.5 or higher in the Priority Needs Index identify a critical need. These include picnic areas, tent camps, RV campsites, hiking trails,

SCORP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REGION 1: FACILITY & OPPORTUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FACILITY/OPPORTUNITY	FACILITY PRIORITY RANKING	ACTIVITY GROUP RANKING	PRIORITY NEEDS INDEX
Urban/Community-Based			
Sports/Palyfields	6.4	4	8.7
Playgrounds	6.1	4	8.5
Picnic Areas	6.3	1	8.6
Court Games	3.9	4	7.4
Fitness Centers	2.8	4	6.9
Swimming Pools	4.6	4	6.2
Bicycle Paths	6.1	8	5.2
Golf Courses	2.5	4	5.0
R.V. Campsites	4.8	7	4.9
Natural Resources Land-Based			
Picnic Areas	6.0	1	8.5 *
Tent Camps (Trails)	5.9	3	7.4 *
Tourist Services	3.0	2	6.2
Tent Camps (Road)	6.6	7	5.9 *
R.V. Campsites	5.7	7	5.4
R.V. Dump Stations	4.6	7	4.8
Sports Access (Hunting)	5.3	9	4.3
Lodging/Resorts	3.2	7	4.1
Downhill Skiing	3.0	9	3.0
Natural Resources Water-Based			
Swimming Beaches	6.6	4	7.3
Sports Access (Fishing)	6.3	6	6.2
Boat Launch Ramps	5.8	6	5.9
Boat Docks With Ramps	5.6	6	5.8
Launchsite Camps	5.4	6	5.7
Floating Access	4.8	6	5.4
Ski Docks	2.6	4	5.1
Limited Marina	3.6	6	4.7
Full Service Marina	2.5	6	4.1
Trail Based Facilities			
Hiking Trails	7.0	3	8.0 *
Historic Trails	5.4	1	8.0
Trail Head (Parking)	6.7	3	7.8 *
Nature/Interpretive Trails	5.4	2	7.5 *
Equestrian Trails	3.9	2	6.7 *
Excercise/Jog Trails	3.9	4	5.8
X-Country Ski Trails	5.1	9	4.2
Snowmobile Trails	3.6	9	3.4
O.R. Motorcycle Trails	2.7	11	2.0

* INDICATES REGIONAL RECREATIONAL NEEDS MCCROSKEY STATE PARK CAN HELP TO ACCOMMODATE.

Table 3.2

SCORP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REGION 2: FACILITY & OPPORTUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

<u>FACILITY/OPPORTUNITY</u>	<u>FACILITY PRIORITY RANKING</u>	<u>ACTIVITY GROUP RANKING</u>	<u>PRIORITY NEEDS INDEX</u>
Urban/Community-Based			
Picnic Areas	6.2	2	8.6
R.V. Campsites	4.5	4	6.1
Playgrounds	5.9	6	6.0
Sports/Playfields	5.3	6	5.7
Swimming Pools	5.7	7	5.4
Bicycle Paths	6.2	9	4.8
Fitness Centers	3.8	6	4.8
Court Games	3.7	6	4.8
Golf Course	2.6	6	4.2
Natural Resources Land-Based			
Picnic Areas	6.0	2	7.9 *
Tourist Services	3.9	1	7.4
Tent Camps (Road)	6.4	4	7.2 *
Tent Camps (Trails)	5.4	3	7.1 *
R.V. Campsites	5.2	4	6.5
R.V. Dump Stations	4.4	4	6.1
Lodging/Resorts	3.6	4	5.6
Sports Access (Hunting)	4.9	8	4.5
Downhill Skiing	3.5	10	2.9
Natural Resources Water-Based			
Sports Access (Fishing)	6.5	4	8.7
Launchsite Camps	6.0	4	7.0
Floater's Access	5.6	4	6.7
Launch Ramps	4.7	4	6.2
Launchsite Docks	4.7	4	6.2
Swimming Beaches	6.3	7	5.8
Limited Marina	3.4	4	5.5
Full Service Marina	2.9	4	5.2
Ski Docks	2.4	7	3.6
Trail Based Facilities			
Nature/Interpretive Trails	5.4	1	8.2 *
Hiking Trails	6.6	3	7.8 *
Trail Head (Parking)	6.3	3	7.6 *
Historic Trails	5.4	2	7.5
Snowmobile Trails	3.5	10	7.4 *
Equestrian Trails	3.7	1	7.3 *
Excercise/Jog Trails	4.3	6	5.1
X-Country Ski Trails	5.3	10	3.9
O.R. Motorcycle Trails	2.6	11	1.9

* INDICATES REGIONAL RECREATIONAL NEEDS MCCROSKEY STATE PARK CAN HELP TO ACCOMMODATE.

MONTH	EAST (HIGHWAY 95)		WEST (FOUR CORNERS)	
	CARS	X 2.3 PASSENGERS	CARS	X 2.3 PASSENGERS
JUNE	257	591	89	204
JULY	430	989	149	342
AUGUST	291	669	117	269
SEPTEMBER	410	943	200	460
OCTOBER	582	1,338	217	499
NOVEMBER	217	499	126	290
		5,029		2,064
		X.70		X.80
TOTALS (ADJUSTED)		3,520		1,651

Table 3.3

trailhead parking, nature/interpretive trails, snowmobile trails, and equestrian trails. The needs index formula and calculations were derived from numerous sources.

CURRENT PARK ATTENDANCE

Two traffic counters were installed on Skyline Drive in June 1992, one at the east end, just off of Highway 95, and one at the west end near Four Corners intersection.

The park's seasonal ranger performed an informal survey of the numbers of park visitors, the reason they are using the park, and where they entered and would exit the park. This data, presented in Table 3.5, was collected during the months of June through November 1992. It is incomplete as it does not include early-spring sightseers. It does, however, provide some insight into the level of visitation present during the park's primary use season.

The traffic counters record vehicles coming and going. As a result, the vehicle counts in Table 3.3 required adjustment. The issue is further complicated by the presence of multiple entrance/exits without counters. To compensate, a multiplier of .70 for the east entrance counter and .80 for the west entrance counter was established. The ratio of in-state to out-of-state visitors is approximately 70 percent to 30 percent (Table 3.4).

A current average daily visitation figure was determined by dividing the total of 5,171 visitors by the 183 days in the survey period, which equals 28 visitors per day.

Visitor-Use Survey

The information in Table 3.5 on visitor use was gathered by the park's seasonal ranger at various time during the 1992 use season while he was on site. Although the data is based upon a small sampling, it provides some indication of kinds and levels of use found within the park.

PROJECTED PARK VISITATION

Due to the undiscovered nature of the park, and IDPR's deliberate de-marketing efforts, most current park visitors are considered *scheduled*. In the future, increased emphasis on park development and promotion will result in discovery of the unit, and visitation will increase

VISITOR INFORMATION	
RESIDENTS	3,620
NON-RESIDENTS	1,551
TOTAL PARK VISITORS (6 MONTHS)	5,171

Table 3.4

substantially. A minimum of 31 additional *unscheduled* visitors are anticipated to be siphoned off of Highway 95 (Table 3.6). This would raise total daily visitation to 59, and annual visitation to 12, 390.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POTENTIAL

Contributed by Harold Osborne, University of Idaho Forestry Professor

Environmental Education

Environmental education is a process which differs from interpretation in that it is more formal and usually used to communicate firmer knowledge and information. Audiences may include elementary and high school groups, colleges and university classes, and civic, social, or professional groups.

The Role of McCroskey State Park in Environmental Education

Reflecting the goals statement for the park in chapter 1, some alternative roles in education and interpretation for the park are:

Goal 2.0 - Promote the utilization of the park by diverse groups as an "outdoor class-

room" for environmental education and scientific study.

To best meet this goal, facilities would need to be developed which would allow for unaccompanied access by secondary school and university groups visiting with their own instructors. These may include parking areas for school buses, areas designated for specimen collecting, and an outdoor amphitheater for presentations. These facilities also could be used by park interpretive staff. With increasing demands on the recreational and natural resources of our area, an interpretive center could be considered in the long-range plans for this park. Given the nature and number of existing facilities, it is not recommended that a facility be constructed within the next 20 years.

Programming these activities would involve making schools, universities, and group leaders aware of the area and its natural resources through advertising and personal contacts. If an interpretive staff position is created, this person could also work with educational institutions on curriculum development and teacher training.

The scattered nature of the land ownership in the area may necessitate incorporating provisions for educational and interpretive fa-

Table 3.5

TYPE OF USE	MONTH						TOTALS	% OF USE
	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV		
SIGHTSEEING/ DAY USE	50	61	20	28	26	8	193	50
HUNTING	3	4	0	9	59	19	94	24
GOVERNMENT/ BUSINESS	8	5	6	2	33	0	54	14
FIREWOOD COLLECTING	5	4	0	1	26	0	36	9
CAMPING	0	7	1	1	2	0	11	3

cilities and activities into easements and cooperative agreements.

Goal 10.0 of the park's Goals Statement is to minimize IDPR staff requirements for the park, so programs and facilities should be designed with this in mind. Operation of the education program could entail nothing more than publicity about the site, and the requirement that educational groups fill out a use permit which would allow IDPR to monitor and collect information about use and users.

Conversely, IDPR could take the lead in developing a showcase environmental education program, using the resources and ex-

pertise of the nearby University of Idaho College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences. The Department of Wildlife and Recreation Management at the University of Idaho and related programs at other nearby colleges and universities would be instrumental in developing programs.

Existing Regional Facilities

The following directory describes the existing environmental education and interpretive facilities and sites within a 50 mile radius of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. In terms of the interpretive resources, there are several diverse sites, the nearest being the White Pine Scenic Trail, the Laird Park Trail, and the U of I Experimen-

tal Forest all of which provide habitat types that are similar to what is available in Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. However, as one moves west in the park, there is what may be a unique opportunity to descend through several life zones, from the higher forested areas into Palouse bunchgrass prairie-plant communities. Facilities for interpretation of the prairie habitats is currently done by the three parks in Washington.

ST. MARIES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - 12,000 acres; seven miles south of St. Maries off Highway 95A. St. Maries Wildlife Management Area, managed by the State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, is maintained primarily for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. To promote regeneration of browse production for big-game animals, blocks of trees are being commercially harvested and broadcast burns are prescribed. The area is heavily timbered and contains several creeks. The St. Maries River forms the south and west boundaries. Lindstrom Peak, the area's highest point at 4,695 feet is located in the center of the area.

Informal walks and tours of the area are available upon request. Trails branch off a loop road which covers much of the area. Scenic viewpoints make it ideal for hiking. Other recreational activities include wildlife and nature observation, fishing, camping, and picnicking at undeveloped sites. Vehicular traffic is restricted to main roads. No open fires are allowed during closed-fire season.

Contact: Manager, St. Maries Wildlife Management Area, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Route 2, Box 17, Harrison, Idaho 83833, (208) 689-3453 or 664-9236.

BIG MEADOW CREEK RECREATION AREA - 240 acres; 3.6 miles northwest of Troy on Big Meadow Creek Road. Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area is a limited day-use public recreation area administered by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences as part of University of Idaho's experimental forest. It is located in a ponderosa pine-dominated forest on the lower southern slopes of Moscow Moun-

Table 3.6

ANALYSIS OF PROJECTED UNSCHEDULED DAY USE	
2,053 ADT* X 210 Use Days (Mid April through mid November)	= 431,130 autos
431,130 X .43 (Percentage of recreation travelers)	= 185,386 autos
= 185,386 X .01 (Estimated minimum number of recreation travelers that would tour park)	= 1,854 cars X 3.5 passengers/car
	= 6,489 visitors/season
6,489 divided by 210 use days	= 31 visitors per day
(Average daily traffic figures based upon Idaho Department of Transportation traffic counter located on US Highway 95, two miles north of State Highway 6 junction.)	
*Average Daily Traffic	

tain. Big Meadow Creek and an intermittent tributary stream flow through the site; the former is dammed to form two impoundments. Deer flourish in the area and signs of beaver are evident along streams. The recreation area is located on the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp.

Two self-guided interpretive trails have been developed, each approximately a half mile long. One focuses on ecology and forest management, the other on the CCC era. The area is ideal for environmental education and nature-study activities. Assistance is available upon request. The meadow provides opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, and picnic tables, fire grills, and sanitary facilities are available. There is no available drinking water. Off-road vehicles, shooting, and trapping are prohibited. Permission is required for overnight use.

Contact: Wildland Recreation Management Department, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 885-7911.

CAMP GRIZZLY BOY SCOUT CAMP - 480 acres; 4.5 miles northeast of Harvard on Highway 95A. Camp Grizzly is located in a white fir, red cedar, and lodgepole pine forest environment; Douglas fir grows in the lower areas. The Palouse River borders the camp on the north. Little Sand Mountain is located to the southeast. Part of the Hoodoo Road, an early mining road, still exists. The camp, although mainly for Boy Scout use, is available for environmental-education activities by special permission. Recreation activities include canoeing, fishing, swimming, hiking, rowing, and cross-country skiing. Campsites, picnic tables, and sanitary facilities are available May through October. Groups must obtain permission from the Boy Scout Council office.

Contact: Boy Scouts of America, Lewis and Clark Council, 1442 Idaho Street, Lewiston, Idaho 83835.

IDLER'S REST NATURE PRESERVE - 36 acres; six miles northeast of Moscow. A sanctuary of The Nature Conservancy,

Idler's Rest lies on the southwestern flank of Moscow Mountain. The area is unique in that four major vegetation zones (ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, western red cedar, and grand fir) lie within its boundaries. Some of the preserve's attractions include a shady grove of 100-year-old western red cedar and a giant 200-year-old ponderosa pine.

The major portion of Idler's Rest is set aside to remain in its natural state. Limited development of a parking area and there are two self-guiding trails. They are the half-mile Highland Trail and the quarter-mile Heritage Trail. Guided walks are provided by students from the University of Idaho upon request, as are off-site programs. The latter includes a special sound/slide program used for pre-visit group orientation. Permission for all organized group use is required. Camping, picnicking, firearms, traps, and vehicles are prohibited. Research projects may be conducted with permission.

Contacts: The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Field Office, 1234 N. W. 25th, Portland, Oregon 97210, (503) 228-9561.

Wildland Recreation Management Department, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83824, (208) 885-7911.

SHATTUCK ARBORETUM - 10 acres; located on the University of Idaho campus in Moscow. Started in 1910 by forestry professor Charles H. Shattuck, this site became the first arboretum west of the Mississippi. Hardwoods and conifers from various parts of the world have been planted here. Some of the more unusual trees include a giant sequoia and metasequoia, or dawn redwood, a Chinese specimen once thought to be extinct. Some specimens are labeled. With such a variety of trees, Shattuck Arboretum provides a beautiful natural environment and is ideal as an outdoor study area. Guided walks are available with advance request.

Contact: Forest Resources Department, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 885-6444.

WHITE PINE NATURE TRAIL - Half-mile trail; 10 miles northeast of Harvard on Highway 95A. This self-guiding nature trail starts at the Giant White Pine Campground where the giant white pine, 200-foot tall grow. One of the few remaining stands of cathedral-like white pines is maintained here in its natural condition. Natural features of the area are interpreted along a trail and camping facilities are available.

Contact: Resource Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Potlatch Ranger Station, Potlatch, Idaho 83855, (208) 875-3311.

