Reconnaissance
and
Preliminary Recreation Plan

TZEDEKOUR PARK

by

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Accompanying this report and filed in map cabinet, Forest Economics Division.
1. F.C. Swannell's topographic map of the northern half of the park showing boundary and trails. Scale 3 mi. = 1 inch.
2. A map of the Rainbow and Caribou Mountains showing the southern half of the present and proposed park with boundary trails and road. Scale 3 mi. = 1 inch.
3. Three detail maps of sections of the Rainbow and Caribou Mountains map showing additional detail. Scale 1 mi. = 1 inch.
4. A detail map of the present White-sail portage.

Reference No. 24.
General file: 0124360.
Foreword

Tweedsmuir Park, the largest of our Provincial Parks, was created in 1933 and named after the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada from 1935 to 1940.

The region has a rich historical background dating back to 1793 when Alexander Mackenzie and his party travelled several hundred miles through it during their epic journey to the Pacific Coast. Nearly one hundred years later in 1870 to 1880 the surveyors for the Canadian National Railway investigated two possible locations through Tweedsmuir Park. About the same time Mr. C. H. Denison of the Geological Survey of Canada made a trip through the easterly half of the park, but the most famous of the pioneers was undoubtedly Father Morice who travelled, explored, and mapped a great deal of the north central part of the province between 1865 and 1904.

Although the park area is very old Indian Territory, and at one time was the home for considerable numbers of Indians, the present tribe numbers less than 100. There are no permanent white residents apart from the trappers, prospectors, and guides who visit from time to time, and there are no roads, consequently conditions are essentially primeval.

Timber values are scattered and low in volume, and considering its inaccessible the region is not of importance as a timber producer. Furthermore the present lack of access by highway is a condition which may be expected to continue for many years, thus Tweedsmuir Park must be considered in a different way to the majority of the parks in the province. It is remote from any settlement, the acreage is immense, and it's freedom from commercial development presents excellent conditions for a "wilderness park". This report recommends that it be administered on that basis and this recommendation is endorsed.

If the park is to be maintained as a wilderness area the number of buildings permitted must be rigidly controlled and kept to a minimum. This means that cabins used by guides must be limited to those considered barely adequate to maintain their services to visitors and industrial buildings will be confined to the minimum necessary for the enterprise involved. It is recommended that commercial concessions and private home-sites be excluded.

Planned camp sites are required to prevent deterioration of the scenic values at key points. Whether travel is by boat or horse there is a definite pattern of day by day movement thereby leading to continued concentration at a limited number of places. These key camp sites will require only relatively crude improvements such as tent sites, garbage sites, toilet facilities, fire places, and wood supply but these facilities should be provided at an early date in order that damage be kept to a minimum.

A protection plan is needed for the area not to protect the timber, but the recreational values. Air transportation of fire fighters and equipment will be necessary and a detection system will have to be established, particularly in the north-east portion of the park the greatest hazard exists. It is recognized that such protection
as this must await a more adequate system of forest protection for the entire province.

Administration of the park ultimately could be handled best by two Rangers who would spend half of the year on Park duties and half on other District administrative work. These officers would be given packers or guides during trips through the park and if any improvement projects such as trail work required more assistance, they would hire local men.

For the present, park funds would not permit an organization such as this for the simple reason that it would be costly supervision and the expenditures out of proportion to the requirements of the Park. Consequently it is recommended that for the next few years supervision of the area continue under the local rangers at Southbank and Ocean Falls with the Park Section sending a small work party through the Park every two years to maintain improvements and camp grounds.

The very complete report which follows has been written by Messrs. Lyons and Trew following their reconnaissance during the summer of 1944.

F. S. McKinnon
Forester.
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Tweedsmuir Park

Class "B"

Report of reconnaissance survey made in August-September 1944.

I. LOCATION AND AREA: The greatest portion of Tweedsmuir Park lies within an area roughly bounded on the north-east by the Canadian National Railway between Prince Rupert and Prince George, the Coast Range on the west and the Bella Coola valley to the south.

Its area of 3,456,000 acres or 5,400 square miles makes it not only the largest park in B.C. but also the largest in Canada, and the United States.

Tweedsmuir Park is the largest park in North America.

II. PARK NAME AND DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT: The recreational aspect of Tweedsmuir Park was first investigated by the Canadian National Railway after the last war. The area was located too far from the main line and Jasper Park was chosen as an alternative for development.

In 1925 a petition was made to the Dominion Parks Service to make the southern section into a park to commemorate the travels of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Nothing came of this endeavour.
Mr. A.E. Collins of the Provincial Forest Service made a forest reconnaissance of the "Big Circle" in 1938. He states that the lake circle trip has scenic value hardly paralleled in other parts of the Province - it will one day become a mecca for tourists and sportsmen.

A small committee was formed to study the possibilities of a recreational reserve and also choose a suitable name. Mackenzie, Washington and Lincoln Parks were suggested. In 1936 the Governor-General of Canada was approached to see if he would allow the names Buchanan, Tweedsmuir or Baron Tweedsmuir Provincial Park to be used. The name Tweedsmuir Park was suggested and adopted.

On March 11, 1936 a land reserve was put over this park area, but it was not gazetted and officially named after Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada from 1935-1940, until May 21, 1938. An order-in-council of December 14, 1940 reclassified Tweedsmuir Park as a Class "B" Provincial Park.

III PARK BOUNDARIES: The park boundaries were delineated by a small committee of interested people who were greatly limited by lack of information on portions of the present park and adjoining areas. A reconnaissance has shown that there should be several changes made to bound the most desirable park unit.

