

ForestTalk



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SERVICE, VICTORIA, B.C.

SUMMER 1974 - VOL. 2, NO. 2



Summer - 1974



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS
AND WATER RESOURCES

THE HONOURABLE ROBERT WILLIAMS
MINISTER

JOHN S. STOKES
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FORESTS

E. L. YOUNG
CHIEF FORESTER

A. G. DAGG
EDITOR

POLICY STATEMENT

The objective of the British Columbia Forest Service, as the forest administrative agency for the government of British Columbia, is to develop and enforce policies which will ensure for all time the proper balance of timber supply, forage production, forest recreation, wildlife protection and environmental preservation on the Crown forest lands of the province.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Barbara Davies, Peter Robin,
J. W. Thomson and R. J. Challenger

COVER PHOTO

Hundreds of lakes and streams located deep in our forests provide seclusion and recreation for growing numbers of people.



Published by:
E. HUGH LYONS, *Forester in Charge*,
INFORMATION DIVISION,
BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SERVICE,
LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, B.C.

In This Issue



Skagit
Valley



Integrated
Forest
Planning



Forest
Recreation



The
Eden Fire



Classroom
Visits
Forest



Looking north over top end of Ross Lake at low water. Canada-U.S. boundary crosses near centre of photo.

Proposed raising of Ross Dam would extend reservoir eight miles into Canada - to about foreground of photo.



An Armchair Visit to . . .

The Skagit Valley

By Ray Wormald

It's just another country road. It branches southward off the Trans-Canada Highway about two miles west of Hope in the majestic Fraser River valley. At the intersection an insignificant sign tells anyone who notices that it's the Silver-Skagit Road.

Every day of the year hundreds of people whiz by the narrow roadway - bound either to or from Vancouver, some 95 miles away. Very few realize that this inconspicuous country road winds its way nearly 50 miles to the Canada-U.S. border, and through some of the most beautiful and varied scenery found anywhere.

It leads into a vast region which over the past few years has become a focal point for a mixture of concern, intense study, controversy and international negotiations. It's the much-publicized Skagit Valley.

What brought this great stretch of river-valley land into the publicity spotlight? It's a long story and a complicated one. And getting more complicated as time goes on.

Before considering some of the pros and cons of the issues at stake, let's take an armchair journey into the heart of this wondrous valley through which the Skagit flows.

Bearing the name of a proud and vigorous American Indian band, the Skagit River originates in British Columbia's Manning Park. It carves its way southward through some 30 Canadian miles and just across the international boundary it flows into Ross Lake in Washington State.

Abundant Wildlife

Mountains ranging up to 8,000 feet look over many portions of the valley; and the entire region is home to a great variety of wildlife.

There are two distinct populations of deer. A black-tailed variety is found low in the valley, and Mule deer inhabit the higher eastern slopes. The valley's lakes and streams host several varieties of ducks, and on various occasions geese have been seen in the area. It's great grouse country; and the sprawling valley is a stop-over point for many species of water fowl on migration routes. A recent survey determined that no less than 44 species of birds wintered in the valley.

And that's just the beginning of the wildlife inventory. There are also beavers, bear, cougar, bobcats, raccoons, otter, mink, weasels, marten and skunk.