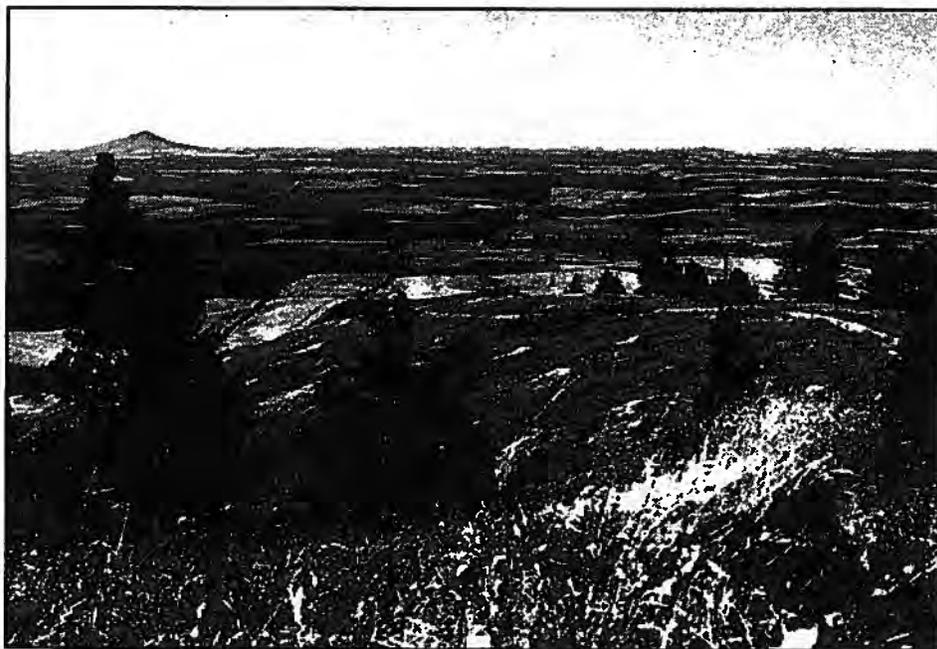
COEUR D'ALENE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - 5,500 acres; located between Harrison and Rose Lake on State Highway 3 and Highway 95. The Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area is managed primarily for waterfowl and fur bearers, which are abundant spring through fall. The area includes the Coeur d'Alene River and nine lowland lakes and hundreds of acres of shallow marshlands. Tours can be arranged in advance which include wildlife walks and boat trips. The management area's abundant water provides access for canoeing, boating, fishing, camping, and swimming. Wildlife observation and photography are best pursued in the early spring. The area is managed to allow it to remain in a

natural and wild state. Disturbance of the area in any form is not tolerated, and disturbing wildlife is prohibited. Campfires during the closed-fire season are prohibited except on beach sites.

Contact: Manager, Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Route 2, Box 176, Harrison, Idaho 83833, (208) 689-3259 or 689-3453.

TURNBULL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - 15,500 acres; 10 miles southwest of Cheney, Washington. Located in the scab land country southwest of Spokane, Washington, this mosaic of potholes, basalt rock, bunchgrass and ponderosa pine is an important waterfowl nesting and resting area. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2,200 acres of this refuge are open to the public year-round. Internal to the refuge are two Research Natural Areas: Pine Creek (600 acres) and Turnbull Pines (300 acres) which are closed to the public.

A self-guiding five-mile auto tour route takes visitors through many forests and wetlands. A handicapped access boardwalk provides additional opportunities for viewing deer, elk, and other mammals. Nearly 216 species of birds have been



Southwest view from Four Corners area. Kamiak Butte in background.

reported living in the area. Rest rooms are provided. Off-road vehicles, shooting, trapping, and camping are prohibited.

Contact: Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Attn: Refuge Manager, 26010 South Smith Road, Cheney, WA 99004, (509) 235-4723.

LAIRD PARK TRAIL - Half-mile trail; 4.5 miles northeast of Harvard on Highway 95A. The forest environment of Laird Park, located in the St. Joe National Forest, contains giant stands of western red cedar and western white pines. White fir, western hemlock, lodgepole, and ponderosa pine also are found here. Some of the common trees of the area are labeled along the half-mile trail. Picnic and camping facilities are located nearby.

Contact: Resource Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Potlatch Ranger Station, Potlatch, Idaho 83855, (208) 875-3311.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXPERIMENTAL FOREST - 7,300 acres; 27 miles northwest of Moscow, Idaho. Managed by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences of the University of Idaho, this forested area in the Moscow Mountain Range provides an outdoor classroom, and research and demonstration area for the university and for Idaho citizens. Forests range from ponderosa pine and Douglas fir to hemlock and subalpine fir. Ten conifer species grow there with a wide array of other plants, animals, and birds.

Managed as a working and active forest, examples of various silvicultural practices and management techniques are always evident. There are four natural areas totaling 450 acres. A five-mile self-guided driving tour and three three-quarter mile self-guided trails are used to interpret forest-management practices, woodlot management, land-use history, and ecology. The Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area is a limited day-use public recreation area where overnight camping is permitted but not encouraged as there are no facilities. (See Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area).

Contact: Forest Manager, Experimental Forest, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 885-6444.

CAMP N-SID-SEN - 284 acres; nine miles north of Harrison on Highway 95A. Camp N-Sid-Sen is made up of mixed pine and fir forests with grass- and fern-covered meadows. The camp also has 4,400 feet of water frontage including one small bay, a creek, and a small marsh area. The land is divided into five management areas which range from natural areas to managed timber.

The camp is currently used by the Mead School District for environmental education programs, and the Inland Empire Natural Resources Camp is held here each summer. Recreational activities include swimming, canoeing, fishing, volleyball, field sports, horseshoes, hiking, and box hockey. There is also a children's play area, cabins, campsites, a main lodge, drinking water, and sanitary and kitchen facilities.

Contacts: Managing Director, Route 2, Box 34, Harrison, Idaho 83833, (208) 689-3489.

Inland Empire Natural Resources Camp, c/o Extension Forester, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 885-6444.

MINERAL RIDGE SCENIC AREA - 152 acres; seven miles east of Coeur d'Alene on Highway 95A. Mineral Ridge Scenic Area, presents a lofty overlook of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Mineral deposits in the area, formed from geological pressures, incurred heavy mining from the 1880s to the 1920s. Geologic formations and forest environment make the site valuable as an outdoor classroom.

The living environment is presented through the use of interpretive trail signs and teaching stations. Nearly 50 species of perennial plants and trees, plus spring and summer flowering annuals, are identified with name plates. Many of the natural factors influencing the forest environment, such as soil, insects, and para-



*Wildflowers
in spring,
McCroskey
State Park.*

sitic and saprophytic plants add interest to the three-mile nature hike. Programs can be presented at the site upon advance request. A teacher's guide is available. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Land Management District Office, Coeur d'Alene. Picnic, sanitary facilities, and shelters are available. No vehicle travel is allowed on trails.

Contact: Recreation Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene District Office, 1808 North Third Street, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814, (208) 667-2561, Ext. 356.

HOB0 CEDAR GROVE - 240 acres; 12 miles northeast of Clarkia on Merry Creek Road. The grove presents itself as a thick wall

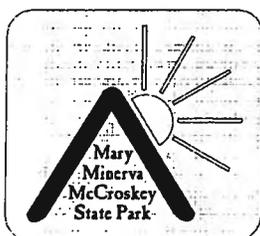
of coniferous vegetation characterized by the shaggy bark and limp limbs of the western red cedar. Head-high mountain maple and alders line the area's outer boundary. It is classified as a botanical preserve to protect this stand of giant cedars. Many logged portions are adjacent to the grove or nearby on Hobo Pass and present a vivid contrast.

To allow the grove to be preserved in a near-natural condition, picking flowers or collecting plant specimens is discouraged.

Contact: Resource Assistant, St. Maries District, USDA Forest Service, Federal Building, Box 407, St. Maries, Idaho 83861, (208) 245-2531.

Chapter Four

Land Use and Facility Design



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SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE

PARK CLASSIFICATION

A well-balanced recreation system requires the use of a broad range of resources in varying combinations. These vary from intensively developed sites providing diverse recreational opportunities for large groups, to undisturbed primitive areas providing natural enjoyment for limited numbers. An individual park within the system cannot be all things to all people. The classification process precludes this tendency by determining the values and dominant character of a park and defining parameters that will guide its development.

Park Classification System

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has implemented a classification system establishing five park categories: Natural Park, Recreational Park, Historical Park, Cultural Park, and Off-Road Vehicle Park. Each classification has unique qualifications, a distinct purpose, compatible uses, appropriate development intensity, and specific management principles.

Classification of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park

Natural areas of national and statewide significance, a unique telescoping of ecological diversity, breathtaking panoramic vistas, and

inspirational solitude are the park's primary resources. These features, in conjunction with Virgil T. McCroskey's passion for trees and conservation ethic, implore that Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park receive a Natural-Park designation. The following purpose statement and classification criteria outlined in *A Classification System for the Recreation Resources* in the State of Idaho support this determination:

Natural-Park Purpose

A Natural Park is established to protect and perpetuate spacious areas of Idaho that possess exceptional resource value and illustrate the state's natural heritage. The purpose is also to provide for the use and enjoyment of these areas in a manner that will enhance our understanding and appreciation of these resources while leaving them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Resource and Site Qualifications

A Natural Park must contain natural resources of statewide significance. This means that the area is judged as representing a high quality, unique natural area, or that the area contains unspoiled, unique, or natural values of sufficient extent and importance to meaningfully contribute to Idaho's natural heritage.

The Natural Park should contain natural resources and values that will attract visitors from all areas of the state and possibly from outside the state. This includes botanical, zoological, geological, and mineralogical resources or scenic qualities which are both beautiful and representative of Idaho.

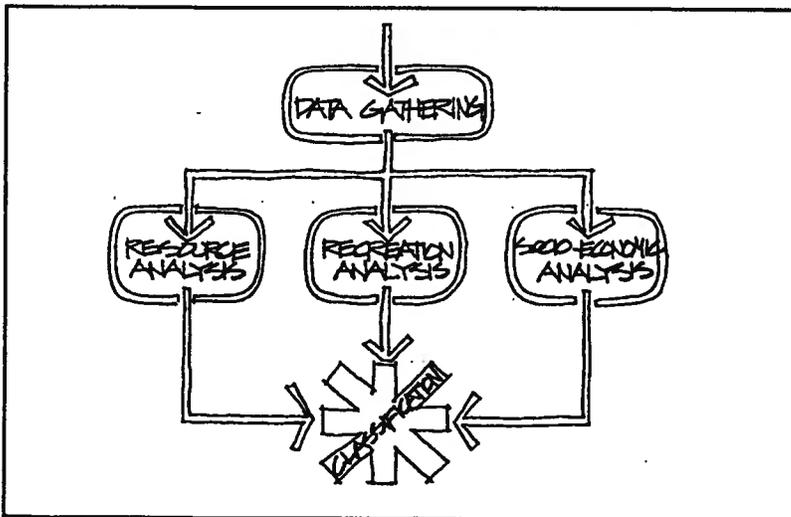
The Natural Park should be large enough to allow effective management of a continuous representative of indigenous plant or animal communities (or other important value, such as scenic) and provide a wide range of opportunities for public enjoyment in a natural setting consistent with the preservation of the values that merited the park's establishment.

Locations and Distribution

Natural Parks should be established where significant and unique aspects of Idaho's natural heritage exist.

Table 4.1

Park classification process.



... You understand, I am sure, my great desire to preserve some of the forest in its natural state of wild beauty and grandeur.

—Virgil T. McCroskey

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is to preserve, perpetuate, and interpret the existing remnants of old-growth forest and the great ecological diversity within the park boundaries. The scenic vistas and panoramic views offered by the ridge road, and the tranquil environments fostering communion with nature, are features of equal importance, and should be protected and enhanced. The innovative utilization of the park as a resource for environmental education and scientific study is to be emphasized. Trails use, and other recreational activities inspired by the natural character of the park, are of secondary importance, and are to be accommodated in a manner compatible with the primary resources. Physical development should be of limited intensity, incorporating rustic design and natural materials to convey a wilderness character and establish a pioneer theme.

Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park as a Natural Park

The following management principles, compatible uses, and development guidelines have been established for natural parks in Idaho, and must be reflected in the general development plan:

Management Principals

Resource management shall be directed at preserving, perpetuating, and interpreting the natural values of the park. Management should seek to maintain a balance in the ecological community. Management of resources of secondary significance should be compatible with the primary resource for which the area was established.

Compatible Visitor Uses

In the broadest sense, appropriate park use falls predominantly into the aesthetic portion of the recreational spectrum, and should be determined by the opportunities and limitations of the primary resource. Appropriate visitor use includes both interpretation and outdoor recreation in a natural setting. An imaginative interpretive pro-

gram which provides this understanding is essential to the success of a natural park. Interpretive programs should be designed to create a greater awareness and understanding of the natural and cultural environment of the site and the forces that formed it.

In addition to being an outdoor classroom for conservation education, a natural park is a place for participating in outdoor recreational activities inspired by the natural character and features of the park. Activities which meet his criteria may be provided to the extent that they do not disturb the environmental characteristic or introduce artificial elements into the natural scene. Compatible uses include hiking trails, camping, nature study, photography, picnicking, and other uses based on the preservation of natural resources.

Development Character

Natural Parks are not intended to accommodate all forms or unlimited volumes of recreational use. Physical developments shall be provided as necessary to accommodate the resource use. Design, quantity, and location

of all facilities shall be complimentary to the environment.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

1. NATURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT

GOAL 1 - Encourage wildlife to reside within the park.

Objectives:

1.1 Improve wildlife habitat within the park.

1.2 Enforce board rule prohibiting the discharge of firearms and the molestation of animals within park boundaries.

GOAL 2 - Protect identified natural areas and examples of old growth.

Objective:

1.2 Create a specific management plan for the six designated natural areas within the park.

2. EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION ELEMENT

GOAL - Promote the utilization of the park by diverse groups as an outdoor classroom for environmental education, ecological awareness and scientific study.

Objectives:

2.1 Prepare self-guided tour for Skyline Drive motorists.

2.2 Develop interpretive stations along Skyline Drive.

2.3 Develop short, nature-trail loops from picnic sites and interpretive stations.

3. PHILOSOPHICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ELEMENT

GOAL - Park development and use should reflect the philosophies and aspirations of Virgil T. McCroskey.

Objectives:

3.1 Preserve the atmosphere within the park that fosters heightened perception, introspection and communion with nature.

3.2 Provide access to tranquil areas for "seekers of solitude."

4. VISUAL ELEMENT

GOAL - Maximize opportunities for appreciation of the visual resources.

Objectives:

4.1 Protect scenic quality and open space values.

4.2 Construct "scenic overlooks" along Skyline Drive in areas of exceptional panoramic opportunity.

4.3 Establish a vista point on Mineral Mountain.

4.4 Enhance views where appropriate by selective removal of vegetation.

5. RECREATION ELEMENT

GOAL - Satisfy a portion of the regional recreational needs identified in the SCORP that are compatible with the "natural" classification of the park.

Objectives:

5.1 Develop multi-purpose trails utilizing existing abandoned logging roads within the park.

5.2 Establish a limited number of primitive backcountry campsites.

5.3 Provide additional picnic areas accessible from Skyline Drive.

6. LAND OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

GOAL - Strive for IDPR ownership or cooperative management of all land within the "optimum park boundary." (See Map 5.1)

Objectives:

6.1 Acquire public and private land adjacent to Skyline Drive (foreground view shed.)

6.2 Acquire or dispose of land as necessary for cost-effective implementation of the plan.

6.3 Secure agreements with adjacent public landowners adopting land management practices compatible with park goals.

7. DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

GOAL - Minimize physical development

and its intrusion upon the natural environment.

Objectives:

7.1 Essential structures should be of a rustic character and express a "pioneer" design theme.

7.2 Utilize natural, indigenous materials in construction.

8. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION ELEMENT

GOAL - Provide a safe and pleasurable driving experience for the motoring public.

Objectives:

8.1 Modify existing circulation pattern to enhance visitor perception.

8.2 Provide a safe vehicle access from Highway 95.

8.3 Improve surface and drainage along Skyline Drive.

8.4 Provide vehicle turnouts at convenient intervals.

8.5 Construct trailhead parking facilities.

8.6 Eliminate north-slope road alignments where possible.

8.7 Provide adequate road signage and mileage markers.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

GOAL - Safeguard the health and safety of park visitors.

Objectives:

9.1 Develop multiple sources of potable water within the park.

9.2 Construct additional vault toilet facilities at convenient intervals.

9.3 Locate and mark park boundaries.

10. MANAGEMENT/IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

GOAL - Minimize IDPR manpower requirements for park operation.

Objectives:

10.1 Encourage the formation of a formal park association to further goals, identified

in the plan.

