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SPILSBURY, R.H.  
LAND USE REPORT OF HILL 60,  
COWICHAN LAKE LAND DISTRICT:  
SOIL SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATION

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LAND USE REPORT OF HILL 60,  
COWICHAN LAKE LAND DISTRICT.

SOIL SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATION

by

R. H. Spilsbury

FOREST ECONOMICS DIVISION

1940

Project S 13  
Office files: 0120300  
0134223

Maps accompanying this  
report:  
Soil and topography (Scale  
40 chains to 1 inch) are  
filed under Project S 3  
Map 9.

LAND USE REPORT OF HILL 60,  
COWICHAN LAKE LAND DISTRICT.

Area Examined

Hill 60 is a high shoulder dividing the Cowichan River from the Chemainus River and lies about six miles to the east of Lake Cowichan village. The area examined is made up of Blocks 219, 229, 237, 251 and 261 in the Cowichan Lake land district.

Method and Purpose of Examination

The purpose of the survey was to delineate any agricultural soils within the area. This was done by a reconnaissance in which the main abandoned logging railway grades were traversed. The examination was sufficiently detailed to provide adequate information for an appraisal of land-use values.

Topography and Soil

The region consists of a long ridge rising in the south east and increasing in elevation toward the north west. In the area examined the divide is on the south half of the ridge and over 75% of the area drains north to the Chemainus River. The topography in detail consists of a steep, almost precipitous rise from the Cowichan River valley. Over the divide the area is saucer shaped with several small creeks fan-wise coalescing to form one main creek which drains into the Chemainus. The saucer shaped area is steeply rolling with minor ridges separating each small creek. Elevations range from 1,000 to 1,500 feet. The most prominent soil type is a stony sandy loam over an impervious subsoil provisionally called the Admiralty series. Large surface boulders are common and also outcroppings of bedrock. This is especially true of Blocks 219, 229 and the west half of 237. The exposed rocks are of igneous origin.

Nearer the centre of the area outcroppings of a soft shale replace the igneous formation. The soil texture becomes finer though numerous stones and boulders occur.

A fine textured loam provisionally called the Maywood series occurs about the main stream channel. It is believed that the Maywood series originated from the shales and accumulated by erosion along the stream bottoms.

A small flat occurs at the Chemainus River level. This was not examined but is believed to be a coarse textured alluvial. It is too small and isolated to have any agricultural value, regardless of its texture.

Accessibility

From an agricultural standpoint the area is completely in-

accessible. It is not served by any road, and no agricultural development has taken place within the general region.

Recommendations

Soil, topography and elevation render the area unsuitable for cultivation. It is recommended that the entire area should not be made available for agricultural settlement.

Summary of Acreage

	<u>Acres</u>
Admiralty stony sandy loam	3,040
Maywood loam (Approx.)	160
TOTAL	<u>3,200</u>

	<u>Agricultural use</u>	<u>Forest</u>
Recommended for	Nil	3,200 acres

Maps, files etc.

Field notes and maps are filed in the general office of the Forest Economics Division. Detailed map (scale 40 chains to 1 inch) showing soil types and topography filed under Project S 3 Map 9.

Office files: 0120300  
0134223

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November 12, 1941.

Approved:

Date: *Jan 13/42*

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