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RECONNAISSANCE OF

SUZANNE (NANISTEE) LAKE - ELK FOREST RESERVE
EAST KOOTENAYS

(1952)

34.928

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921D

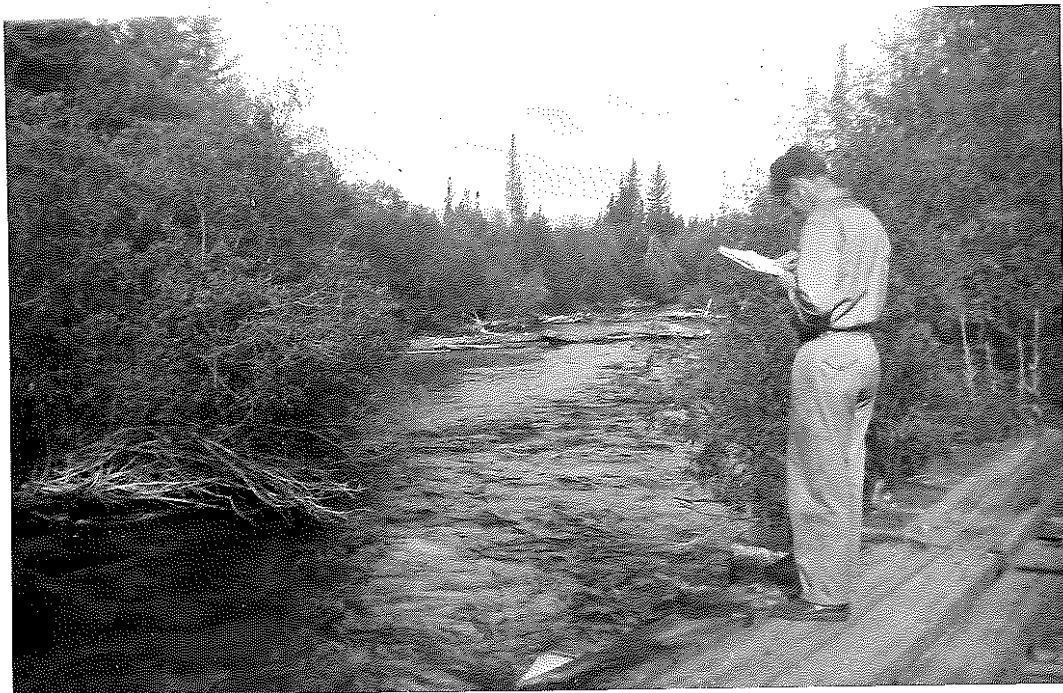
SUZANNE LAKE

Location:

Suzanne, or as it is also known, Nanistee Lake lies in the East Kootenays a few miles west of the town of Elko. It is situated within the Elk Provincial Forest ten miles due north of the confluence of the Elk and Kootenay Rivers.

Access:

The lake lies in wild forest land but is relatively close to main highways. To the east and only two and one-half miles away runs the newly completed speed highway between Cranbrook and Elko, part of the Trans-Provincial Highway No. 3. A few miles south of Suzanne Lake a first class gravelled highway, No. 93, connects Trans-Provincial No. 3 to Rossville at the United States border by way of Baynes Lake and Waldo, B. C.



Crossing at Kikomun Creek on way to Suzanne Lake

Travel Directions:

The following road routemileages to Suzanne Lake commence, for the purposes of this report, at the junction of Highway No. 93 with Trans-Provincial Highway No. 3. This point is about two miles west of Elko, B. C.

Mileage

- o. Junction of No. 3 and No. 93 Highways.
Turn west along Highway No. 93.
- 2.7 Turn north off Highway No. 93 onto dirt road.
- 2.9 Turn south off dirt road onto road built atop abandoned railroad grade.
- 3.5 Turn north off railroad grade road onto dirt road.
- 3.9 Road branches- do not take one to farm - keep left.
- 4.4 Irrigation ditch - very noticeable.
- 4.9 Rickety but safe (1951) bridge five feet above Kikomun Creek.
- 7.6 Suzanne Creek crossing - road continues but dilapidated condition of crossing timbers combined with boggy bottom makes it risky to cross by car - four wheel drive okay.

From Suzanne Creek to the lake is a twenty-five minute walk over an easy trail.

The trip between the lake and turn-off from Highway No. 3 takes one hour and five minutes.



General view of lake from south-west shore
looking east towards Rocky Mountains.