10.2 Seek youth group involvement in volunteer projects.

10.3 Construct self-service orientation/interpretive kiosks at major park entrances.

10.4 Use ITD Mineral Mountain rest stop as east end "anchor" facility.

10.5 Seek outside partners to assist in the improvement of Skyline Drive.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The recommended development plan suggests strengthening the recreational features and opportunities of the park, while protecting its natural values. Major aspects of the plan focus on enhancement of the visitor experience, user safety, protection of natural areas, and sensitive development within the environment. The following improvements are necessary to assure optimum public access, use, and enjoyment of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

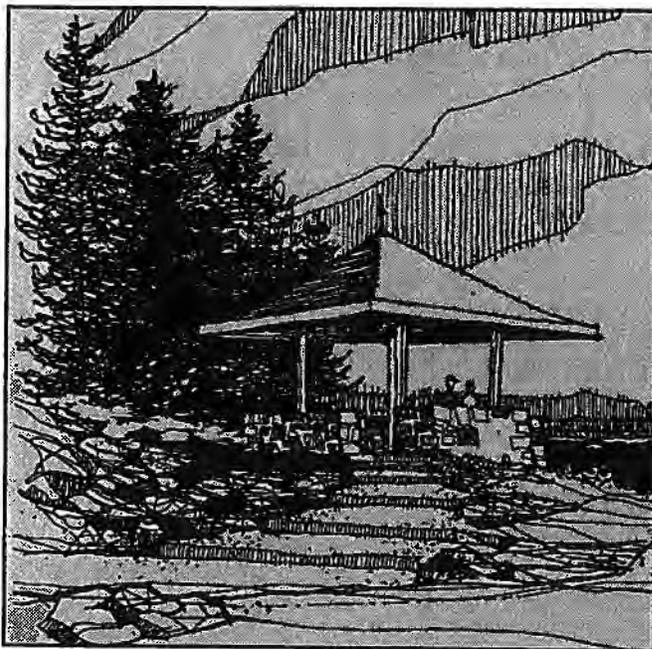
U. S. HIGHWAY 95 ENTRANCE

The hazardous access situation that exists at the eastern terminus of Skyline Drive needs to be addressed. A turning lane at the top of Marsh Hill would provide a temporary solution. A radical ITD-Highway 95 realignment in the Marsh Hill area could straighten out the existing curve and provide an opportunity for a safe entrance using the abandoned roadway section. One drawback of this option is that Skyline Drive in this area is located on a north-facing slope. Snow accumulation on this stretch of road delays the park's spring opening.

The preferred long-term solution is to create

*I will improve
and maintain
the drive as
long as I am
able to do so
... and I hope
to provide for
its upkeep
after I am
gone.*
--Virgil T.
McCroskey

*Figure 4.1
Conceptual
Mineral
Mountain
overlook
structure.*



a new park entrance road south of the Mineral Mountain rest stop. In this area, Highway 95 is straight, and a long turning lane is provided for access to the rest area. An entrance in this area would require the construction of approximately one mile of new gravel roadway. This alignment would: (1) traverse a south-facing slope as it ascends to its junction with Skyline Drive; (2) utilize the existing (extended) turning lane on Highway 95; (3) provide access to a potential visitor center site with panoramic views to the south and east; and (4), provide park visitors convenient access to the facilities available at the Mineral Mountain rest area. This solution would require considerable land acquisition, as the park currently owns almost no property with Highway 95 frontage.

PARK-ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Skyline Drive will receive continuous upgrading until it is a 18-foot wide gravel surface. Roadside ditches are to be improved and culverts installed in areas prone to erosion. Trees and undergrowth adjacent to the roadway that restrict its width and pose a traffic hazard will be removed. Passing turn-outs should be provided where needed and practical. During latter stages of development similar improvements are to be made to

Mission Mountain and Mineral Mountain summit roads and future campground-access roads.

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY

The provision of drinking water is critical to the park's success. The provision of potable water is complicated by the park's lack of substantial water resources. The plan ultimately calls for the phased provision of two additional water sources along Skyline Drive. Currently, drinking water is available only at the Mineral Mountain rest area which will continue to be the primary water source at the park's eastern end. Initial improvements will include a potable water well at the future Cedar Springs campsite midway through the park. Latter stages will include an electric motor-driven well, supply piping, and a water storage tank at Four Corners intersection at the park's western end.

RESTROOM FACILITIES

The Mineral Mountain rest area will also serve as the park's primary eastern-end rest room facility. Vault or clivus-multrum toilet facilities will be constructed at the primary group picnic area, Cedar Springs campsite, and at the Four Corners entrance area at the park's western end. The construction of rest rooms at these sites place them at regular intervals on Skyline Drive. They will also be located in the areas of greatest potential use.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

To assist visitor orientation, mile posts will be installed along Skyline Drive at one-mile intervals. These signs will display the marker's distance from Highway 95. At major road intersections along Skyline Drive, directional signage will be installed that detail the direction and distance to nearby towns and landmarks. When Skyline Drive is improved ad-

Example of orientation/interpretive kiosk panel.



equately to safely handle increased traffic, directional signage will be installed on Highway 95 and on the DeSmet-Andrews Springs Road.

ORIENTATION/ INTERPRETATION KIOSKS

This plan proposes the installation of seven orientation/interpretation kiosks along Skyline Drive. These limited-scale rustic timber structures are being provided to: (1) orient the visitor within the park and pin-point their exact location; (2) exhibit interpretive displays; and (3), post general information helpful to park visitors. To accomplish these aims, kiosks are proposed for construction at park entrances, at significant natural resources, and at locations offering exceptional panoramic views. These structures must be easy to construct, economical, vandal-resistant, and easily winterized.

VISTA-POINT ENHANCEMENT

Vista points are to be provided along Skyline Drive. These sites will offer an off-road gravel parking area for a minimum of two vehicles, and provide safe, accessible paths to the

principle view points. In these areas, trees and undergrowth in the foreground that interfere with panoramic viewing are to be removed. As funds become available, interpretive panels will be installed at these locations.

MINERAL MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK

The summit of Mineral Mountain is the premiere vista point in the park environs, and is currently owned by the USFS. During the latter phase of park development, an overlook structure similar to the one in Figure 4.1 is proposed for construction at the summit.

CAMPSITES

McCroskey State Park offers endless opportunities for low-impact camping; however, few areas within the park can accommodate a typical primitive campground facility. The Cedar Springs site was selected because: (1) it is relatively level and has potential for future expansion; it is located approximately mid-park; it is located off of Skyline Drive, yet easily accessible via an existing cut-off road; and it is likely that a well can be drilled to intercept the groundwater source

supplying Cedar Springs. This camping area is to initially consist of six camping spurs and defined hardened living pads which offer picnic tables and grills, an ADA-accessible vault toilet rest room, and a potable water well. The cut-off road will need to be improved and gravel surfaced to provide access to the site.

The Iron Mountain campsite was selected for construction during a latter phase for many of the same reasons as outlined above, with the notable exception that the development of a potable water supply is not as likely at this location.

PICNIC AREAS

The existing group picnic area will continue to serve as the park's group day-use area and picnic facility. As development progresses, a defined gravel parking area, a new vault toilet facility, and a covered picnic shelter will enhance the site's utility. As visitation increases, additional individual picnic sites will be scattered along Skyline Drive. Each will offer a panoramic backdrop and one or two picnic tables. These sites are to be established a sufficient distance from Skyline Drive to be buffered from its impacts.

TRAILS and TRAILHEADS

One of the finest recreational features of McCroskey Park is the opportunity for the creation of an extensive and dispersed multiple-use trails system. Its 35 miles of abandoned logging roads provide a resource base that can accommodate virtually all forms of trails use with little potential for conflict. To anchor the initial phase of this system, a trailhead and potable water source will be constructed at Four Corners intersection. Future phases will include the construction of similar facilities (with the exception of a potable water source) at the Log Landing site, which will access 11 miles of trail known locally as the Old Corinth Road.

VISITOR CENTER

During the final phase of development, a small visitor center is proposed for construction approximately one-half mile from the park's new eastern entrance. This location is close enough

to Highway 95 that it could be open year-round, and provide exceptional panoramic views. The site is close to utilities, and visitors could benefit from the site's proximity to the Mineral Mountain rest area. The building will incorporate a workshop to facilitate park-maintenance activities.

STAFF RESIDENCE

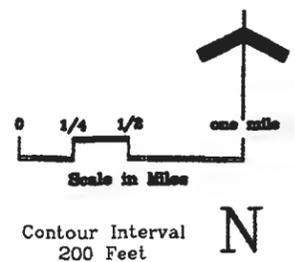
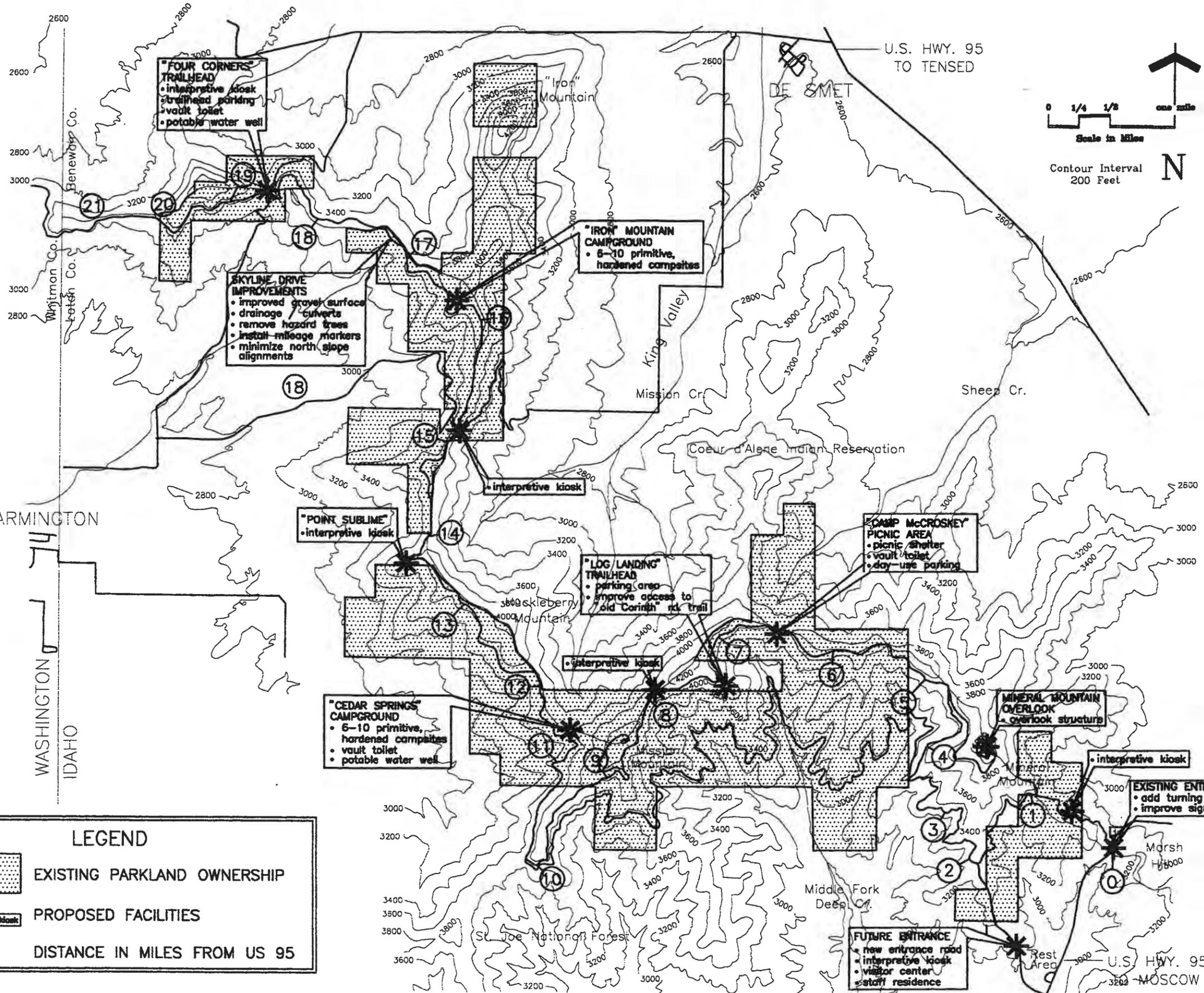
When housing staff on-site becomes a necessity, a staff residence will be located near Highway 95. This location was selected for many of the same reasons as the visitor center location. Staff residing at this location can monitor vehicles entering the park from Highway 95 and provide security for the visitor center, which will be the most valuable, and vulnerable, facility in the park.

LAND-USE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

IDPR is charged with the dual mission of protecting and preserving the resources of the state park system, and providing recreation opportunities and facilities for the public. The establishment and classification of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park as a Natural Park recognizes the significant natural resources of the site. These resources present diverse recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities.

A land-use plan (Map 4.1) defines the pattern for the fabric of human activity in a given area. It establishes the character of a place by determining what happens, where it happens, and to what degree it happens. It defines travel routes and use areas, as well as nonuse areas targeted to remain free of human influence. It controls use and development, and arranges park activities and facilities so that visitors may enjoy the recreational, educational, and spiritual experiences the park has to offer, without destroying the very resources that initially attracted them to the area.



FARMINGTON
 WASHINGTON
 IDAHO

LEGEND

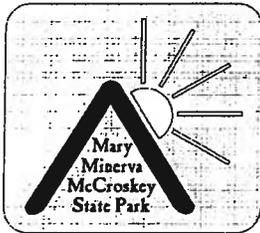
- EXISTING PARKLAND OWNERSHIP
- PROPOSED FACILITIES
- DISTANCE IN MILES FROM US 95

LAND-USE PLAN
 MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

MAP 4.1
 Page 68

Chapter Five

Implementation



PRIORITIES for DEVELOPMENT

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FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

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MAP

5.1 LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

73

For almost 27 years I have been working on a park project in northern Idaho . . . I have devoted all these years to this project. I have done nothing else - I work up there almost every day, weather permitting.

--Virgil T. McCroskey

PRIORITIES for DEVELOPMENT

The four levels of priority assigned to the proposed development at McCroskey State Park generally reflect a perceived level of need as visitation to the park increases. Actions in each group are presented in a recommended sequence. No time limit has been attached to any of the phases with the understanding that development will occur as funding, time, and labor become available. It should be treated only as a guideline.

As facilities are developed, it will be prudent to evaluate how they are used and to determine what future development is appropriate to accommodate visitors and their needs within the constraints of this plan. The cost estimates associated with the proposals are broad in scope, but consistent with the level of detail developed in the plan.

Priority One actions, those that should be made in the relatively near future, represent changes needed to better protect visitor health and safety, and assist visitor orientation.

The intent of Priority Two actions is to interpret the park's values, primarily from Skyline Drive, in a cost-effective manner, and to provide improved access to the existing trail system. At this stage, the facilities proposed represent minor changes to existing conditions and will require no additional park staff to operate and maintain.

As visitation increases, Priority Three actions provide increased trail access, additional interpretive opportunities, and the provision of primitive camping facilities. At this stage, park operation can continue to be accomplished by on-site seasonal staff.

Priority Four actions are appropriate in the distant future, when, as a result of previous improvements, the park has been "discovered" and visitation is heavy. These

actions decisively address the Highway 95 entrance situation and increase the emphasis placed on visitor services oriented toward environmental awareness. Implementation of this phase will require substantial funding and the commitment to provide one full-time employee housed in the park.

Each of the four phases place a high priority on the continued upgrading of Skyline Drive, which is the backbone of all activities within the park.

PRIORITY ONE

1. East entrance improvements at Highway 95 (lobby for inclusion in ITD's Marsh Hill project).
 2. Milepost installation at one-mile intervals along Skyline Drive; \$1,500.
 3. Gravel-surface Skyline Drive throughout park and improve roadway drainage at \$5,000/mile; \$100,000. (On-going during all phases, \$25,000 per phase.)
 4. Install potable water well at site of future primitive campground on cut-off road above Cedar Springs at mile 11.3; \$12,000.
 5. East entrance orientation/interpretation kiosk at mile 0.9; \$7,500.
 6. West entrance orientation/interpretation kiosk at Four Corners at mile 18.6; \$7,500.
 7. Vista-point enhancement along Skyline Drive; \$10,000.
- Total Priority One improvements - \$63,500**

PRIORITY TWO

1. Skyline Drive improvements; \$25,000.
2. Build a picnic shelter, vault toilet, and improve day-use parking area at group picnic area on Skyline Drive, mile 6.5; \$45,000.
3. King Valley-Farmington Road orientation/interpretative kiosk on Skyline

Drive, mile 15.5; \$7,500.