The northern boundary which follows the center line of the main lakes and rivers embraces a scenic unit along with the logical and popular travel routes. However, it may raise an administrative problem, in that there is no control over the north shore of the waterways from Ootsa Lake to the headwaters of the Nechako River. This means that a commercial concern can become established on these north shores and can legally guide fishermen in the northern half of these waterways. This may present a guide-licensing problem which may be difficult to administer. Furthermore, uncontrolled building along the north shore may result in haphazard construction and too obvious buildings will most certainly spoil the wilderness atmosphere of that highly valuable section of the Circle Tour.

The solution is one to be faced now while there is no ownership problem over the main area involved. It is recommended that the park boundary be moved to include a half-mile wide shoreline reserve along these main lakes and rivers from the east end of Ootsa Lake to the easterly park boundary on the Nechako River, i.e., some 3 miles down river from Natalkuz Lake. This would give a clearcut boundary, except on Ootsa Lake, for the licensing of park guides and would keep any unauthorized buildings back from the shore. This would not work any undue hardships, because there are numerous other lakes in similar environments in the region, and the north shore of Ootsa Lake which is already privately held in most places would still be available.
The northwestern and western boundary is well located, following the height of land from the west end of Octsa Lake up to the Mosquito Hills and west to the divide of the Coast Range, thence southerly down this divide.

While there is no question but that the southern boundary is incorrectly located at present, excluding as it does the main attraction in that area (i.e. half of the Rainbow Mountains) recommendations for the proposed boundaries depend on whether or not the Caribou Mountains across the Bella Coola Valley should be included in the park.

The main attraction in the southern area are the Rainbow Mountains.

These mountains are within a day's ride from Smith and are distinctly of a different character than the Rainbow Mountains to the north. They are part of the West Coast Range and are well scattered with lakes and glaciers plus the valuable attraction of Mystery Falls, one of the highest sheer drop waterfalls in North America.
Because of the immensity of the park, one may hesitate to further increase its size by adding an area somewhat similar to the northern mountainous part.

However, there are good reasons for incorporating this area into the park. First, Mystery Falls alone is a worthy attraction which warrants being preserved from uncontrolled commercialization. Secondly, lakes and glaciers in the high country within the Caribou Mountains are more plentiful and more accessible than in the north. Furthermore, this accessibility is by horseback and more within the holiday limits of the average person.

Since both these areas would have a common boundary in the Bella Coola Valley, their administration would be simplified by being a single park and the prestige of Tweedsmuir Park being the largest park in America would but be enhanced.

It would be necessary to include a section of the Bella Coola Valley in the park, but the only problem involved here would be the protection of a strip of timber along the road on the north side of the river. However, acquisition of this narrow strip of timber is recommended whether or not the Caribou Mountains are added to the park.

Presuming the inclusion of the Caribou Country, the recommended boundary alteration would be as follows:

"From the intersection of the present eastern boundary and the Dean River, southeasterly up stream to the Tasulko River, thence westerly along the center line of said river to its most southerly headwaters, thence in a southerly direction to the headwaters of Young Creek and thence southerly along the center line of said creek to its junction with the Atarka River, thence southeasterly along the center line of the Atarka River to its junction with Turner Creek, thence southerly along the height of land between the Turner Creek drainage and the Atarka drainage, to its most southerly point, thence easterly in a straight line to the center line of the Tacheiko River, thence northwesterly along center line of said river to its junction with the Bella Coola river, thence northwesterly along center line of Bella Coola River to its intersection with Burnt Bridge Creek, thence northerly along center line of said creek for approximately 4 miles to a tributary stream entering from the west, thence westerly along center line of said stream to its headwaters thence easterly in a straight line to southern most part of park."
It has been suggested that the plateau centering around Umatlah could be eliminated from the park. Although there is no special attraction to this area, except for the curiosity of an Indian Village, the administration problem is no further complicated and no other commercial values are involved. The one value at present in retaining this area is the additional protection given the park's reputation as a wilderness area.

None of the recommended boundary changes present any great difficulty or complications. Since Tweedsmuir Park is a class "B" park the few privately held lots and timber leases mainly in the Bella Coola Valley which will come within its boundaries will not be affected. It is recommended, however, that a narrow strip of timber along the road within the proposed park be acquired to protect it and maintain the pleasant park-like atmosphere at this entrance to the park.

This would involve the exchange of a small quantity of timber now held by the Pacific Mills Company. Since this matter has been brought up by private individuals it is the subject of a separate study and recommendation.

Logging and farming within the proposed park area are already limited by the narrow and rugged topography of the valley and neither will be greatly hampered except for the protection of a narrow strip along the road and trails. No farms have been taken up in the past 15 years and the value of the small amount of timber involved is decreased by the long 40 mile haul to the salt water. There has been some mention of floating the logs down the Bella Coola River, but the nature of this river makes it a somewhat problematical enterprise.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF AREA: A more detailed description of the park as seen from the more common travel routes will be found under X TRAVELLOGUE.

(a) Topographical: Such an immense area as that enclosed by the recommended new boundaries for Tweedsmuir Park would be expected to produce countless topographical features. Although there are minor variations, the average tourist would notice four distinct land features, each occupying a well defined portion of the park.

From Otse, the rounded, dome-like, mountains of the Quanchus Range rise at the west end of Otse Lake and disappear beyond the horizon to the south. They might appear to be just big rolling hills dominating the flatter jackpine country to the
east, but the barren alpine summits give the impression of snow-capped mountains. This range is the intermediate geological feature between the flat Interior country and rugged mountainous barrier of the Coast Range. The latter are not visible from Gotsa Lake but gradually appear above the horizon as one proceeds up Whitesail River. Their rugged crests and snow-capped peaks surround and dominate the western part of Whitesail and Kutzuk Lakes and extend southward along the western park boundary.

