R 527 C

RECONNAISSANCE OF
BURNTBRIDGE CREEK CAMPSITE
EAST KOOTENAYS - ELK FOREST RESERVE
Location:

Burntbridge Creek is a small stream in the East Kootenays which has its headwaters in a miniature lake situated in the Steeples, an out-lying group of peaks of the Rocky Mountains. The three-mile-long stream drops sharply into the Bull River at a point about four miles above the confluence of the Bull and Kootenay Rivers. A reasonably good two-lane, gravelled road follows up along the Bull River. The road dwindles off many miles past Burntbridge Creek — near the head waters of the river. Burntbridge Creek campground is located at the crossing of the creek and road. It is within the Elk Forest Reserve.

Proposed campground showing abandoned log building. Burntbridge Creek course can be traced by the deciduous trees and shrubs in the near background.
Access:

The campsite is reached from Trans-Provincial Highway No. 3 by turning north off the highway just east of Wardner and following the road up the east side of Kootenay River. After crossing the Bull River near its mouth this road branches; the main branch keeps on to Fort Steele, the secondary branch veers up the Bull River. The campsite lies approximately four miles along this road.

Description:

The surrounding countryside is typically sideshill and rolling upland with a southern exposure. Extensive fires swept the area, the last one about twenty years ago. This has resulted in a barren looking landscape. Regeneration has been poor, probably attributable to the scanty rainfall and stony soil. The district is far too dry and stony, with no available irrigation water, to be suitable for agriculture.

[Image: Burntbridge Creek about 75 feet below the road (August 1951).]
The campsite lies on the lower or south side of the road and on the west side of Burntrbridge Creek. The creek carries a substantial volume of clear, sweet water. An acre clearing of hard, rocky ground with a small cabin on the edge indicates that a futile attempt had been made to homestead the tract at sometime in the past. The cabin and surrounding ground is now used by hunters and wayside travellers as a campsite. Cover on the area is scanty and of a brushy nature. The ground slopes quite gently from the road towards Bull River for three hundred feet then drops off rapidly. At the road, Burntrbridge Creek is at ground level but within a few hundred feet if has dug a deep precipitous-sided "V". It is apparent from this that a small area near the road is the only ground suitable for camping upon.

Looking south over the campsite from a point near the road. Cabin just out of sight on the left hand side of photo.
Recommendation:

Campsites in this region with an adequate supply of good water combined with a level piece of roadside ground are quite scarce. It is true that Burntbridge Creek campsite does not compare with some of the more beautiful ones to be found further west or east. This is due mainly to the lack of forest cover. However in the countryside which it will serve it is the only site which provides the requisites of a suitable camping spot. For this reason the area will be reserved. A clearance for this purpose is being forwarded to Management Division.

References:

FILE: 0107907 - refers to S. L. 40, Lot 4590, Kootenay which contains the campsite.

0134457 - refers to S. L. 13, Lot 4590, Kootenay just north of S. L. 40

MAPS: R.M. 15-9/S
15-9N
Pre-emption - No. 4D, Fernie
P 2T 88, 1 in. = 1 mile.

R. Lowrey

AND RECREATION DIVISION

R. Lowrey
Forest District: BILTMORE  Land District: KNOTTEN Ref. Map 15-85/15

Applicant's name: Parks & Recreation Division  Address: P.O. Box 229, Fairbanks, AK

Clearance for purpose of: Campsite for public use.  (State whether T.S., H.L., F.U., R.R., Permit, etc.)

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

Description of lands to be cleared:

**CUMBRIDGE CREEK CAMPSITE**

Commencing at a point on the south boundary of S.E. 1/4 of T. 21S., R. 2W., Section 34, Chenega, 4.5 chains east of the southwest corner of said lot; thence south 14 chains; thence east 6 chains; more or less, to the Burnbridge Creek; thence in a northerly direction up said creek 15 chains more or less, to a point where the south boundary of S.E. 1/4 intersects Burnbridge Creek; thence west along said boundary 6 chains, more or less, to the point of commencement.

[Diagram]

WITHIN

FOREST RESERVE

, District Forester.

MANAGEMENT REPORT.

T.S. No.

SURVEY AND ATLAS REPORT.

STATUS REPORT.

★ P.S. 165—10M (50)—955-2756 (2)