4. King Valley Orientation/Interpretive kiosk on Skyline Drive, mile 7.9; \$7,500.

5. Vista Point orientation/interpretive kiosk on Skyline Drive mile 13.8; \$7,500.

6. Provide trail-head parking and vault toilet facility at Four Corners, mile 18.6; \$20,000.

7. Construct primitive campsite area and vault toilet at Cedar Springs Campsite, mile 11.3; \$20,000.

**Total Priority Two improvements -
\$132,500**

PRIORITY THREE

1. Skyline Drive improvements; \$25,000.

2. Drill water well, install storage tank at Four Corners, mile 18.6; \$20,000.

3. New eastern access to park. Access Highway 95 just south of Mineral Mountain rest stop; 5,000 feet of new gravel roadway; \$150,000.

4. Construct new east entrance orientation/interpretation kiosk half mile on new entrance road; \$7,500.

5. Install a normally locked gate across Skyline Drive at east park boundary, mile 0.4, and provide turn-around at gate; \$2,000.

6. West end orientation/interpretive kiosk at proposed national natural landmark site, mile 19.5; \$7,500.

**Total Priority Three improvements -
\$212,000**

PRIORITY FOUR

1. Skyline Drive improvements; \$25,000.

2. Construct park-staff residence in vicinity of Mineral Mountain rest stop; access via new park entrance road; \$75,000.

3. Install locking park gate across Skyline Drive at park's western extremity, mile 19.7, provide turn-around; \$2,000.

4. Relocate Skyline Drive near western entrance to south slope, Pfaff farms parcel, mile 18; \$50,000.

5. Construct Mineral Mountain overlook at summit of Mineral Mountain; USFS parcel; \$15,000.

6. Construct visitor/environmental education center a half-mile up new entrance road from Highway 95; \$175,000.

**Total Priority Four improvements -
\$342,000**

**TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS,
ALL IMPROVEMENTS - \$750,000**

FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

The acquisition of additional park land is necessary to implement the stated goals of: (1) Contiguous park ownership along the entire length of Skyline Drive; (2) The protection of significant viewsheds along the Skyline Drive visual corridor; (3) The elimination of north-slope road alignments; (4) The provision of safe vehicle access from Highway 95; and (5) The consolidation of park land ownership to simplify park management.

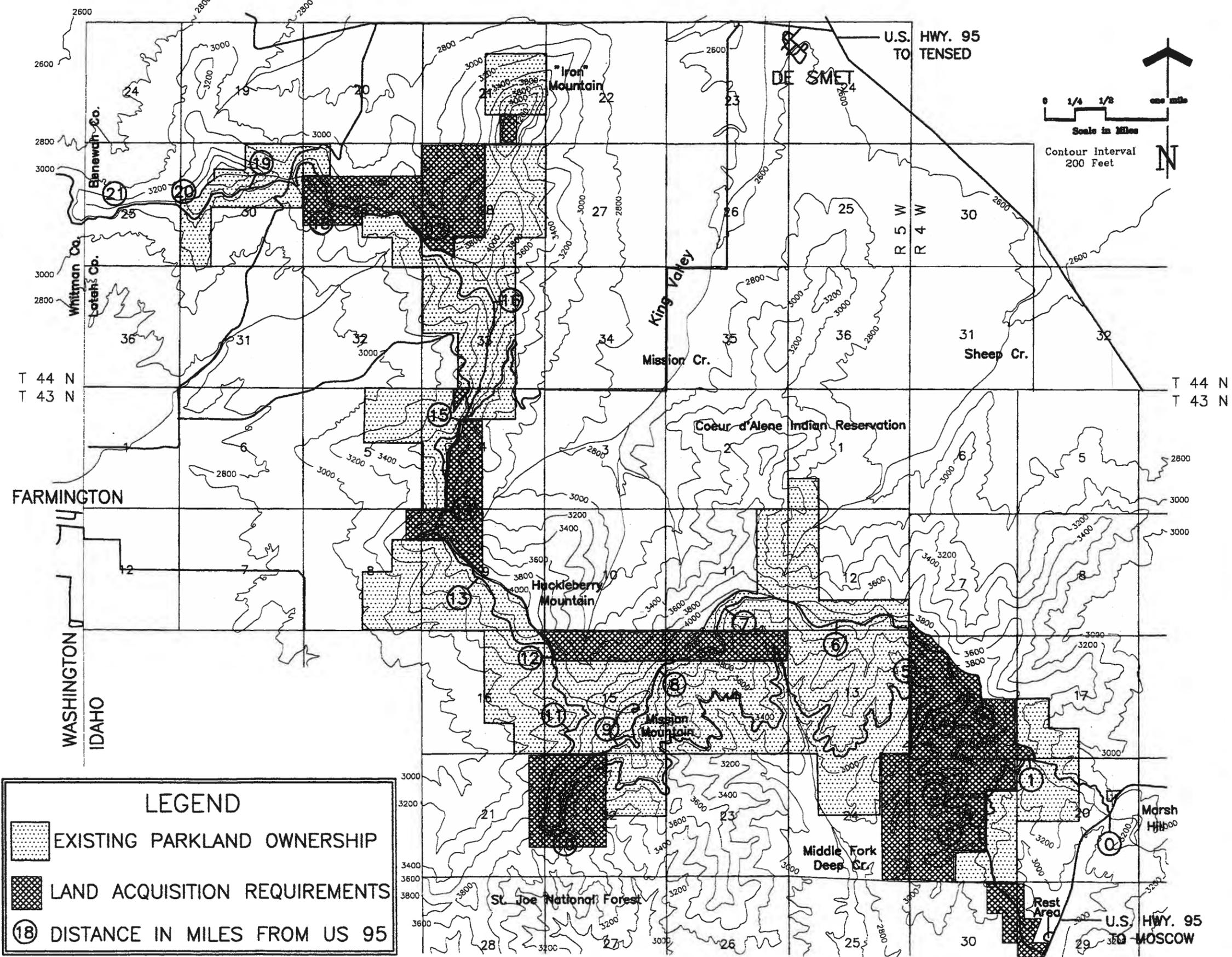
The parcels identified on Map 5.1 are necessary to achieve these aims, and should be targeted for acquisition. The potential for creative land exchanges with the USFS, private landowners, and various timber companies should be explored as an alternative to outright purchase of these areas. A review of Virgil McCroskey's correspondence revealed that he, too, employed this technique in his efforts to achieve identical goals half a century ago.

Prior to any land exchange, it should be determined that: (1) Park lands proposed for disposal are identified as surplus, utilizing the criteria outlined above; (2) Existing natural areas are safeguarded; and (3) Significant examples of all habitat types found along this vegetational gradient are retained in park ownership.

*... It my desire
that emphasis be
placed on
acquisition of
additional land
areas for the park
and possibly some
reforestation.*
--Excerpt for Virgil
T. McCroskey's
Last Will and
Testament

Winter in McCroskey State Park.





LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS
 MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

Chapter Six

Park Management



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A project such as this park will endure, that's my enjoyment out of it, and probably that's the reason why I'm doing it. I've come to realize also that I'm far happier doing something for someone else than I was just doing things for myself.

--Virgil T. McCroskey

MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Importance

Park and recreation management is people managing land and facilities for people. To effectively manage park and recreation areas it is necessary to know what is being managed (the natural and manufactured facilities), why it is being managed (the reason for the park or recreation facility), and for whom it is being managed (the users).

Management planning is important to protect ecosystems, recreation areas, facilities and structures, historic sites, and other park resources from damage. An operating management plan can help prevent or minimize damage. The procedures established in the plan must provide directions to mitigate or prevent damage in the future.

While most visitors profess, often in good faith, a commitment to the environment, many are unaware of the dynamics of the outdoor environment and the effects of their recreational activities on the ecological processes within a park. The environmental impact of recreation use - overuse, abuse, and misuse - often takes years to heal. The management plan provides the means by which to guide visitor use and to reduce the inevitable environmental impact associated with their use.

The management plan can be the most important document available to management personnel. Without the plan's direction, most park management, operation, and programming is destined to be uncoordinated at best, and often inadequate, intermittent, and largely ineffective. The management plan also eliminates the possibility of unintentional resource mismanagement by well-meaning but unguided park personnel.

Purpose

The management plan for Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park shall establish the overall direction of visitor and resource management, both manufactured and natural. It shall be used as the basis for ongoing, day-to-day management decisions and actions. The plan translates agency policy into courses of action necessary for achieving and maintaining desired resource

conditions and program direction. The plan shall provide direction for the progressive and orderly resource management, maintenance, operation, and programming of the park. It shall establish guidelines that will help preserve the park's resources for continued availability while providing optimum conditions for visitor use. Above all, the management plan shall be a working document for continuous use by those responsible for the park's management.

The management plan shall consider both the natural and the cultural features of the park's resource base provided in previous chapters. The implementation strategy shall provide monitoring measures to assess progress in implementing the management plan, and should provide means for identifying and solving future problems. As new information becomes available, the plan should establish a procedure to implement the relevant findings and to update the document and subsequent management direction.

One of the most important functions of the plan is to provide for continuity as management personnel changes occur; the plan continues even as management personnel come and go.

Implementation and Utilization

A management plan is only worth preparing if it is implemented and used. This must be practiced at all levels within the IDPR. Decision-makers, middle management technical and supervisory staff and field staff must support and carry out its directives.

Without the support of the technical, supervisory, and management staff the management plan will not be effective. This personnel must be available to provide assistance when needed. Through their allocation of resources to reinforce approved management plan efforts and discouraging and withholding assistance in nonapproved directions, decision makers also can materially aid in carrying out the plan.

An activity that will help assure use of the management plan is to conduct an annual review of the park to determine how well it is being followed. Incorporated in this review

should be an evaluation of the plan's effectiveness. During this review, adjustments needed in the plan should be discussed and necessary changes noted. If any deviation from the plan is observed, a written justification should be prepared by the field staff. If the changes are found desirable, the management plan should be revised to incorporate them.

The following practical management plan for Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park was written with the manager in mind.

The plan is designed to provide park personnel with a working document that can be continually consulted to provide day-to-day guidance in the management of the park's resources. The plan is written to be easily understood and identifies specific implementation actions. It is, ideally, easy to work with, update and/or change as needed.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Edited and revised from the Heyburn Forest Management Plan by Harold Osborne, Professor of Forestry, University of Idaho

Introduction

Forest management involves the use of forests to meet the objectives of landowners and society. While the objectives may change and the means to reach them become sophisticated, forest management still is the attempt to guide forests toward a society's goals.

A forest manager is the catalyst of this effort and, as such, needs the earthy and intimate understanding of a botanist, the long-range viewpoint of a planner, the skills of an administrator, and the alertness, flexibility, and all-around resourcefulness of a successful business executive. Above all, the forest manager requires a genuine sense and feeling for the forest as an entity. Every forest offers a real and living individuality. Recognizing this uniqueness while applying the principles of management is the heart of forest management. (Davis and Johnson, 1987).

It is necessary for private and especially public land managers to consider all timber-management decisions in the context of a larger, socially defined, multiple-use management framework.

A quantitative justification that management recommendations, decisions, and plans will satisfy owner constraints and that they are the best of the alternative choices is also needed for sound management of forests. (Davis and Johnson, 1987).

Under strictly natural conditions, a forest is generally a self-perpetuating system that does not require management. It goes on indefinitely in one form or another, but it can be modified and changed in many ways. Decisions made and actions taken now may have effects and consequences felt many decades into the future. A high degree of responsibility and stewardship is essential.

The time period required to produce a forest of merchantable-size trees varies from as little as 35 years in the southeast to over 80 years in the Rocky Mountains. The development process is not only long, but also complex. It involves establishment of young individuals of pioneer species (first stage of a plant community's ecological development), growth and replacement by other species through a complex set of interactions that form the basis of the science of ecology. This ecological development is called succession.

Silviculture

Through the practice of silviculture--care and management of the forests--many people may affect the succession of a forest. Their treatment may be designed to maintain the status quo, speed succession, or set it back to an earlier stage. A planting may speed the succession by establishing a species that is characteristic of later stages while selective harvesting of scattered trees will maintain a mature stand's structure and composition without allowing succession to proceed to an over-mature or climax forest.

So long as it
belongs to the state
it is safe from the
woodman's ax . . .
and that is our
chief anxiety up
there.
--Virgil T.
McCroskey

A silvicultural system is simply the method selected to grow and reproduce the forest in a way that combines the biological needs of the species and the personal objectives of the owner. Unfortunately, the biological needs sometimes take a back seat to the owner's objectives.

The main purpose a particular tract of forested land is managed is determined by the ownership and the economic situation in which it must be operated. It is the prime responsibility to handle a tract to best serve the purpose of management. Forested lands are generally managed for a multitude of purposes, with one dominant use. A forested land can often be managed simultaneously for several uses and management of the whole is directed to achieve the greatest total benefit and value. In some cases, however, uses are incompatible with one another and the lesser must be subordinated to the more dominant. Recreation is an example that is so strongly a dominant use that timber cutting, grazing and hunting must be reduced.

Since Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is a natural park, its forest is to be managed as a natural forest. Although decisions to manage it this way may affect other uses, this predominant management direction must not vary. But again, any management decisions directed to enhance a natural forest can affect other uses of the forest.

Goals and Objectives

To achieve the overall forest management directives, goals and objectives are established. These, in conjunction with the IDPR policies, can give the long-term direction of the Forest Management Plan.

GOALS:

To improve the balance between the natural ecological process and the site's recreation uses.

To perpetuate the forest cover for future generations to enjoy.

To improve wildlife habitat and enhance wildlife populations.

To preserve diversity of vegetation.

To protect natural areas and examples of old growth.

To maintain the overall natural setting, but to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire.

OBJECTIVES:

To maintain the forest's naturally aesthetic setting, but reduce the catastrophic fire potential.

To identify forest concerns, management alternatives to correct them and potential benefits of each.

To enhance the area's wildlife populations.

To protect the park's watersheds.

To have the forest management plan as an integral part of the park's overall management plan and forest management practices interpreted for the public's understanding and knowledge.

Timber-Management Policy

The IDPR has adopted a policy which gives general outlines and direction for all forests within state parks. This policy sets the tone for Mary Minerva McCroskey's Vegetation Management Plan. The policy reads:

PAR. 5:73 - TIMBER-MANAGEMENT POLICY ON STATE PARK LANDS

Trees individually or combined in groves or major stands contribute to the scenic and aesthetic values of a recreation area. A tree of 12 inches or more in diameter represents a major investment and cannot be replaced generally, except by an investment in time. For these reasons, our objective will be to retain the individual trees and various stands of timber in as near a natural state as possible, including snags that are important to cavity-nesting birds.

A. Each tree considered for removal will be judged on its own merits.

B. Safety of the recreating public will be a major concern and any tree, because of physical condition or location that creates

a human hazard will be removed.

C. Damage to the rest of the stand through disease or insect infestation shall be sufficient cause for the removal of the infected trees.

D. Infestations dangerous to the residual stand, but capable of treatment without the loss of the tree, will be treated by the park staff or in widespread situations, as a cooperator with other timber groups.

E. Fire-killed and blow-down timber usually involves a considerable amount of timber and frequently becomes a source of damage by insects and disease to the rest of the stand. Trees of considerable volume will generally be salvaged both for the protection of the stand and for the monetary value they represent. Isolated trees that do not represent a hazard to the remaining stand may be left if it is not aesthetically undesirable and if the cost of removal is excessive. Fire killed and blow-down material should be salvaged when advisable at the earliest opportunity to retain as much of the quality of the timber as possible.

F. Trees may be removed from right-of-way clearings or other construction areas requiring open space. Considerable care will be exercised to limit the damage to the remaining trees. Only those trees will be removed which will be essential to the development.