From Gotsa Lake the dome-shaped Quanchus Range form the dominant mountain feature.

The lakes are extremely deep and only in a few places such as the outlets of large rivers and creeks does there appear to be any shallow water. Smaller lakes tend to be a milky green in colour as a result of glacial feeder streams. Although the main rivers are quite wide they are swift and shallow in many places after hot summer months.

The next largest topographical feature adjoins the above to the east and comprises over a third of the total park area. In sharp contrast to the rugged mountain type it consists of very low rolling hills and extensive plateaus all carpeted with a monotonous stand of jackpine.
As if in compensation for the lack of adjacent scenery, the large lakes and rivers are well supplied with attractive bays and sandy points. The shallow water appears more restful and inviting than the chilly grey of the westerly lakes and the rivers are broken up by attractive islands, back eddies and riffles.

Tschik Lake near the Tetachuck trail is a gem of wilderness beauty.

Away from the lakes and rivers the plateaus appear to stretch endlessly and the occasional small knobs and ridges do little to break the monotony. Small, shallow lakes and large meadows are fairly numerous. Creeks are few and far between and have shallow beds and low gradients.

Both westward and southward from Qualicho Lake are low intermediate mountains. These take the form of long rounded ridges intervening between shallow valleys.
The Rainbow Mountains are quite different in character from other physical features in the park. Although the area is very small in proportion to the whole of the park it still totals approximately 250 square miles. The southern portion above Stue is slightly different in appearance with a predominance of bleak grey rocky mountains and accompanying rock slides.

In the Rainbow Mountains there is a lack of glaciers, snow fields, sharp peaks and lakes usually associated with mountain scenery. Instead this unit is broken up by large gently sloping valleys, sub-alpine in character and with picturesque meandering streams threading through an almost continual string of head-like meadows. Each mountain has its distinguishing characteristics although the shades of colour are perhaps more noticeable than the physical features. Usually long, bare sloping ridges of loose rock consistency culminate in dull peaks. But very often knobs, escarpments and volcanic necks protrude from these ridges.

The shades of colour of the mountains are far more interesting than the physical features.

Painted Range in Paradise Valley.
The Cariboo Mountains are a transition group between the inaccessible coast mountains and the low rounded hills of the interior. Very steep timbered slopes rise approximately 4,000' from the main river bottoms to a timbered shelf on which rests Turner Lake and numerous meadows. Patchy snow fields, tumbling glacial streams and small shallow lakes are much in evidence. Individual mountains are separated by high valleys. Ridges in many cases are so broad that they more closely resemble rocky plateaus while other peaks are extremely rugged in character.

Glacial lakes and rugged mountains are features of the Cariboo Mountain area.

Cover:

(1) Trees: The average visitor's impression of tree cover in Tweedsmuir Park will be the densely timbered lower slopes of the mountains in the westerly half of the Great Circle consisting of spruce, balsam and hemlock. The easterly portion of the Great Circle through Intata, Natalkuz, Huchu and Tatchach Lakes present the uniform green of jack-pines on their northern exposures. A more scenically attractive type on southern slopes consists of patches of jack-pines, aspen groves and scattered almost barren slopes.
From Tetachuck to the Dean River and on either side for 30 miles stretches an undulating plateau clothed almost entirely in jack-pine. Usually a narrow belt of spruce follows the edge of meadows, lakes and the slow flowing creeks and rivers. Patches of aspen provide needed variety in colour and form.

Once the higher elevations of the Rainbow Mountains are reached the characteristic timber line tree is the alpine fir. Occasionally scruppy spruce or jack-pine occur in the valleys. Closer to Stuis where there is a slight west coast exposure, scruppy mountain hemlock is found closely resembling the alpine fir in appearance.

Bella Coola Valley has a variety of tree growth. Small stands of Douglas fir give way to cedars and cottonwoods in the damper locations. Birch and willow are found in considerable quantities where soil conditions are favourable. Before climbing the steep slopes of the Cariboo Mountains the visitor passes through park-like stands of Douglas fir and then on the sidehill passes limby, rough fir giving way to jack-pine with an increase in elevation.

In Glacier Valley, jack-pine gives way on the steep mountain sides to a mottled carpet of alpine fir.
Near the 4000' level, balsam and alpine fir intrude and after an interval the brushy alpine fir and mountain alder form patchy carpets on the rocky slopes.

(2) Shrubs: The average traveller although not a student of botany will recognize a number of widely distributed shrubs.

In the western portion of the park, the high blueberry is the most noticeable shrub. Looking up the steep mountain slopes one sees slides of a light green cover. Their deceiving smoothness is discovered to be the almost impenetrable thicket of mountain alder. In lesser quantities are found the black twinberry, squawberry, (often referred to as the high bush cranberry), wild currant (dog currant), salmon-berry, thimbleberry and wild gooseberry. Shubby mountain ash, devil's club and false box are also present.

Thickets of almost impenetrable mountain alder add a light green carpet to steep mountain slopes.
With a change to a drier climate as found in the plateaus, there is a much scarcer ground cover. The most noticeable shrub is the soapbush with its bright red berries. Patches of juniper and kinnikinnik (bear-berry) are found on the drier ridges. Willow shrubs rarely over 5' high and a dwarf briar 6"-12" high are seen with small patches of dwarf huckleberry. In places where the ground is damp and rich the black twinberry and high bush cranberry make an appearance. Most of the meadows have a low shrub, sweetgale, interspersed with brushy willow.

![Image of huckleberry](image)

Dwarf huckleberries are abundant on the slopes of Mackenzie Valley.