Description:

Suzanne Lake is a moderate size body of water of approximately one hundred and twenty-five acres, roughly wedge-shaped with the apex pointing south-east. In ~~the~~ length, the lake is three-quarters of a mile at the extreme, while, in width, it is one-third of a mile at its broadest point. Elevation of the sheet of water is 2,670 feet. The surrounding country is gently rolling with flat-topped hills never rising over 300 feet above the lake. The water is clear but the bottom inspected appeared to be of white silty mud. The lake was examined many years ago by a man

interested in starting a fur farm on its shores. He dropped the idea stating the water was too acidic due to the very large numbers of logs covering the lake bottom. This could possibly be true although no logs are evident today. The surrounding country was logged over around 1903 and evidences of an abandoned railroad grade can still be seen near the south end of the lake on the eastern shore.



View of northern end of lake from
proposed public reserve shoreline

The shoreline, with the exception of the south-east portion is reedy with this aquatic vegetation extending into the lake for fifty to seventy-five feet and even more at the north end. This north end has the least desirable waterfrontage of any lakeside section. The shoreline is muddy with a wide belt of reeds extending into the water. In addition a large, cozy tongue of swamp, thick with underbrush, extends along a good part of it.

The east side of the lake is pleasant but the topography is a little steep for purposes of a public reserve. It would be suitable for summer homes.



Proposed reserve backshore and lake frontage. Looking across lake with north end showing to the left.

The south end is topographically adaptable for a reserve and has the advantage of flowing water as Suzanne Creek spills out here down a somewhat swampy course. However this area was badly burned over in 1932 with the result the gravel is exposed and regeneration is poor.

The south-west lakeside is too steep to be suitable for any purpose. It rises 175 feet in 500 feet.

The most suitable section of the lakeside for a public reserve lies at the north-west end of the lake. The ground slopes quite gently up from the lake over an extensive area on which tamarac, fir and spruce form an open and pleasant cover. The lakeshore is generally good although reediness prevails. Not much scrub willow and poplar fringe the lake although it is thick elsewhere around the shore.



General view over proposed public reserve

The country surrounding the lake has a non-merchantable but valuable young growth of tamarac, fir and spruce. The countryside is moderately open with extensive semi-grazing land. Some cattle are run on this ground and appear in greatest concentration at the muddy north end of the lake.

Close in to the east the Rocky Mountains loom.

Notes:

The land surrounding the lake was surveyed into lots around 1903 to 1906. These lots consist of L. 7220 (south and east end); L. 7219 (east side); L. 7655 (northern half); and L. 1896 (west side), Kootenay Land Recording District. All these lots have since reverted to the crown and form part of the Elk Forest Reserve.

Recommendations:

An adequate reserve for public use is proposed over that portion already described as most suitable. More explicitly this is described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the western boundary of Lot 7655, Kootenay, on the western shore of Suzanne Lake 18 chains south of the north-west corner of said lot; thence 20 chains due west; thence 30 chains due south; thence 38 chains, more or less, due east to a point at high water mark on the west shore of Suzanne Lake; thence northerly along said shoreline to the point of commencement.

References:

FILE: 0112061 - refers to Lot 7220, Kootenay
0148022 - " " CTR #314
X37465 - refers to T.S. on east shore

LOT: 7655 - 705/06; P.H. 102; Kootenay; 23 T 1
7220 - 232/06; P.H. 100; " 23T 1
1896 - 450/03; P.H. 85; " 15T 12

MAPS: Columbia River Basin - M.S. 51
R. N. 15-95
Pre-emption 4D, Fernie


PARKS AND RECREATION
DIVISION

CLEARANCE

(STATUS INQUIRY.)

Forest District Nelson Land District Kootenay Ref. Map 15-98(B/2)

Applicant's name Parks and Recreation Division Address B.C. Forest Service

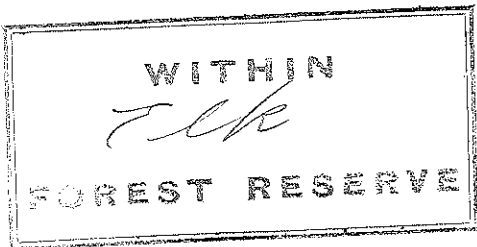
Clearance for purpose of Use and enjoyment of the public
(State whether T.S., H.L.L., F.U., Ry. Permits, etc.)

If sale state (a) class of sale, (b) quantities involved _____

Description of lands to be cleared:

SUZANNE (WANDERING) LAKE

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_____, District Forester.

MANAGEMENT REPORT.

T.S. No. _____

SURVEY AND ATLAS REPORT.

STATUS REPORT.



L. 1896

L. 7655

Suzanne

W.L. 2671.4

Lake

L. 7219

L. 7220

2840

2860

2840

2820

2800

Creek

FOREST AND RECREATION DIVISION
Suzanne Lake
Kootenay
20 ch - 1 inch
2/12/52
R.L.
Columbia River Basin
Sheet M.S. 52