G. Layout plans will give full consideration to saving unusual, historical or other trees significantly important, aesthetically, to the park area.

H. Under special circumstances, timber may be cut and harvested to re-establish an essential game range, to establish or preserve a spectacular view, to retain a desirable species, or to change the type to a species more suitable for park needs.

I. Under no circumstances will the commercial value of a tree within the park be considered as criteria for its removal.

J. Salvaged material from the trees removed under the above policy may be sold by the department in accordance with established procedure.

THE FOREST

As described in Chapter 2, Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is comprised of a mosaic of different forest and grassland vegetation. A large proportion of the forest contains from two to six or more conifer species and from 20 to 30 understory shrubs, forbs, and grasses. These species' rich and productive forest support a wide array of birds and animals.

Historically, insects, diseases, and wind-storms were important; fires were the most important and major influence in the forest ecosystem of this area. Logging began in the late 1870s and continued until the park land was gifted to the state of Idaho in 1955. Most of the timber harvest took the form of the selective removal of large trees of high economic value. The harvesting gave rise to stands with a variety of age classes while the fires gave rise to stands with a more even-aged character. Fires were important in that they reduced the buildup of woody fuel that increased the severity of wildfires. These same fires were also important in maintaining the forest in the more primary successional stages and in reducing the density of established conifer vegetation. Species such as ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas fir were favored by fire while species such as grand fir and Western red cedar were reduced.

Fire has been suppressed in Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park since the early 1900s, thereby allowing for major increases in the amount of woody debris and shrubs. Some of the problems associated with the lack of fire are:

1. The heavy accumulation of woody debris and litter on the forest floor which could fuel a catastrophic fire in the park. In addition, a dense understory of shrubs provides a ladder for fire to climb into the

tree canopy.

2. Increasing area of and density of climax tree species such as grand fir. In times of drought or of other stand stress factors, high levels of mortality will occur from the fire engraver beetle (*Scolytus ventralis*) and root diseases. Other tree species are also affected by their respective insect and disease pests such as Douglas fir beetle in Douglas fir and mountain pine beetle and western pine beetle in ponderosa pine. Mortality of trees results in a rapid fuel buildup.

3. Increased risk of mortality from defoliation due to the Douglas fir tussock moth. This insect causes its greatest damage to grand fir and Douglas fir stands of older ages on ridge-top sites in this area. Fire maintained the park area in a more seral composition, and lessened stand densities.

Fire

The frequency and intensity of fires partly determines whether forest stands will be young or old, even-aged or uneven-aged, and early successional or climax. These characteristics, in turn, affect wildlife populations, forest growth and insect and disease conditions. In nature, fire has always been as much of the environment as water, wind or snow. It is not a question of if a forest will burn, but when and how.

There are three general types of forest fires as defined by the U.S. Forest Service. They include ground, surface, and crown fires. Each of these may occur within the same fire. They are defined as:

1. Ground fires are those that burn the organic materials beneath the surface litter; that is, needles, leaves, and twigs on the forest floor. These fires burn in the organic material, which is in various stages of decomposition and which builds up on top of the mineral soil.

2. Surface fires are those that burn surface litter of loose debris on the forest floor and small vegetation. These are the most common kinds of fires. If there is an abundance of surface fuel, these fires may

burn up into the upper portion of the trees. This is called crowning out.

3. Crown fires are those that burn from tree top to tree top or shrub tops, sometimes independently of the surface fire. However, crown fires always start as surface fires. Of the three kinds of fires, crown fires are the fastest spreading.

Not all fires are destructive. In fact when controlled, it is highly useful and often indispensable. A term that reflects this concept is fire management.

Fire as a management tool can be used to dispose of slash, pockets of dense brush, and some other fire hazards. Periodic controlled burning often reduces the buildup of fuels so that if wildfire does strike, its effect on the standing trees will be minor. Fire can help prepare seedbeds or planting sites, and is helpful in changing or maintaining forest types. Burning of woody debris may release some of the nutrients previously locked up in organic matter into the soil where it can be made available to plants and fire is also known to directly inhibit certain pathogens.

The controlled use of fire to accomplish specific objectives is known as prescribed burning. For Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, the primary objective for a prescribed burn would be the reduction of fuel accumulations to lessen the probability of crown fires. However, such fires can achieve other benefits like preparation of a seedbed or improvement of wildlife habitat. Light or moderate fires, such as most prescribed burns, do not expose enough soil to cause serious erosion. Rarely do such fires burn down to mineral soil. These fires may kill some of the understory vegetation, but have little effect on the mature trees.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning requires careful planning to minimize risk and to enhance the likelihood that objectives will be met. Topography and fuel conditions of the treatment area should be assessed in terms of probable effects on fire behavior and desirable location of fuel breaks. It is frequently

useful to obtain quantitative estimates of fuel weights and depths by standardized sampling techniques. Samples of woody material and duff can also be transported to a lab to determine fuel moisture content as a percentage of oven-dry weight. This information can then be used for the fire prescription, which outlines the desired effects of the burn - the approximate amount of duff and fuels to be removed, the proportion of the area to have exposed mineral soil, the proportion of understory stems to be killed and the range of weather conditions under which the burning would be feasible.

Insects

Insects are a more destructive force in forests than wildfire. Unlike the spectacular destruction of fire insect damage is slower and the damage is less evident. That is until the insects become so numerous an epidemic ensues.

A primary determinant of insect population levels is the availability and condition of

food - that is, the species composition and stand structure are influencing factors in the population growth of insects. As a general rule, forests with the greatest diversity of tree species are more resistant to outbreaks of forest insects.

Control Alternatives

The decision to control insects must be based on a comprehensive review of all factors bearing on the management of the forest. Ecological, sociological, and economic implications must be weighed carefully. The use of silviculture methods for controlling pests is preventive instead of corrective and the effect may be reflected some years beyond the time after the practice is initiated. For example, the western pine beetle, a problem among mature trees and those of less vigor is controlled by thinning. Low vigor, thin-crowned and over-mature pines that are likely to become infested by the beetle may best be managed by a special cut to thin them.

Chemical Control

The application of chemical insecticides in the forest is an emergency undertaking designed to reduce damage immediately. If properly planned and carefully executed, application of the pesticide should have a negligible effect on the environment. The habits of the pest species, the area involved, the proximity of water and the potential for adverse impact on area wildlife all must be taken into account when considering if, which, when, how and how much pesticide is to be applied. The consequences are often felt for many years afterward.

Novel Chemical Approaches

Among the chemicals available for forest pest control are several that exploit an insect's particular biological characteristics. Many of the insect species' males are attracted to the female of the species by a particular identifying odor of a chemical substance that is secreted by the female called a pheromone. Chemists have synthesized this pheromone and it is used to lure the males into areas which are to be cut and, therefore, away from areas not to be cut. There are also repellent pheromone which work by telling the insects there is already an over popula-

Tree killed by natural forces--insects, fire or perhaps, lightening.



tion and they need to go elsewhere.

There are several other novel chemicals and many more are developing rapidly. Each must be carefully examined for their impact on target insects and on the flora and fauna of the entire forest ecosystem.

Forest Diseases

Although insects cause the highest mortality loss of trees, by far the largest growth losses are a result of tree diseases. The health of forest trees is affected by a number of factors that subject trees to stress. At any point in time several stress factors may operate concurrently so that the health of a tree may be determined by the total effect of all stresses.

Forest trees are subject to disease caused by adverse environmental influences and a variety of destructive agents. Disease can be defined as a malfunction of a metabolic process, or disturbance of normal structure, that is caused by continuous irritation by some abiotic or biotic agent.

Factors, including diseases, in forest trees are classed as abiotic (noninfectious, nonparasitic) or biotic (infectious, parasitic). A number of abiotic agents, including moisture and temperature extremes, can cause disease in trees. Nutrient excess or deficiency and toxic substances in the air or soil also are abiotic agents. Diseases caused by abiotic agents often are difficult to diagnose because the causal agent is no longer present, or because the cause-and-effect relationship is difficult to establish.

Most forest-tree diseases are caused by various biotic agents. These include viruses, mycoplasmas, bacteria, fungi, parasitic higher plant, and nematodes. Of these, the fungi causes the greatest number of diseases, as well as the greatest total loss. Fungi are usually classified as plants without chlorophyll and with a very simple structure undifferentiated into stems, leaves, and roots.

Forest Disease Management

The management objectives for forest disease must first depend on the objectives of

the managing agencies and the use of the forest. The control of a disease might be undertaken only when a significant impact is obvious with the forests' objectives. The reduction of root-disease losses is a formidable task because of the difficulties in diagnosis of root disease and in determining the complex relationships among root pathogens, the tree host, and the soil environment.

Most methods for control of forest diseases are preventative in nature and may include alternative species selection, burning or thinning. As noted earlier, fire is known to directly inhibit certain pathogens.

Forest-Wildlife Interactions

Forests provide the basic habitat for a large proportion of the world's wildlife, including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Trees provide food and protection from the weather and from other animals. Forests also have a stabilizing effect on streamflow that provides fish habitats. Taken together, these elements constitute wildlife habitat, which may be a specific forest type or a mixed forest. Within habitats, each species of wildlife uses a particular portion, or its niche. The ecological niche of an organism depends not only on where it lives, but also on what it does.

The relationship between forest and wildlife is so intertwined and complex that little can be done to a forest that does not have impact on some form of wildlife. One obvious impact is the effect from clear-cutting or burning a forest. The habitat of some animals can be harmed - cover is removed, nesting or denning sites are damaged, and seed or fruit producing trees are destroyed. Clear-cutting also creates habitat for other species, provides browse for large mammals and feeding areas for birds.

There is also an impact on wildlife populations when a forest is allowed to proceed toward climax through normal succession. The large herbivorous species dependent on low-growing plant forms

diminish and are replaced by a greater diversity of smaller animals.

Thus the concept of what is "good" and "bad" forest management for wildlife depends on the situation. A practice bad for one group of species may be good for others.

A large proportion of forest wildlife depends on the periodic destruction and renewal of the forest for survival. Allowing forest land to proceed toward climax usually causes the loss of plants that provide the bulk of wildlife food and shelter. The real trick in management then is, to quote Aldo Leopold, "A good tinkerer saves all the pieces."

Prescribed Burning

Depending on the goal, prescribed burning may be either beneficial or destructive to wildlife resources. If the goal of burning is to set back succession to an earlier seral stage it will probably be of considerable value to wildlife. On the other hand, if prescribed fire is being used for purely silvicultural purposes, it can be detrimental to wildlife resources.

It has been determined that low-intensity ground fire is beneficial to whitetail deer populations by stimulating herbaceous and shrub production. Fires should be less than 10 acres and close to good winter cover. Also, a fire that reduces the duff layer and also for germination of ceonothus seed stored in the duff can greatly enhance the browse for elk and whitetail deer.

Timber Cutting

For wildlife purposes, all of the cutting schemes are best lumped into two categories: clear-cutting, with less than about five to ten percent of the canopy trees remaining, and partial cutting, with more than five to ten percent of the canopy remaining intact. For most species of herbivorous wildlife, how much sunlight reaches the forest floor following silvicultural treatment is most important.

Depending on the scale, shape and dispersion of cutting, the result may be either clearly detrimental or highly beneficial, but

seldom neutral. Although forest clear-cutting has been much maligned by some segments of the American public, it is the most satisfactory method for maintaining an abundance of many forest wildlife species. When compared to properly executed clear-cutting, partial cutting, which can create and maintain an uneven aged forest, it is less likely to be beneficial to wildlife, and conversely will seldom be as damaging to wildlife as improper clear-cutting.

In addition, removal of large overstory trees may destroy the potential snags or decadent trees most likely to provide the cavities essential to much wildlife. Dead or decadent trees left standing as sites for cavity-users maintain a forest having greater value to wildlife than if dead and defective stems are felled.

Group selection cutting, which opens a hole in the forest canopy, is the partial cutting method most likely to be generally beneficial to wildlife. Openings should be from one-tenth acre to several acres in size. Smaller openings will promote regeneration of the shade tolerant species such as grand fir and cedar while large openings are required for the regeneration of Ponderosa pine and Western larch. Understory shrubs, forbs, and grasses respond accordingly, depending on their respective ecological roles. This procedure may create enough of an opening to stimulate dense young growth on the forest floor and improve both food and cover. However, caution must be exercised with this type of cutting. If the clearings are in locations with large big-game populations, excessive browsing may destroy all regeneration and create a fairly permanent opening in the forest. It may be necessary to make a considerable number of these cuttings to provide sufficient browse to satisfy the herbivores and still allow regeneration to occur.

For summer and winter ranges, whitetail deer in northern Idaho benefit best by group selection, small clear-cuts (of less than 10 acres) or strip clear-cuts (less than 200 feet wide) in heavy old-growth forests.

Ruffed grouse are favored by small openings approximately 75 feet by 150 feet which are

located in draws or in close proximity to streams. These areas should be seeded to a mixture of clover and grass to provide brood cover. Adequate winter cover higher on the ridge must also be considered.

Although a twenty percent opening to eighty percent cover ratio is recommended, it is realized that economically it is seldom feasible to alter forest land to benefit wildlife.

Recommendations

It must first be realized that the Vegetation Management Plan and the following recommendations are presented as a general guideline to the management direction Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park's forest is to take. For each management directive, such as insect control, a detailed investigation will be required to determine the most appropriate means to reach a particular end. Recommended methods to reach a management directive will vary as determined by the location and use intensity of a particular area, as well as the economic feasibility.

The park management has worked closely with the Department of Lands in the past to determine detailed control and management methods, and it is recommended that this close working relationship continue. Cooperation will also be maintained with the University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences.

The park's natural status and the department's policies have predetermined that the forest is to be managed as a natural area, therefore, uses such as wildlife habitat improvement are encouraged. IDPR timber management policy also states that the commercial value of a tree will not be a criteria for removal and, therefore, no commercial timber cutting for purely economical gains shall be allowed. Timber cutting as detailed in the department's policies shall be allowed.

The use of fire in prescribed burns is essential to decrease the potential for a catastrophic fire in Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. The lack of fire has caused thick layers of flammable duff and

woody debris to accumulate, as well as an increase in disease and insect infestation. Currently, some of the highest fuel loads in the park are located adjacent to the main road system. If this is not eliminated, the chances of a catastrophic, human-caused fire increases each year. Prescribed burning is the most economical means to remove this woody debris. A prescribed ground fire will do little to change the overall stand condition as mature Douglas fir, western larch and ponderosa pine are resistant to this type of fire damage. Lower vegetation, grasses, and seedling trees will, however, be burned and thus thin the overall forest density.

Ideally, a burn every 20 years removes the build-up of forest floor debris to lessen the probability of crown fires, controls understory vegetation which improves wildlife habitat, removes suppressed and inferior trees and removes insect habitat. It is recommended that the park use prescribed burns each year in those sections considered to be the highest in fuel loading or highest in potential fire hazard for that year. Park personnel can, however, perform much of the preliminary work, such as cutting down the ladder fuels which could allow the ground fire to enter the crowns and become a wildfire.

Special care and consideration for the scientific/natural sites must be made with regard to prescribed fire.

As noted earlier, a detail fire prescription must be outlined for each prescribed burn. It is recommended that a spring burning program be adopted rather than a fall program. Although fall burning has been determined to provide more benefits to wildlife, spring burns generally have a higher moisture level in the duff and regeneration of vegetation before the following spring run-off period will protect the watersheds more. Some fall burning will be desirable, due to access considerations during early spring.

Finally, it is recommended that the prescribed burning program begin as soon as possible, as a loss of the forest would mean a loss of recreational value and aesthetic value to the park visitor.

Insects, Disease, and Wildlife

Insects and fungi are an integral part of the forest ecosystem as are the various animal and plant species. Their role appears to be essential in the regulation of forest biomass and in recycling the components of woody vegetation back to the soil. While insects and forest pathogens perform these vital recycling functions, they can present many problems to humans in the management of forests, especially if the forest is a major component of a park. Since Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is to be managed as a Natural Park, insects and diseases will be managed accordingly.