(3) Flowers: The Great Circle trip provides little opportunity for seeing any amount of flowers unless a side trip is made to alpine meadows. From the boat the red-flowered dwarf fireweed is seen in mass beds on the gravel bars, while on higher and more open ground the common fireweed makes a blaze of colour. Some of the rivers have occasional clusters of fireweed and loosewort on their borders. Pearly everlasting and the yellow rock outcrop are often seen.
In the high valleys an almost unbelievable profusion of various flowers mass together in banks of colour. Specimens of plants, shrubs and flowers brought in from the field have been identified by Mr. Hardy of the Provincial Museum.

Mountain slopes of the Chikamin Range become wild flower gardens during summer months.

Salix - Willow
Phacelia sericea
Saxifraga ariumontanus " occidentalis 
Tolmiei
Erigeron compositus - fleabane
Potentilla dissecta - five-fingers
Campanula lasiocarpa - blue-bell
Poa alpina - grassy
Cerastium Beeringianum - chickweed
Penstemon procerus
    * diffusus
Arctania propinqua - sandwort
Arnica alpina
Lappula floribunda - stickweed
Sedum stenophyllum - stone crop
Polemonium humile - Greek Valerian
Empetrum nigrum - crowberry
Aconitum pycnanthum - poison hemlock
Campanula livida - false toad flax
Ledum groenlandicum - Labrador tea
Chenopodium capitatum - strawberry blight
Polygonum amphibium - water-knot weed
Ranunculus flammula - creeping buttercup
Pericallis decipiens - rattlesnake plantain
Pyrocte asarifolia - wintergreen
Parnassus pinilviate - grass of Parnassus
Pyrus occidentalis - mountain ash
Vaccinium membranaceum - huckleberry
Cerasus maloideas - pidgeonberry
Rubus pedatus - creeping dewberry (blackberry)
Castilleja - Indian paint brush
Kalmia microphylla - swamp laurel
Pedicularis ornithohynea - louse wort (elephant head)
Mimulus alpinus - monkey flower
Spiraea pectinata - mountain Spiraea
Smilacina sialis - false Solomon Seal
Actaea arguta - baneberry
Cryptogramma acrostichoides - parsley fern
Solidago corymbosa - golden rod
Rubus lacustris - swamp gooseberry
 Rosa - wild rose
Eupatorium latifolium - fireweed, wide leaved
Viburnum cassinifolium - bush cranberry
Hemlock glabra - alun root
Strapopus emplexifolius - twisted stalk

(c) Geographical: The following notes on the geology of Tweedsmuir Park are condensed from reports by:

1. Dawson G.M. Geol. Surv., Canada, Rept. of Prof. 1876-77.

Physical Features: Three physiographic features are prominent in the area.
1. The Coast Range consists of a number of parallel ranges running N.W. - S.E. and separated by broad but deep canyon-like valleys. The general range level is between 7000 to 9000 feet with peaks reaching 8000 and 9000 feet. The relief varies between 4000 and 4500 feet. Glaciers, still found on the higher elevations, have transformed the smooth rounded summits to rugged, irregular peaks.

Snow action and erosion are gradually transforming the rounded mountain summits into a jagged skyline.

2. The Interior Plateau is an undulating hilly country, which when viewed as a whole, appears as a comparatively even plain into which streams have incised broad, deep, "U" shaped valleys. This apparent uniformity is broken by the Kutukuk, Chek (Walls Gray) and Michel Peaks of the Quanchus Range, all of which have granite or diorite cores; these peaks project well above the general elevation of the plateau and give it an appearance of ruggedness. The plateau is in general densely timbered with lodgepole pine and spruce, and dotted with many small lakes.
3. Between the two above features there is a transition zone characterized by rounded, flat top mountains with elevations rising westward from 3000 to 7000 feet. This zone is approximately 15 miles wide and is characterized by massive ridges separated by broad, steep "U" shaped valleys running northeast to southwest, which is at right angles to the Coast Range ridges, and seems to form a series of spurs emanating from this Range. The complete isolation of these transition ridges from one another, is a striking topographical feature of the district. Core Mountain, Whitesail and Chikamin ranges and low rounded hills bordering Nutsuk Lake west of Pondosy Bay are examples.

The Continental ice-sheet covered the entire area and left it with rounded, polished features. Subsequent alpine glaciers carved many of these rounded summits into fantastic jagged peaks with picturesque cirques. Alpine glaciers still occupy many of the higher summits. East of a line joining Mount Wells and Nutsuk Peak the plateau and valley bottoms are covered with a thick mantle of glacial fill which supports a dense growth of lodgepole pine.

General Geology: The north-westerly bulge of the park, comprising part of the Quamichan Range and the Whitesail and Chikamin Ranges, contains the oldest geological formations found in the park. They are known as the Hazelton rock group and belong to the Jurassic period.

This group is made up of three divisions, a lower volcanic member, a middle sedimentary member, and an upper volcanic member.

(a) Lower Volcanic Member:

Rocks of this type occur chiefly on the low, rounded hills between Chikamin ridge and the west end of Whitesail Lake, and also at the east end of the lake. They consist chiefly of dense purple, green, and grey greenstone porphries. A thickness of at least 5000 feet is indicated.

(b) Middle Sedimentary Member:

Rocks of this subdivision form the greater part of Chikamin ridge, the ridges between Bone Creek and Nutsuk Lake, and outcrop at numerous points along the shores of Nutsuk Lake. They consist of thin beds of limestone, black argillites, and waterlain tuffs, with interbeds of tuffs, agglomerates, and breccias.
They are exposed in sections between Bone Lake and Eutsuk Lake to a thickness of at least 6,000 feet with base not shown. The mineral deposits of importance so far discovered in the district occur in rocks of this type.

(c) Upper Volcanic Member:

This type of rock is well exposed on both sides of Eutsuk Lake in the vicinity of Pondosy Bay. They form the rounded hills between Tesla and Eutsuk Lakes and outcrop at intervals along Tatsachuck, Euchuk and Natashaus Lakes. They include a great thickness of fine and coarse tuffs, coarse breccias and agglomerates, minor amounts of andesitic and rhyolitic flows, and some vesicular and amygdaloidal lavas.

Coast Range and Quanchus Range Batholith

A later intrusive has pushed through the rocks of the Hazelton group to form the Coast Range and the Michel, Chief and Eutsuk peaks of the Quanchus Range. The main rock mass is composed of diorite, quartz diorite, and granodiorite. These batholiths are probably of Cretaceous or very early Tertiary age.

Tertiary Volcanics

Tertiary volcanics occupy many of the small islands in Pondosy Lake, and at the head of Pondosy Bay. They form an escarpment 600 feet which parallels the north shore of Eutsuk Lake. One feature that catches the eye are four buttes in line, which rise a few hundred feet above the flat along the north side of Eutsuk Lake, eastward from Sand Cabin Bay. They are basaltic volcanic plugs.

Glacial Geology

The freshness of the glaciation, the lowness of timber-line and the remnants of valley glaciers and ice caps and above all the rounded ridges and small cirques show that a very short geological period has elapsed since the last glaciation.

Many, if not all of the lakes occupy glacial basins. The southwest arm of Eutsuk Lake was gouged over a 1000 feet deep as the ice field moved out into the main lake and then turned southeasterly to carve out the remainder of the lake bed.
Chilkoot Range over 7000 feet was the highest point reached. The ice overrode this point and planed off a park-like area several miles wide between this peak and an adjacent one. This area is now a great tourist attraction with its fields of flowers and small shallow lakes. Other mountains such as Chef and Michel peaks in the Guanchus Range are beautifully rounded by the ice.

Ice planed off a park-like area between peaks.

The receding glaciers and ice fields have levelled off and covered the eastern plateau with a great thickness of alluvium and glacial drift.

**Southern Plateau and Rainbow Mountains**

The southern plateau is believed to have formed from enormous basalt flows emanating from Anahim and Tai-tshuii Peaks. Over these volcanic flows are moraine mounds and ridges with streams slowly cutting down to or exposing the lava flows below.
The Rainbow Mountains consist entirely of volcanic materials and originally the whole range is believed to have conformed to a sloping pile of material culminating in Tsi-tsutl volcano. Erosion has broken down the original form to definite mountain ranges and valleys but portions of the original plateaus can still be seen.

Erosion has broken down the original Tsi-tsutl volcano.

(d) Climate: To most people "the North" implies a land of heavy snowfall. It is therefore surprising to learn that the average snow depth around Ootsa Lake and the whole plateau area of the park is rarely over 2 feet.

In the mountains the precipitation and the snow depth is excessive due to lack of previous mountainous protection from the westerly Pacific winds. The westerly slopes of the Coast Range are blanketed in snow and ice for most of the year and the easterly slopes as seen from the lakes retain large snow fields even during summer months. Trappers report 7-14 feet of snow on these slopes in the winter time.
Winter comes early and it is an ardent hunter who will stay later than the end of October. The rivers and lakes of the "Big Circle" rarely freeze over before Christmas, but may then remain frozen until May, thus providing travel routes for the trappers. By the end of May, conditions are often favourable for the first visitors, usually spring bear hunters.

The snow on the mountain has a tempering effect on the undesirable extreme heat of summer and the large lakes and moist air tend to prevent early frosts.

The tourist season for the "Big Circle" is from the end of May until the end of October but for visitors other than hunters the period from July 1st to September 1st is recommended.

The Rainbox and Cariboo Mountains are more exposed to winds and consequently have a higher rainfall. Snow depths on the peaks range up to 15 feet. The change from Coast to Interior climate is quite noticeable in the 40 miles from Bella Coola to Stuie. The former has a rainfall of 40 inches while Stuie has only 30 inches.

Storm clouds mass over the Coast Range and a bank of fog obliterates the Bella Coola Valley.
The season for trail rides starting from the Bella Coola Valley is from July 15th to September 30th with hunting parties staying on to October 30th.

Although there is not the guarantee of perfect weather of the southern Interior, nevertheless, a good proportion of fine weather can be expected.

(e) Miscellaneous:

Insects - There is no real fly problem in Tweedsmuir Park. The great expanse of the lakes and movement of the boats keeps bothersome insects away during the daytime and the mosquitoes and no-see-ums are rarely bad, although providing for the use of netting at night is a wise precaution.

Black flies appear during June in limited numbers and in hot weather at the higher altitudes, horse flies or "bull-dogs" have proved a nuisance on occasions.

V. History

(a) Early History

Tweedsmuir Park has a rich historical background. Every school student is familiar with Alexander Mackenzie's "from Canada by land" and every history book quotes his famous inscription that marked the sight of the western ocean. Several hundred miles of his route traversed the park. The mountain range that he crossed and more particularly the pass out of Mackenzie valley has the highest elevation (6000') of any point encountered from sea to sea.

Mackenzie, a partner in the North West Company of Montreal, on a reconnaissance for his Company, spent the winter of 1792-93 at Forts Fort on the Peace River and in May 1793, set out to explore westward. He travelled via the Finlay and Parsnip Junction, up the latter and portaged over to the Fraser River. After reaching his canoe on this river he abandoned this route and backpacked up the Blackwater River entering the park near Ulkatcho, the Indian village.