The major insect pests are the fir engraver, the Douglas fir tussock moth, the Douglas fir beetle, the mountain pine beetle, the western pine beetle, and the ips beetle. Control of stand density and the control of species composition are the two major means of keeping populations of these insects within acceptable levels. The loss of some trees while these insect populations are at endemic levels is expected and natural. Epidemic populations and catastrophic tree losses can also be expected, but these levels of loss are not acceptable even though they are natural. The goal in the management of this park is to carefully manipulate the forest species composition and density to maintain a healthy forest. Prescribed fire can be used as a natural management tool to accomplish a majority of the stand management prescriptions.

The careful application of selective thinning of stands before they reach the high-risk stage is recommended. The application of group selection harvest to break up the uniform stands and increase the age and species diversity will not only create a more stable forest ecosystem, but will be beneficial to the park's wildlife population. Any revenue generated from the harvest of timber to control insects and diseases or to maintain or enhance wildlife populations will be utilized within Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

A detailed inventory of the park vegetation and wildlife population is required to assess problems and opportunities and to prioritize management activities. Hopefully, many of

the inventory takes can be accomplished through the environmental education activities.

Chemical control is not economically practical for the prevention of insects, however, the possibility of chemical spraying as a remedial measure on a small scale is not out of the question. This could occur in high-use areas of the park where insects have become a problem. Chemical control is a last-resort method and much care is required in the application.

Reforestation

Generally, the planting of trees for reforestation in the park is not recommended. Natural regeneration of conifer species, even though a little slow and sometimes difficult to obtain, is more desirable for a natural park. The high cost of planting is also a major obstacle. Securing of natural-tree regeneration is only difficult on the drier, rocky sites. Mother nature is the best one to determine when, at what density and what genetic stock best fits these sites. Some areas of the park may remain treeless or sparsely occupied for many years, thereby providing great vistas of the Palouse. The wetter sites will regenerate within a few years of any major disturbance in these areas.

Hazardous Trees

A hazardous tree is any tree that has a structural defect that, if it falls, may result in property damage or personal injury. For the department to protect itself from liabilities, it is necessary to use reasonable care to protect the park's visitors. In most cases, reasonable care implies that campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails have been evaluated for safety hazards by professionals. The best protection against liability is an annual inspection of these use areas. Park management has been very aggressive in the removal of hazardous trees in the past and this aggression should continue in the future. Any hazardous trees should be removed prior to the year's use season.

Timber-Cutting Methods

Several of the previous recommendations have included cutting timber for control of forest problems, enhancement of wildlife habitat, to improve the view, or to ensure

public safety. Stumps should be cut as close to the ground as possible. Slash should be piled and burned in high-use or view areas. Logging should be accomplished with the method of extraction that will result in the least amount of disturbance, whether that be with horses, small crawlers or skidders, winching systems or with cable logging. In some instances, it may be beneficial to interpret these activities to the public.

Through good forest management practices and good land stewardship, Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park can meet the goals and objectives set forth. An active forest and vegetation management program must start now, as the possibility of losing a valuable asset exists for the people of Idaho and the world.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION for DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS

The purpose of Natural Areas is to maintain and preserve the terrestrial and aquatic features of the area in as near an undisturbed condition as possible. To accomplish this, management direction for Natural Areas within McCroskey State Park shall be as follows:

1. No disturbance of vegetation, such as cutting trees live or dead, or manipulation of soils or vegetation.
2. No grazing by domestic livestock.
3. No disturbance by mining activities.
4. No construction of new roads. Trails may be constructed to provide channeled access for educational purposes. Trails for low-impact recreational purposes may be constructed, if needed.
5. No firewood removal of standing or downed trees.
6. Requests for research use will be reviewed by the IDPR and approved if

satisfactory.

7. Wildfires and human-caused fires will be controlled as soon as possible by methods that are least disturbing to the site.

8. Prescribed fire may be used if needed only in unusual situations to maintain certain species or to reduce intolerable fire hazards.

9. Insects, diseases and animals will be controlled only if they endanger surrounding lands.

10. Introduced plants will be monitored and controlled only if they grow in the park or threaten surrounding lands.

HUNTING WITHIN MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

Existing Park Board rules - IDAPA 26.01.16 PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE and IDAPA 26.01.17 PERSONAL SAFETY AND FIRE-ARMS prohibit the discharge of firearms and the molestation, injuring or killing of any wild creature within any area in the State Parks and Recreation system, except as provided by action of the Park and Recreation Board and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

Over the years, effective enforcement of these regulations at McCroskey State Park has been hampered by "checkerboard" land ownership along Skyline Drive, poorly defined park boundaries, and low levels of staffing. The issue is further complicated because all McCroskey State Park land in Benewah County are located within the boundaries of the Coeur d' Alene Indian Reservation. These lands are considered traditional Indian hunting grounds and, according to Indian rules, are subject only to tribal control.

These factors have contributed to the widespread use of the park as a hunting area, particularly by local residents. In August 1990, the Park and Recreation Board ap-

proved an interim or transitional measure (phasing-out hunting in the park over five years) that acknowledged the occurrence of traditional hunting activities within the park and recognized the operational difficulties outlined above.

In the months following this decision, there was a strong reaction by local hunters. The board directed IDPR staff to postpone finalizing the plan until the hunting issue was resolved. A commissioned report on hunting in state parks nationwide gave a thorough analysis of the issue as it pertains to the Idaho state park system and McCroskey State Park in particular. During this process, the historical correspondence of Virgil McCroskey was reviewed and the positions of the Friends of McCroskey Association and the McCroskey family were revisited. Subsequent to this review, the consensus decision was that GDP should make no special provision for the gradual elimination of hunting within the park. Consequently, the existing IDPR rules outlined above will be in force, and hunting in the park, other than tribal hunting within reservation boundaries, will not be permitted.

Several actions have been identified that will, over time, communicate to park users

these regulations. These actions include an information/education program; enhanced signing; identification and marking of park boundaries; and the consolidation of park land ownership.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Interpretation is a primary function of Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. The interpretive program should be designed to relate and explain to people the natural, historic and/or cultural values of the park and the surrounding lands through various means so that these values will be made more meaningful and enjoyable.

Before including interpretive programs and facilities in a park plan, an inventory of interpretive opportunities should be made and a program concept developed. It should be clearly understood that it takes a great deal of research and time to prepare a good interpretive program. It also requires adequate staff and operating funds to keep it in operation.

Objectives of Interpretive Program

1. To enable visitors to enjoy the park through better understanding and appreciation of its purposes and resources.
2. To promote intelligent use of park resources and facilities through educational programs and activities.
3. To assist visitors to develop a sense of responsibility concerning the conservation and use of our natural resources.
4. To instill in the



Example of an interpretive center, Harriman State Park of Idaho.

visitor a sense of appreciation for the natural and manufactured resources of the park to reduce willful destruction and vandalism of park property.

5. To help visitors gain knowledge and understanding of the human role in the natural environment.

6. To help visitors understand, enjoy, appreciate, and develop respect for the environment.

7. To develop an understanding of ecology.

8. To help visitors develop an interest in the area's history.

Interpretive Facilities

Seven interpretive/orientation kiosks are proposed along Skyline Drive, and a vista-point overlook structure is suggested for Mineral Mountain. Each of the kiosk structures would provide information on one or two appropriate interpretive topics. Three of these shelters are proposed at primary park entrance locations, and would perform the dual function of serving as orientation facilities, displaying a detailed map of the park and visitor information bulletins necessary for park management. Entrance kiosks could also serve as self-service fee collection points.

Self-Guided Tour--Map and Brochure

A self-guided tour map/brochure would be a major component of the interpretive plan, and would be available at all park entrance kiosks. This tour guide would be keyed to

mileage markers placed at one mile intervals along Skyline Drive. Information contained in the brochure would expand upon, rather than duplicate, the information displayed at the interpretive shelters.

Suggested Interpretive Topics

The following topics would be appropriate for inclusion in the interpretive plan:

1. The flora and fauna of the park.
2. Natural areas and their importance.
3. Geology of the park, the Palouse region, and Steptoe and Kamiak buttes.
4. Writings which express appreciation of the environment.
5. The Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation.
6. Virgil T. McCroskey, Giver of Mountains.
7. Mary Minerva McCroskey and pioneer women of the Northwest.
8. McCroskey Park Associations, past and present.

Nature Trails

A short, looping nature trail should be incorporated into some of the interpretive shelter sites. From one-quarter to a half-mile in length, these trails would provide the motoring visitor with a respite from driving, physical exercise, and more viewing and interpretive opportunities.



From Skyline Drive, looking south down Middle Fork of Deep Creek.

STAFFING and OPERATION

The current staffing level for McCroskey State Park provides approximately 20 hours per week of operation for nine months. The budget is \$8,100 for seasonal salaries and \$10,400 for operations expense. The park operates with one seasonal ranger who is not law-enforcement certified. He works out of pickup truck making small improvements, maintaining basic facilities, keeping traffic counts and surveys, greeting the public, and picking up garbage.

Operations' expense funds are spent on gasoline, vehicle upkeep, minor repairs, and cleaning supplies. About a half of all the O and E funds are used for insurance and fire protection for the area. A small amount has also been expended each year for improvements to Skyline Drive. North Region operation has requested a budget decision unit in both FY92 and FY93 that would allow McCroskey State Park to be operated with full-time personnel and support facilities. This decision unit has been removed from the request both years in the budget-setting process.



Virgil T. McCroskey takes in the view of the Palouse region that he loved.

CONCLUSION

Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park is a very different kind of park. Not only is this ridge-road park unique to our state, but its near-wilderness character, forest, mountains, and panoramic vistas make it an invaluable component of the state park system. This perceived wilderness road drive provides the visitor a sense of isolation and a sense of simplicity from which to commune with nature and to view panoramas of the Palouse Hills as they lap at outposts of the Rocky Mountains.

Skyline Drive, on which Virgil McCroskey labored so diligently for 30 years, makes it possible to feel a pioneer spirit as you wind your way through tall and wonderful fir, cedar and pine forest to ancient bunch-grass lands that once fed teeming populations of deer and elk and other magnificent creatures. For the most part, predator and prey are now gone. Change has covered many of the tracks of the pioneer.

Panoramic views of the timeless, undulating hills of the Palouse give evidence of great historic geologic occurrences. These hills bring into perspective our past and present. We can now look to the future for this legacy which was dedicated to the pioneer women of the Northwest. Those who give McCroskey State Park only a cursory look have denied themselves of an opportunity to experience peaceful solitude and gain inner strength—values that cannot be measured. The benevolent spirit which inhabits the park provides fulfillment to that element of our society that finds pleasure in solitude and pure scenic grandeur. The enrichment is not from activities associated with a typical park, but in the simplicity of studying and observing nature, or quietly viewing and reflecting on the magnificence of our land. It is deeply satisfying to know that this rare experience is there for us and that this land is preserved and protected.

Yes, Virgil McCroskey saw a time when there would be a need for preservation of his beloved mountain wilderness, "For the enjoyment of all the people, forever and ever."

*Today, Mary
Minerva
McCroskey State
Park would seem,
definitely, Idaho's
'Cinderella' park!
Whereas her sister
parks receive
attention,
improvements,
allocations for
development,
Mary Minerva
McCroskey State
Park still awaits
recognition, due
appreciation and
enjoyment of all
she represents.
--Theodora Smith,
Skyline Drive
Association, 1968*

A P P E N D I X A

Mary Minerva McCroskey

MARY MINERVA MCCROSKEY

Contributed by Jeri McCroskey, wife of Bob McCroskey, grand-nephew of Mary

Before 1900, no respectable woman's name appeared in print, unless it was to record her birth, marriage, or death. So it is difficult, a century later, to piece together a picture of Mary Minerva McCroskey--pioneer, wife, and mother--a woman who had a profound effect on her daughters and sons.

She was born Mary Minerva Gallaher in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1841 and married Joshua Philander Theodore McCroskey when she was eighteen. We also know the date of her death at age fifty-one at the family home nestled below the south flank of Steptoe Butte. But who was the flesh and blood woman?

From an early photograph, the lovely, oval face of a young lady with steady brown eyes gazes outward. Around her lips is a Mona Lisa smile. Her thick, dark hair is drawn back softly, probably in a chignon. Her silk dress with full sleeves and tucked, fitted bodice is demure with lace collar and cuffs. Her jewelry is simple and tasteful--earrings, pendant, and ring on her right hand. This is the portrait of a pre-Civil War southern belle. A *Gone With the Wind* Melanie, certainly not a Scarlett.

On the day her first child, Robert Lee, was born in September 1863, a fierce battle raged between the soldiers of the Confederacy and the Union army just three miles away. It was three days after the battle of Chickamuga and General Longstreet was in full retreat from Knoxville.

In the following years, she bore ten children, eight sons and two daughters. The youngest was Lucy King McCroskey who was three months old when the family left Tennessee for the trip west.

We catch a glimpse of her in letters, dated 1935, written by her son, Fred, to his grandsons, Bob and Bruce, then living in Chicago with their parents. Fred has promised to tell his grandsons the story of their trip west from Tennessee. Fred McCroskey, "was a little boy, six years old" when he left Tennessee with his parents and nine brothers and sisters.

He writes of the excitement of waiting at the depot in Sweetwater for the "Iron Horse" to come along with his train.

...It wasn't a nice train like we ride on these days. We did not have nice cushions to sit on and a nice dining car to eat in or



berths to sleep in. It was called an immigrant car. The seats were hard and we had our own bedding to make down on the floor and before we left Tennessee, my mother cooked a lot of food to take along... We did some cooking on a stove that was in the car after our cooked food ran out.

This was 1878 and he speaks of seeing antelope, prairie dogs, and buffalo. And, "At one place we saw a man hanging to a telegraph pole. "Swift, vigilante justice has been meted out to an accused murderer. Fred continues, "He had been hanging there for two or three days... It was an awful sight for a little boy to see."

Fred McCroskey also recounts, how, when the train would stop at a town, hungry Indians met it, begging for food. His mother and others, "always gave them what they could spare."

The journey from Sweetwater to Hollister, California, took eleven days. Fred wrote:

It was a long, hard trip and I have often wondered how my mother got along with all those kids on that rough, old train. How she managed to feed them and fix beds for them and keep them from getting sick on that long, hard journey has always been a mystery, but she did it and we all got through all right.

Mary and the ten children remained with friends in Hollister while J.P.T. went north to the Washington Territory to find a home. After three months, he sent for his family who continued the trip to Portland, Oregon by steamboat. Fred says they thought it was fun until they hit rough seas in the open ocean once they were beyond the Golden Gate. Mary and all the children except Virgil were seasick until the ship passed into the mouth of the Columbia River.

"Virgil was three and he had a big time playing with the sailors...and they fed him anything he wanted to eat," Fred recalled.

They left the sea-going ship at Portland and continued the journey up the Columbia by river boat. Fred McCroskey remembers leaving each river boat at the many rapids, taking a small train around those points and embarking on another boat until they reached another rapids. The final destination was Almota on the Snake River, seventeen miles south of Colfax. There, their father would meet them for the final leg of the journey by wagon.

Again he writes, "Our mother had a hard time taking care of all her ten children on that long journey by steamship, steamboat, and train from San Francisco to Almota."

J.P.T. and several other men were waiting with horses and wagons to haul the family to Colfax and on to the farm. "It was August and the days were hot... There was only a trail for the road and it was awful rough traveling... We kids got tired and hungry...and sometimes we did not have water to drink."

The first night the travelers camped at the Blackhurst farm on Union Flats ten miles south of Colfax. Fred tells that the "people were mighty nice to us. They did not have any money, but gave us kids some milk to drink and that was the best thing that they could have done."

The family spent the next night in Colfax, a town of about a hundred people. According to Fred, "There were about as many Indians as white people in Colfax." They were peaceful and camped in their tepees along the river.

"I don't remember just how our mother did manage to feed us and put us to bed at night. She must have had a trying time on such a trip." Fred wrote:

I have often thought of the fear and anxiety she felt looking over her half-clothed, half-

fed brood. What a wonderful mother she was to care for us and bring us through such trying times. Grandpa will never forget his grand and noble mother and he will cherish her memory as long as he lives.