Here Mackenzie describes "coming close upon a house before the inhabitants perceived us, when the women and children uttered the most horrid shrieks, and the only man who appeared to be with them escaped out of a back door --- ".
After crossing the Dean River and "passing along a winding road, and through swampy valleys" he reports on the 15th of July, 1793, that he camped "on a very pleasant green space", which would appear to be at the head of Lower Tanya Lake near the smoke houses.

The following notes describing MacKenzie's journey in relation to the present day naming of features is in large part from J.G. Swannell's 1928 Report to the Surveyor General.

Next day MacKenzie parted with his Indian friends and headed for the mountain pass which had been pointed out to him as his shortest route. Swannell found the old trail leading inconspicuously out of the large meadow on Lot 697. This trail is in fair shape, which is remarkable as it is only occasionally used by the present day Indians as a hunting trail. About 9 miles from Tanya Lake, after climbing over a timbered mountain-spur, we, to quote MacKenzie's own words, "descended into a beautiful valley watered by a small river". For three miles the valley floor is almost level, nearly a mile wide, the beautifully limpid stream winding through large meadows. It has been suitably named "MacKenzie Valley".

In the center of MacKenzie Valley.
The head of the valley is a large cliff-capped amphitheatre, the main branch of the stream rising in a basin a mile or so south of the cairns on Mackenzie Mountain (7064'). It was up this fork that Mackenzie's guides took him and then as now whistlers or hoary marmots were numerous in the rockslides. The trail up this fork is very faint, vanishing for half a mile at a time. The actual place where he crossed the divide is very definite, it being a defile which until late in the summer is snow-filled. The main trail now in use goes up this valley. The height of Mackenzie Pass by aneroid is 6000', its distance from Tanya Lake 16 miles. This pass is the highest point on the whole of Mackenzie's route from sea to sea.

The view from the pass is splendid. Below lies the beautiful alpine valley walled on either side by the steep western slopes of the Rainbow Mountains, the summits rainbow-hued in vivid red, purple and ochre-yellow tones. The Indian name "Ta-tsu-tul" means "painted rocks". Ahead on the south slope extend miles of open plateaus descending in steps to the brink of the Bella Coola, across which looms up Mackenzie's "stupendous mountain".

It is probable that from here Mackenzie headed directly toward "Mount Stupendous" and would thus have followed a route to the Bella Coola River that is seldom used now. The tourist route swings southeast, leading to Octopus Lakes and Deception Pass.

Mackenzie Pass to Bella Coola River - The descent southward from terrace to terrace is easy, timber appearing in slumps after the first two miles. Six miles from the pass Sit-ka-ta-pa Lake is reached and a mile farther south the rim of the Bella Coola Gorge which Mackenzie aptly calls the "brink of a precipice". From here Swannell attempted to further trace Mackenzie's track. After considerable search he found a projecting bluff, a unique point on the plateau rim from which the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek is visible. It must have been from here that 154 years before Mackenzie's guides "discovered the river to us and a village on its banks." There is no trail nor was there one in Mackenzie's day, the travelled route being from Sit-ka-ta-pa Lake southwestward down to the Bella Coola River at Canoe Crossing. The way down is obvious, a plunge of 2,000 feet into a narrow ravine. Once in this, there was no getting out - the steep sides were such an impenetrable jungle of alder, willow,
devil's club and scrub hemlock and windfall lying under rock-slide and cliff, they took the torrent bed by preference. Reaching the north fork of Burnt Bridge Creek at the bottom of these precipices Swannell made a precarious crossing by wading and jumping from boulder to boulder. Shortly after he crossed the east fork, which falls over the plateau rim as a waterfall with a straight plunge of several hundred feet. From here down the Burnt Bridge Creek the grade is easy but travelling bed on account of the fallen timber and underbrush. The air line distance from the plateau rim to the Bella Coola River is little over 6 miles, the descent about 4000 feet mostly in the first two miles. Swannell took 7 very strenuous hours to make this descent. The going was very rough, difficult and dangerous although they had light packs, heavily nailed boots, and were in excellent physical trim. It must have been a terrible ordeal for MacKenzie's men, underfed, over-worked, and poorly shod as they were. Of his return trip MacKenzie writes "When we were clear of the wood, we saw the mountain towering above us and apparently of impracticable ascent -- The fatigue of ascending these precipices I shall not attempt to describe, and it was past five when we arrived at a spot where we could get water, and in such an extremity of weariness that it was with great pain any of us could crawl about to gather wood for the necessary purpose of making a fire."

He continued his journey toward the sea until, on July 22nd, 1939 being satisfied that he has actually reached the Pacific, to quote from his journal, "I now mixed up some vermillion in melted grease, and inscribed in large characters on the southeast face of the rock on which we slept last night, this brief memorial "Alexander MacKenzie, from Canada, by land, the twenty-second of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three." This particular spot has been commemorated by a cairn and is now classified as Sir Alexander MacKenzie Park one of the Class "A" Provincial Parks.

This epic journey is one of the highlights in early British Columbia history. The visitor to the southern portion of the park will be amply repaid to read the portion of MacKenzie's diary covering his trip from the West Road River to MacKenzie's rock.

Further history of the park area until 1928 is largely covered by the activities of various surveyors.
The earliest recorded survey was by C.P.R. surveyors during the years from 1870 to 1880. The railway then ended at Tete Jaune Cache and numerous parties were in the field trying to locate the best route to the Pacific Ocean. Five separate lines were investigated and two of these passed through Tweedsmuir Park. One entered the park along the West Road River along the same route as that of Sir Alexander MacKenzie and then followed the Dean River down to Dean Channel.

The other route came up the Nachako River and then followed the Entiako River up to the lake and beyond to Qualcho Lake. It was here in 1876 that G.H. Dawson records meeting the survey party. From Qualcho Lake the location line went to Siglitlat Lake and thence down a tributary to the Dean River and so to the sea.

The rugged coast range and the numerous meadows and swamps proved too great a deterrent and ended all railway reconnaissances through this area.

Large meadows and swamps proved a major deterrent to railway location through the park.
C.M. Dawson of the Geological Survey of Canada made a north to south trip in 1876 through the easterly half of the park following much the same route as Sir Alexander Mackenzie. He described the volcanic origin of the Rainbow Mountains and other geological formations of interest today.

One of the most famous pioneers was Father Morice, who travelled and explored much of the north central part of B.C. between the years 1865 and 1904. He mapped the Nechako River from its mouth to its source in Watakus Lake and travelled over the entire length of Stuart River.

The part of interest here is his trip around the Great Circle which he believed had never before been travelled by a white man. Actually Whitesail and Kutusk Lakes were the only ones not traversed by members of the C.P.R. survey crews. Father Morice did the first detailed mapping and gave names to the lakes although unknown to him they already had close approximations to the present names.

The trip started in September 1896 from Gamble Lake, now known as Ootsa Lake which he mentions was derived from the Indian name Yootseeo. The C.P.R. survey map of 1877 shows the name Ootsabunket.

A canoe was started from a poplar tree but in their hurry to finish it they split it end to end. Borrowing a light Indian hunting canoe they started down Ootsa Lake and almost drowned in a sudden storm that sprang up.

The Whitesail River was named Dawson River after a friend in England of Father Morice’s, while Sinclair Lake, retaining the same name today, was named after the head of the Hudson Bay Company’s post at Fraser Lake.

Another storm was in progress when they crossed Whitesail Lake and although in great danger of swamping, the canoe was stopped in the middle of the lake to let Father Morice make a sounding. 645 feet of line found no bottom.

Crossing the portage next day the party entered the arm of Kutusk Lake which Father Morice assumed to be a small round lake. As he rounded various arms and points leading into the main lake his amazement grew and he describes the lake as the "grandest and most beautiful lake we have ever seen". His helpers insisted such a magnificent lake should be called Morice Lake.
Passing into Tetachuck Lake (Le Jacq) he remarks that the clear water and lack of fish made fishing almost hopeless.

Starting down the Tetachuck River they almost went over Tetachuck Falls before seeing it. The men were very discouraged believing they were lost and on a river that led into the sea.

Passing into Nuchu Lake (Sinomin Lake) one of the Indians was sure it was the source of the Nechako River but on again entering a new lake (Nataklauz on our maps, Loca Lake on Morice's sketch) they were positive they were lost and were "sad and silent".

A short time later they found the Nechako River and after undergoing terrible hardships on an un navigable river they arrived, close to starvation, at St. Mary's Lake (Cheslatta Lake).

The comfort of the present trip is in sharp contrast to this pioneer expedition which was beset by storms and starvation throughout.

(b) Indian History

Very little Indian history has survived the last 150 years. Most of the "old-timers" are dead and the younger generation seems to have very little knowledge of past history.

The central portion of the park is very old Indian territory. Sir Alexander Mackenzie frequently met small bands of Indians located in areas that are still today the favourite camping and fishing spots.

Several old Indian trails through the park are of historical significance. The "Grease" Trail, so called because the Interior Indians travelled it with pemmican to barter to the Coast tribes, runs from Fondsay Bay on Fatsuk Lake, past the end of Tesla Lake and over the Sataniha Pass to Kinsquit. Swannell places its last use around 1876.

The old "Stick" Trail, so called because travelled by the "Stick" or Forest Indians of the Interior to their fishing grounds on the lower Dean, leads westward from Ulikatcho past Qualeko and Sigluhit Lakes to the Dean River. Swannell describes it as, "disused for a generation, chopped out wide with camps everywhere and the very old choppings done with axes made after the stone-age pattern - a hoop-iron blade lashed at right angles to the short, like a hoe".
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A falls near the mouth of the Dean River caused a concentration of fish and here the Indians caught them in wicker baskets supported on a spindly framework so the jumping fish would fall back into the baskets. This area was so much used that the moccasined feet of the Indians have worn a path into the solid rock.

The small-pox epidemic that swept the country in 1860 took a very heavy toll, and the Uikatcho Indians have never built their numbers up to what it was before that date. They are closely related to the Anahims, Cheslatta and Chilcotin groups.

At present the tribe does not number over 100. Most of the year they are scattered over hundreds of square miles of territory. In the summer, each family moves to a meadow where hay is cut for the winter. At Christmas and Easter they congregate at Uikatcho, a small settlement. These are periods of high festivity and importance because of the visit of a Catholic priest. They elect a chief from amongst themselves who is responsible for punishing offenders and the Catholic priest designates another Indian who is given the title of Captain and looks after their religious needs.

The summer ranch of Captain Harry who is the appointed religious leader of the Anahim Indians.
Their earliest religious teachings go back to the 1880's when a few of their number came under the influence of Father Morice. They still use the shorthand method of writing as popularized by the priest 5 decades ago.

They are taught by fellow Indians and given a certain amount of guidance from bulletins published by the church. A well-built and equipped school and boarding house operated between 1940-1943 but ran short of a teacher and pupils. A few of the Indians can read and write and having these requirements they generally start a small store.

The village is located on a southern slope above Uikatcho Lake and is very exposed to the cold winds of winter. Approximately 15 log houses with gables of shiplap and a roof of shakes or shingles are scattered about in various stages of disrepair. A large rickety church overlooks a picturesque cemetery with approximately 70 graves of different design and colouring.

Typical Indian houses.
Ulkatcho Indian village cemetery

The Indians have prospered during the war years. The prices paid for fur have been extremely high and wages for working as guides, cattle wranglers or haying help have reached a new peak. This new found wealth is hard to keep and the Indians' standard of living is not noticeably affected.