From the river boat and wagon, Mary Minerva moved her family into a twelve by fourteen box house with a loft. "How we all stayed in that little house has always been a mystery to me," wrote Fred.

It was a lonely time with great distances between neighbors, and coyotes howling at night on the bunch grass tufted hills. And because it was not long after the Indian War, "...roving Indians came along with their war paint on."

The family lived in the box house while J.P.T. built the house that still stands far back from the Oaksdale Road. The structure is flanked by evergreen trees brought long ago from Tennessee. According to Fred McCroskey's letters to his grandsons, that first winter was extremely difficult. The house had cracks that allowed snow to drift in and the stuff had to be shoveled out before the morning fire was built. Food was scarce and according to Fred, "not very tasty." Also, the family, used to the milder climate of Tennessee, was poorly prepared, relative to clothing, for the hard, Palouse winter. But again, Fred comments about his mother's ability to bring her family unscathed, through a difficult time.

Mimi McCroskey Lynn, daughter of Milton McCroskey, and now a resident of Tacoma, adds to the picture of Mary Minerva. She remembers stories her father used to tell about his mother. She says, "My father told me many times how wonderful his mother Mary Minerva was in every way."

"She was a wonderful, caring mother and neighbor. There were no doctors anywhere near. She had her doctor book and when an illness puzzled her, she would see if she could match some of the neighbor's symptoms with her doctor book. My father said that when she found something worked, she'd write it down so she could refer to it again."

According to Milton, his mother made her own salves and tonics. Memorable was a mustard plaster for chest colds. "Father said the plaster became so hot that it nearly burned the skin."

Mary Minerva also made a poultice from flaxseed to draw infection from a wound. "And it did work much of the time," he said.

Also, Milton recalled that his mother had in her arsenal, certain grasses and weeds that served the same purpose. One of these was "Pig Weed" or "Good King Henry," so named because it grew in England and was applied to the ulcerated legs of Henry VIII before they were wrapped in clean, linen clothes. Mimi remembers using the weed on cuts and scratches as a child. "The wounds healed so well we never had a scar," she says.

According to Mimi, her father told her that Mary Minerva made use of such weeds for food. Young and tender, the Pig Weed tasted a lot like spinach and dressed up many a meal. Milton also told his daughter that Mary Minerva kept an herb garden.

Sadly enough, caring, hard work and natural herbs were helpless against the killer diseases of a century ago. Mimi remembers driving to the "Home Place" and passing a home where Milton pointed out to his daughter that all six children of a couple died in a diphtheria epidemic. Fred also mentions the instance in one of his letters to his grandsons.

Both Fred and Milton spoke of how Mary Minerva had wanted to help the family, but dared not go into the house for fear of bringing the disease home to her own children. She had to content herself with seeing that the stricken family had enough food. Fred also mentioned how careful his mother was to keep her family well during the epidemic.

Mary Minerva was often called as a mid-wife. Once she came to help a woman in labor, but both mother and baby died leaving ten children. Milton said his mother was there to comfort them. "She was always there for everyone. She was an excellent housekeeper, generous and kind."

J.P.T. was known as Mr. Hospitality. Milton said no wagon full of people passed their home that they were not asked in for a meal, even if the family had to eat less. Travelers were allowed to camp nearby and, according to Milton, if there was a woman in the wagon, Mary Minerva was overjoyed. She saw so few women. She would help the visitor wash clothes, give the family extra food, take care of a child while the mother rested, and "...they would talk and talk."

"Sometimes," Milton said, "people in the wagons gave us books and newspapers. The newspapers might be months old, but when there are no newspapers where you live, they are really appreciated."

Reading and education were important to both parents. They saw that a one-room school and teacher were provided to educate their children and other children in the area, and when her younger children needed education beyond that, Mary Minerva moved into Colfax so they could attend school.

"Every night," Milton told his daughter, "My father read a chapter from the Bible and discussed it with his family."

Bob, the eldest son, said that the family had read through the Bible any number of times.

So, from the shadows, a very special woman emerges. Born in the pre-Civil War South into a family that was comfortably well off with tobacco fields, cotton, and slaves, she married and began to raise a large family. The Civil War changed much of that and her husband longed to go West to establish a new life on the frontier. Willingly, she gathered up her family and set off into an unknown, uncertain and harsh land to help carve out that new life.

She brought with her an abundant moral and physical strength which she endeavored to pass on to her children. Her efforts, if we listen to their words about their beloved mother, were not lost on them. The appreciation they felt for her was capped by her youngest son's gift to the State of Idaho of a 5,000-acre park bearing her name and dedicated to all pioneer women for whom life on the frontier was indeed difficult because of its relentless demands and sheer loneliness.

When Mary Minerva died in 1891, probably from meningitis, after returning to the Home Place from a trip back to Tennessee, she had already planted the seeds of a harvest that would ripen one day on the hills of Idaho. Those fruits are for us and the future to enjoy.

APPENDIX B

Correspondence



Board of Latah County Commissioners

July 31, 1960

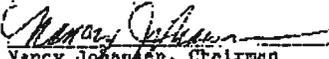
Dear Chairman Shawmaker and Members of the Idaho Parks and Recreation Board:

The Latah County Board of County Commissioners wishes to go on record supporting the General Development Plan for McCroskey State Park.

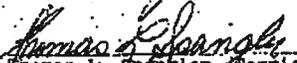
We believe this plan will provide a lasting legacy for all Idaho citizens.

Sincerely,

LATAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Nancy Johnson, Chairman


Dana Magnusson, Commissioner


Thomas L. Spangler, Commissioner

NJ/jsi

Enclosure

Latah County Courthouse Room 403, P.O. Box 8068 - Moscow, ID 83843
208-882-8580

APPENDIX C

Wildlife

WILDLIFE MAMMALS FOUND in the PALOUSE RANGE

A TAXONOMIC LIST OF SPECIES

<u>Sorex cinereus cinereus</u>	Masked Shrew
<u>Sorex vagrans monticola</u>	Vagrant Shrew
<u>Sorex palustris navigator</u>	Water Shrew
<u>Myotis yumanensis sociabilis</u>	Yuma Bat
<u>Myotis lucifugus alascensis</u>	Little Brown Bat
<u>Lasioryncteris noctivagans</u>	Silver Haired Bat
<u>Lasiurus cinereus cinereus</u>	Hoary Bat
<u>Sylvilagus nuttallii nuttallii</u>	Nuttall's Cottontail
<u>Lepus americanus pineus</u>	Snowshoe Hare
<u>Marmota flaviventris avara</u>	Yellow-bellied Marmot
<u>Citellus columbianus columbianus</u>	Columbian Ground Squirrel
<u>Eutamias amoenus canicaudus</u>	Yellow Pine Chipmunk
<u>Eutamias ruficaudus simulans</u>	Red-Tailed Chipmunk
<u>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus streatori</u>	Red Squirrel
<u>Glaucomys sabrinus latipes</u>	Northern Flying Squirrel
<u>Thomomys talpoides fuscus</u>	Northern Pocket Gopher
<u>Castor canadensis leucodontus</u>	Beaver
<u>Peromyscus maniculatus artemisiae</u>	Deer Mouse
<u>Neotoma cinerea cinerea</u>	Bushy-tailed Wood Rat
<u>Clethrionomys gapperi saturatus</u>	Gapper's Red-backed Mouse
<u>Phenacomys intermedius intermedius</u>	Heather Mouse
<u>Microtus montanus nanus</u>	Montana Meadow Mouse
<u>Microtus longicaudus mordax</u>	Long-tailed Meadow Mouse
<u>Microtus richardsoni macropus</u>	Richardson's Meadow Mouse
<u>Ondatra zibethicus osoyoosensis</u>	Muskrat
<u>Rattus norvegicus</u>	Norway Rat
<u>Mus musculus</u>	House Mouse
<u>Zapus princeps idahoensis</u>	Western Jumping Mouse
<u>Erethizon dorsatum epixanthum nigrescens</u>	Porcupine
<u>Canis latrans lestes</u>	Coyote
<u>Ursus americanus cinnamomum</u>	Black Bear
<u>Procyon lotor excelsus</u>	Raccoon
<u>Martes americana vulpina</u>	Marten
<u>Mustela erminea invicta</u>	Short-tailed Weasel
<u>Mustela frenata nevadensis</u>	Long-tailed Weasel
<u>Gulo luscus luscus</u>	Wolverine
<u>Mephitis mephitis hudsonica</u>	Striped Skunk
<u>Felis concolor missoulensis</u>	Cougar
<u>Lynx canadensis canadensis</u>	Canada Lynx
<u>Lynx rufus pallescens</u>	Bobcat
<u>Cervus canadensis nelsoni</u>	Elk
<u>Odocoileus hemionus hemionus</u>	Mule Deer
<u>Odocoileus virginiana ochroua</u>	White-tailed Deer
<u>Alces alces shirasi</u>	Moose

A P P E N D I X D

Birds

LIST of POSSIBLE BIRD SPECIES to be FOUND in MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

Contributed by the Palouse Audobon Society

turkey vulture	tree swallow	rufous hummingbird	loggerhead shrike
goshawk	rough-winged swallow	calliope hummingbird	starling
sharp-shinned hawk	barn swallow	belted kingfisher	solitary vireo
Cooper's hawk	cliff swallow	red-shafted flicker	red-eyed vireo
ret-tailed hawk	gray jay	pileated woodpecker	warbling vireo
Swainson's hawk	Stellar's jay	Lewis's woodpecker	orange-crowned warbler
rough-legged hawk	black-billed magpie	red-breasted sapsucker	Nashville warbler
ferruginous hawk	common raven	Williamson's sapsucker	yellow warbler
golden eagle	common crow	hairy woodpecker	myrtle warbler
marsh hawk	Clark's nutcracker	downy woodpecker	Audobon's warbler
prairie falcon	black-capped chickadee	white-headed woodpecker	Townsend's warbler
pigeon hawk	mountain chickadee	black-backed 3-toed woodpecker	MacGillivray's warbler
sparrow hawk	chestnut-backed chickadee	northern 3-toed woodpecker	Wilson's warbler
blue grouse	red-breasted nuthatch	eastern kingbird	American redstart
ruffed grouse	pygmy nuthatch	Say's phoebe	western meadowlark
California quail	brown creeper	Trail's flycatcher	Bullock's oriole
ring-necked pheasant	house wren	Hammond's flycatcher	Brewer's blackbird
gray partridge	winter wren	dusky flycatcher	brown-headed cowbird
killdeer	rock wren	western flycatcher	western tanager
band-tailed pigeon	catbird	western wood pewee	black-headed grosbeak
mourning dove	robin	olive-sided flycatcher	lazuli bunting
screech owl	varied thrush	horned lark	evening grosbeak
flamulated owl	hermit thrush	violet-green swallow	Cassin's finch
great horned owl	Swainson's thrush	pine grosbeak	savannah sparrow
hawk owl	veery	common redpoll	grasshopper sparrow
pygmy owl	western bluebird	pine siskin	vesper sparrow
great gray owl	mountain bluebird	American goldfinch	lark sparrow
long-eared owl	Townsen's solitaire	red crossbill	tree sparrow
short-eared owl	golden-crowned kinglet	rufous-sided towhee	chipping sparrow
saw-whet owl	ruby-crowned kinglet	slate-colored junco	Brewer's sparrow
poor-wil	lwater pipit	Oregon junco	white-crowned sparrow
common nighthawk	Bohemian waxwing	lapland longspur	golden-crowned sparrow
Vaux's swift	cedar waxwing	snow bunting	fox sparrow
black-chinned hummingbird	northern shrike	Lincoln's sparrow	song sparrow

SOURCE: The Palouse Audobon Society conducted field trips to McCroskey State Park. The afore-mentioned is a partial list of bird species submitted by the Palouse Chapter (President Earl J. Larrison, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho).

A P P E N D I X E

Vegetation

VEGETATION IN MCCROSKEY STATE PARK

CONTRIBUTED BY JAMES EAGAN AND LORING JONES

TREES

PINUS CONTORTA
ABIES LASIOCARPA
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS
TAXUS BREVIFOLIA
PINUS MONTICOLA
PICEA ENGELMANNII
PINUS PONDEROSA
LARIX OCCIDENTALIS
PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII
VAR. GLAUCA
ABIES GRANDIS
BETULA PAPIRIFERA
TSUGA HETEROPHYLLA
THUJA PLICATA

LOGSPOLE PINE
SUBALPINE FIR (?)
RIVER BIRCH
PACIFIC YEW (TREE-SHRUB)
WESTERN WHITE PINE
ENGELMANN SPRUCE (?)
PONDEROSA PINE
WESTERN LARCH
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DOUGLAS FIR
GRAND FIR
PAPER BIRCH
WESTERN HEMLOCK
WESTERN REDCEDAR

SHRUBS

ALNUS SINUATA
ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI
CEANOTHUS SANGUINEUS
CEANOTHUS VELUTINUS
CHIMAPHILA UMBELLATA
CLEMATIS COLUMBIANA
CORNUS CANADENSIS
LONICERA UTAHENSIS
PRUNUS VIRGINIANA
RHUS GLABRA
ROSA GYMNOCARPA
ROSA NUTKANA
ROSA WOODSII
RUBUS LEUCODERMIS
RUBUS PARVIFLORUS
SAMBUCUS CERULEA
SORBUS SCOPULINA
SIREA BETULIFOLIA
SYMPHORICARPOS MOLLIS
ACER GLABRUM
AMELANCHIER ALNIFOLIA
HOLODISCUS DISCOLOR
PHYSOCARPUS MALVACEUS
PHILADELPHUS LEWISII
ROSE CANINA
SYMPHORICARPUS ALBUS
VACCINIUM MEMBRANACEUM
RIBES VISCOSSISSIMUM
BERBERIS AQUIFOLIUM
PRUNUS EMARGINATA
CORNUS STOLONIFERA
LONICERA CILIOSA
CRATAEGUS DOUGLASII

SITKA ALDER
CREEPING OREGON GRAPE
RED-STEM CEANOTHUS
TOBACCO-BRUSH
PRINCESS PINE (SUB-SHRUB)
BLUE CLEMATIS (VINE-SHRUB)
BUNCHBERRY (SUB-SHRUB)
UTAH HONEYSUCKLE
CHOCHECHERRY
SMOOTH SUMAC
BALDHIP ROSE
NOOTKA ROSE
WOODS ROSE
BLACK-CAP RASPBERRY
THIMBLEBERRY
BLUEBERRY ELDER
GREENS MT. ASH
WHITE SPIREA (SUB-SHRUB)
CREEPING SNOWBERRY
ROCKY MTN. MAPLE
SERVICEBERRY
OCEAN SPRAY
NINEBARK
SYRINGA
DOG ROSE
SNOWBERRY
HUCKLEBERRY
STICKY CURRANT
OREGON GRAPE
BITTER CHERRY
RED-OSIER DOGWOOD
CLIMBING HONEYSUCKLE
HAWTHORN

FORBS (NOT INCLUDING GRASSES)

ACONITUM COLUMBIANUM
AGASTACHE URTICIFOLIA
BALSAMORHIZA SAGITTATA
BRODIAEA DOUGLASII
CALOCHORTUS ELEGANS
CALOCHORTUS SPP.
CASTILLEJA HISPIDA
CASTILLEJA SPP.
CLARKIA PULCHELLA
CLEMATIS HIRSUSSISSIMA
CLINTONIA UNIFLORA
DELPHINIUM NUTTALLIANUM
DISPORUM HOOKERI
DISPORUM TRACHYCARPUM
ERIOGONUM HERACLEOIDES
FRITILLARIA LANCEOLATA
GAILLARDIA ARISTATA
GEUM TRIFLORUM
GILIA AGGREGATA
HELIANTHELLA UNIFLORA

MONKSHOOD
GIANT HYSSOP
ARROW-LEAF BALSAMROOT
WILD HYACINTH
ELEGANT MARIPOSA
SEGO LILY
INDIAN PAINTBRUSH
INDIAN PAINTBRUSH
PINK FAIRIES
SUGAR BOWLS
QUEENCUP
WILD LARKSPUR
HOOKER FAIRY BELLS
HOOKER FAIRY BELLS
WYETH BUCKWHEAT
MISSILN BELLS
BLANKET FLOWER
LONG-PLUMED AVENS
SCARLET GILIA
LITTLE SUNFLOWER

GERANIUM VISCOSSISSIMUM
HEUCHERA CYLINDRICA
IRIS MISSOURIENSIS
LATHRYS LATIFOLIUS
LOMATIUM SPP.
LUONINUS SERICEUS
LUPINUS SPP.
PENSTEMON PRO CERUS
PENSTEMON SPP.
PHLOX LONGIFOLIA
PYROLA ASARIFOLIA
SISYRINCHIUM INFLATUM
SMILACENA RACEMOSA
SMILACENA STELLATA
SYNTHRIS MISSURICA
WYETHIA AMPLEXICAULIS
ZYGADENUS SPP.
RANUNCULUS GLABERRIMUS
CLAYTONIA LANCEOLATA
ERYTHRONIUM

STICKY GERANIUM
ROUNDLEAF ALUMROOT
ROCKY MT. IRIS
PERENNIAL SWEET PEA
DESERT PARSLEY
SILKY BLUE LUPINE
LUPINE
LITTLE-FLOWERED PENSTEMON
PENSTEMON, BEARTONGUE
LONG-LEAVED PHLOX
PINK PYROLA
PURPLE-EYED GRASS
SOLOMON PLUME
STARRY SOLOMON PLUME
KITTEN-TAILS
YELLOW MULE'S EAR
DEATHCAMAS
EARLY BUTTERCUP
SPRING BEAUTY

GRANDIFLORUM
COPTIS OCCIDENTALIS
CHIMAPHILA MENZIESII
LINNAEA BOREALIS
CORNUS CANADENSIS
ARNICA CORDIFOLIA
MITELLA STAUROPETALA
PYROLA BRACTEATA
PYROLA SECUNDA
MONOTROPA UNIFLORA
FRASERA FASTIGIATA
CALUSO BULBOSA
DODECATHEON

DOGTOOTH VIOLET
GOLD-THREAD
PRINCE'S PINE
TWINFLOWER
BUNCHBERRY
HEART LEAF ARNICA
MITREWORT
PYROLA
WHITE PYROLA
INDIAN PIPE
TALL FRASERA
FAIRY SLIPPER

PAUCIFLORUM
FRAGARIA VESCA

SHOOTING STAR

VAR. BRACTEATA
FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA
VERBASCUM THAPSUS
TARAXACUM OFFICINALE
DRABA VERNA
CIRSIIUM VULGARE
ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM

STRAWBERRY
STRAWBERRY
MULLEIN
DANDELION
WHITLOW GRASS
BULL THISTLE

VAR. LANULOSA
POTENTILLA GRACILIS
POTENTILLA GLANDULOS
ANTENNARIA RACEMOSA
MERTENSIA OBLONGIFOLIA
FRITILLARIA PUDICA
LITHOPHRAGMA SP.
HYDROPHYLLUM CAPITATUM
TRAGOPOGON SP.
ERODIUM CICUTARIUM
ANAPHALIS MARGARITACEA
VIOLA ADUNCA
VIOLA GLABELLA
VIOLA ORBICULATA
MONTIA PERFOLIATA
VERATRUM VIRIDE
TRILLIUM OVATUM
PTERIDIUM AGUILINUM
ARENARIA MACROPHYLLA
HYPERICUM PERFORATUM
THALICTRUM OCCIDENTALIS
ANEMONE PIPER
PRUNELLA VULGARIS
GOODYERA OBLONIFOLIA
COLLINSIA PARVIFLORA
CLAYTONIA LINEARIS
PTEROSPORA ANDROMEDEA
GENTIANA AFFINIS
POLYSTICHUM CALIFORNICUM

YARROW
CINGUEFOIL OR FIVE FINGERS
CINGUEFOIL OR FIVE FINGERS
LEAFY PUSSY-TOES
BLUEBELLS
YELLOW BELLS
BABY'S FACE
BUNNYTAIL
OYSTER PLANT
FILAREE
PEARLY EVERLASTING
BLUE VIOLET
YELLOW VIOLET
ROUNDLEAF VIOLET
MINER'S LETTUCE
GREEN FALSE-HELLEBORE
WHITE TRILLIUM
BRAKEN FERN
SANDWORT
GOATWEED
MEADOWRUE
WINDFLOWER
SELFHEAL
RATTLESNAKE PLANTAIN
BLUE-EYED MARY
CLAYTONIA
PINE DROPS
GENTIAN
SWORD FERN

APPENDIX F

Resource Materials

Resource Materials

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Geology of the Palouse "Geo-Note", Idaho Geological Survey.

The Planning & Development Process, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation.

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Park Planning Guidelines Revised, George E. Fogg, The National Recreation & Park Association, 1981.

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"Natural Area Preservation--A Growing Movement," Trends Magazine, Volume 26, Number 2, 1989, p.29.

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Analyzing Visual Landscape and Recreation Resource Potential of Ridge Road Parks: A Case Study Approach, James E. Eagan, University of Idaho, February, 1974.

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A P P E N D I X G

Idaho Parks and Recreation Rules

Idaho Parks and Recreation Rules

The Park and Recreation Board, pursuant to Section 67-4223, Idaho Code, has the power to adopt, amend, or rescind such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper administration of Chapter 42, Title 67, Idaho Code, and the use and protection of park and recreational areas and facilities subject to its jurisdiction. The following rules and regulations for the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, State of Idaho, have been adopted through the Administrative Procedures Act, Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code, are in effect.

IDAPA 26. 01. 1 - DEFINITIONS: When used in these regulations, the term below have the following definitions:

Park and Recreation Board - A six-member, bipartisan Board that formulates the policies administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation and created by Chapter 42, Title 67, Idaho Code.

Director of Parks and Recreation - Chief administrator of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

Park Manager - The person responsible for administering and supervising a specific State Park area, designated by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Group Use - 25 or more people, or any group needing special consideration or deviations from normal park regulations or activities.

Camping Unit - One motorized vehicle and its included equipment within one designated site.

Camping Day - The period between 2 p.m. of one calendar day and 2 p.m. of the following calendar day.

Day Use - Use of any noncamping park facilities between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

IDAPA 26. 01. 2 - ENFORCEMENT: The Director may designate employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation to be deputized as special deputies, pursuant to the provision of Section 67-2901 (5), Idaho Code, for the purpose of enforcing penal and regulatory laws of the State, within the boundaries of Idaho State Parks, for the protection of parks and recreation areas against damage and for the preservation of peace therein. Park Rules and Regulations shall be posted in the park. Copies of Park Rules and Regulations shall be available to the public from park employees.

IDAPA 26. 01. 3 - AUTHORITY CONFERRABLE ON EMPLOYEES: The Director may authorize any employee of the Department to exercise any power granted to, or perform any duty implied upon the Director.

The Park Manager has the authority to establish and enforce those park regulations which apply to the public safety in a specific park. Those regulations shall be posted for public view and shall be consistent with established state laws and these rules and regulations. All state, county, and local laws are in effect and subject to enforcement within state park boundaries. The Park Manager shall establish and post the hours for day use areas so as to serve the general public and protect the park with the staff available.

IDAPA 26. 01. 4 - PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION: Any person, persons, partnership, corporation, concessionaire, association, society, fraternal, social or other organized groups failing to comply with these rules, regulations, or conditions of the Act will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties provided in Section 18-5815, Idaho Code.

The above penalty shall not prevent the Parks and Recreation Department from filing a civil claim against a violator to collect damages incurred to park areas or facilities.

Permanent park employees shall have the authority to remove any violator of the rules and regulations from a State Park area, as a trespasser upon State land. No fees paid by a violator shall be returned to the violator upon his removal from the park.

IDAPA 26.01.5 - PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY: The destruction, injury, defacement, removal or disturbance in or of any public building, sign, equipment, monument, statue, marker or any other structures, or of any tree, flower, vegetation or any other public property of any kind is prohibited unless authorized by the Park Manager of a specific area.

IDAPA 26.01.6 - USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN PARKS: All motorized vehicles must stay on authorized established park roadways or parking areas except for trails and areas which are clearly identified by park signs for off-road use. The drivers of all vehicles operated within a State Park shall be licensed or certified as required under state law for the type of vehicle operated. The driver of all vehicles shall comply with the speed and traffic regulations of the State Parks System, and all other local, state and federal regulations governing traffic on public roads.

All motorized vehicles within a specified campground are restricted to ingress and egress. This rule does not prohibit official use of motorized vehicles by the Department of Parks and Recreation employees anywhere within the park.

IDAPA 26.01.7 - PUBLIC BEHAVIOR IN PARKS:

a. In State Parks, the hours between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. shall be considered quiet hours unless otherwise posted. During that time, park users are restricted from the production of noise that may be disturbing to other parks users.

b. Amplified sound, poorly muffled vehicles, loud conduct or loud equipment are prohibited within a park, except in designated areas or by authority of the Park Manager.

c. State Laws in regard to alcoholic beverages, public drunkenness and the illegal use of drugs will be enforced on park premises.

d. Littering is prohibited within State Park areas.

IDAPA 26.01.8 - CAMPING:

a. Camping shall be permitted only in designated areas. Only one camping unit with a maximum of eight people shall be permitted on each designated site, except with the permission of the Park Manager. One extra vehicle without built-in sleeping accommodations is also permitted within each designated site.

b. No person, party or organization shall be permitted to camp in any State Park for more than 15 days in any 30-day period. Shorter periods may be designated for any individual park by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

c. Campers shall keep their campgrounds and other use areas clean.

d. All liquid wastes shall be held in self-contained units or collected in water-tight receptacles in compliance with State adopted standards and dumped in sanitary facilities provided for the disposal of such wastes.

e. Campers shall not leave their camps unattended for longer than one camping day, except by permission of the Park Manager.

f. No generators or other motorized equipment emitting sound and exhaust are permitted to be operated during quiet hours.

g. All boats, trailers, rigs and motorized vehicles must fit entirely within the campsite parking spur provided with the assigned campsite. All equipment which does not fit entirely within the campsite parking spur must be parked outside the campground in an area designated by the Park Manager. If no outside parking is available, a second campsite must be purchased.

h. All camping equipment and personal belongings of a camper must be maintained within the assigned campsite.

i. Campers are required to check out and leave a clean campsite by 2 p.m of the day following the paid night of camping.

j. Visitors to campers must park outside the campground, except with permission of the Park Manager. Visitors must conform to established day use hours.

k. Two motorcycles constitute a camping unit.

l. The individual purchasing a campsite is responsible for assuring compliance with the rules

within IDAPA 26. 01. 8.

m. No camping is permitted on docks, beaches, parking lots or day use facilities.

IDAPA 26. 01. 9 - FEES AND SERVICES:

a. The Park and Recreation Board shall adopt fees for the use of park lands, facilities and equipment. Park visitors shall pay all designated fees.

b. Camping - Camping fees include the right to use designated campgrounds and facilities. Utilities and facilities may be restricted by weather or other factors.

c. Group Use - Groups of 25 persons or over, or any group needing special considerations or deviations from these regulations, must have a permit. Permits will be issued after arrangements have been made for proper sanitation, park population density limitations, safety of persons and property, and regulation of traffic.

Permits for groups of up to 250 people may be approved by the Parks Manager with 30 days advance notice. Permits for groups of 250 to 1,000 may be approved by the Director with 45 days advance notice. Groups over 1,000 may be approved by the Park Board with 60 days advance notice. The Director may approve groups over 1,000 with 30 days advance notice, if they are repeat users.

d. Motorized Vehicle Entrance Fee - A fee may be charged for entering a designated area for noncamping visit by motorized vehicle.

e. Fees or deposits may be required for certain uses or the reservation of certain facilities.

f. Those public supported groups (by tax dollar or nationally recognized fund drive) which are nondenominational, open to the public and hold no ethnic barriers may negotiate a minimal cost arrangement for park use. Cost will be determined by the requirements of the group and the requirements of the Parks and Recreation Department.

IDAPA 26. 01. 11 - SWIMMING AND BOATING WATER USE:

a. In waters located in or adjacent to Idaho State Parks, swimming is authorized only in areas plainly marked for swimming. Swimming shall be at an individual's own risk.

b. No glass containers are allowed on beaches or swim areas.

c. Boats must remain clear of swimmers and swimming areas. The Director has the authority to exclude boating from areas of heavy swim use.

d. Within a State Park, no boat camping is allowed tied up to or on loading docks next to boat ramps. The Park Manager may prohibit boats from tying up to docks used by swimmers or water skiers. Docks for general public use may be used for boat tie up and boat camping. IDAPA 26. 01. 8b, 8c, 8d, 8e, and 8f apply to boat campers. No fee will be charged boat campers unless they move from their boat to a campground and use campground facilities.

e. Boats operating on public waters in the State Parks and Recreation System shall fully comply with the Idaho Safe Boating Act, Title 49, Chapter 32, Idaho Code, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The Director has the authority to establish rules prohibiting the use of boat motors or to limit the horsepower capacity on those crafts operating on water controlled by the Parks and Recreation Department.

IDAPA 26. 01. 12 - PETS: Pets are allowed within a State Park or Recreation area only if confined in a vehicle or controlled on a no longer than 6' leash. No person shall allow their pet to create a disturbance which might be bothersome to other park users. No person shall permit their pet animals to enter or remain on any State Park swim area or beach. Pet owners shall be responsible to clean up after their animals. Pets shall not be left unattended. Areas for pets or areas excluding pets may be designated by the Park Manager.

Park employees shall have the authority to impound or remove from the park any stray or unattended animals at the owner's expense.

IDAPA 26. 01. 13 - LIVESTOCK: Grazing of livestock is not permitted within State Parks areas. Exceptions may be made by the Park and Recreation Board for grazing permits or otherwise permitting the use of park lands for livestock. The use of saddle or other recreational

livestock is prohibited on trails, roadways, and other areas unless designated for that purpose or with permission of the Park Manager.

IDAPA 26. 01. 14 - FIRES: The use of fires shall be restricted to fire circles, grills or other places otherwise designated by the Park Manager. All fires must be kept under control at all times, and must be extinguished before checking out of the park or whenever fire is left unattended. Areas may be closed to open fires during extreme fire danger.

IDAPA 26. 01. 15 - FIREWORKS: No person shall use fireworks of any kind within the State Parks System, except under special permit issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation for exhibition purposes, and then only by persons designated by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

IDAPA 26. 01. 16 - PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE: All molesting, injuring, or killing of any wild creature is strictly prohibited, except as provided by action of the Idaho State Park and Recreation Board and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

IDAPA 26. 01. 17 - PERSONAL SAFETY, FIREARMS: No person shall discharge firearms or any other projectile firing device, or otherwise purposefully or negligently endanger the life of any person or creature within any area in the State Parks and Recreation System. All firearms brought into a State Park must be unloaded, out of sight, or in a vehicle, except when used for legal hunting, as authorized by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission or for exhibition, authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

IDAPA 26. 01. 18 - ADVERTISEMENTS: Within a State Park, public notices, public announcements, advertisements, or other printed matter shall only be posted or distributed in a special area approved by the Park Manager. Political advertising is strictly prohibited in any State Park.

IDAPA 26. 01. 19 - AUTHORIZED OPERATIONS: No person, firm, or corporation shall operate any concession, business, or enterprise in a State Park or Recreation area without written permission or permit from the State Park and Recreation Board. No person(s), partnership, corporation, association or other organized groups are permitted to: (a) beg or solicit for any purpose, (b) gamble or operate a gambling device of any nature, (c) abandon any property or (d) discriminate in any manner against any person or persons because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin within a State Park area.

IDAPA 26. 01. 20 - DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY: The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is not responsible for damage to, or theft of personal property within park boundaries. All park visitors use facilities and areas within all park boundaries at their own risk.

This agency's programs and activities are operated free from discrimination, including discrimination based on race, color or national origin. Anyone who believes they have been discriminated against or who needs more information regarding discrimination should write: National Park Service, Equal Opportunity Officer (010), PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013.

Costs associated with this publication are available from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code HB 366: 9/93/125/496.03.