Ulkatcho Indians on the trail. Note hind quarter of moose over saddle.
(c) Mining History

Practically no mining has been carried out in the park although certain areas have been fairly intensively prospected. This is still being carried on at present with the occasional strike and flurry of high hopes.

The first recorded geological survey in the region was made in 1875-1876 by Dr. G.K. Dewan who came as far west as the Ootsa Lake-Balla Cola trail. He followed in part the preliminary surveys run by the Canadian Pacific Railroad engineers the same year.

In 1916 J.D. Galloway, Department of Mines, made a reconnaissance of an area northeast of Tahtha Lake, including the Sibola Range to Ootsa Lake, then doubled back by boat to cover the shores of Ootsa, Whitesail, and Kuteak Lakes. He states "there is evidence of widespread mineralization, and at least one section - Sweeney Mountain - is decidedly promising".

Subsequent prospecting in this area since 1920 led to the staking and developing of several claims, none of which ever went into production. The most important of these is the Emerald group, situated northeast of Tahtha Lake, which showed great possibility. It was acquired by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada in 1927. However, further work by this company did not reveal sufficient mineral to warrant the expense of developing a transportation system.

In 1926 the Tesla mountain area was opened up by the building of a trail from Kinaskan over the Sakustina Pass. Since the region appeared promising a grant was made by the Department of Mines to assist in the construction of this trail. No claims of any particular value have yet been staked here.

In the Whitesail Lake area, Chikamin Ridge southwest of the lake, and Lindquist Lake both have been thoroughly prospected and are at present under investigation by mining companies. The Department of Mines financed the building of a trail up Chikamin Ridge to several groups of claims, mainly on the north and east slopes.

The Monarch group, a mile and a half up the north slope has a 35-foot tunnel and several open cuts. It is essentially a galena and zinc-blende show.
(a) Northern Entrance at Ootsa Lake:

Although Burns Lake is sometimes called the "Entrance to Tweedsmuir Park" it is actually some 42 miles north of Ootsa. It is linked by road and a ferry across Francois Lake. Burns Lake can be reached by C.N.R. or road from either Prince Rupert or Prince George. The latter can be reached, amongst other routes, by the P.G.N. Railroad from Squamish to Quesnel and then by bus. This makes a very pleasing and varied journey if one is not too pressed for time. If all the connections are made the traveller will arrive at Ootsa Lake in the afternoon of the third day after leaving Vancouver. The cost of the entire trip is approximately $50.00 including the $10.00 taxi hire from Burns Lake to Ootsa Lake.

A shorter route, by plane from Vancouver to Prince George, takes only several hours to complete and costs no more than the conventional methods of travelling. This means that 24 hours after leaving Vancouver, the visitor can be at Ootsa Lake.

Another possibility is to take a coastal steamer to Prince Rupert and the C.N.R. from there to Burns Lake.

(b) Southern Entrance at Stuie via Bella Coola:

The Union Steamship "Cardena" calls at Bella Coola once a week on its run to Prince Rupert. The 2 day trip is very pleasant and relatively inexpensive (approximately $40.00 return).

From Bella Coola to Stuie is a distance of 42 miles over a scenic road. The main trail leading into the park starts another 8 miles eastward in the Bella Coola Valley. 7 miles of this is by road and one mile by trail. Before long the road will be built to the start of the main trail.

(c) Secondary Entrances:

1. From Anahim Lake: Approximately 200 miles of gravel road connect Williams Lake to Anahim on the edge of the park. From here a wide trail, used by the Indians as a sleigh road for freighting in their supplies, connects Anahim Lake and Ulkatche. This road follows the Dean River and is seldom used by visitors at present.
2. From Kimsquit: The old abandoned cannery settlement of Kimsquit is situated at the head of the Dean Channel opposite the mouth of the Dean River. From here a very poor and seldom used trail leads over Sakwatha Pass to Tesala Lake and thence to Pondory Bay on Kutsuk Lake. Its disadvantages are numerous. Horses have to be freighted in and horse feed is very scarce along the trail. It has been used in the past by prospectors going into Tesala Lake.

3. From Quesnel up West Road River: About 70 miles of summer road leads from Quesnel to Nazko. Another 7 miles of poor road leads to the West Road River where Sir Alexander Mackenzie's route, now a fair trail, can be followed for approximately 70 miles to Ulkatcho.

VII. PUBLIC USE: The northern portion of the park known as the "Big Circle" attracted a few tourists in the early 1920's and slowly became more popular until 1937 when the publicity of the Tweedsmuir trip and the formation of a park promised to attract a good number of visitors.

The first use was mainly hunting and fishing, but around 1937 many visitors were getting interested in the scenic aspect. By 1940 one-third of the people were taking movies of the trip. Records show that 50% of the travellers are American and 70% of these are from California. The good highways from California to Vancouver seems to be the main cause of this influx.

The start of the war reduced travel from the United States and the past 3 or 4 years has seen only small groups of holidayers. Indications are that at the close of the war there will be many tourists making a return visit and bringing their friends.

Tourist travel in the southern portion was practically nil until after 1935. Without visitors the attractions could not be publicized and it was only after the Tweedsmuir trip that the resulting publicity brought enough people to warrant the operation of a commercial concern.

80% of the visitors in the southern region are Americans, 50% come from the East. Seattle, Portland and San Francisco contributing a large part of the remainder. Trail rides of a week's duration and at reduced rates cater mostly to S.O. people.

The nature of the wilderness trips is such that large numbers of tourists could not be satisfactorily handled. The present number of guides with their equipment and accommodation at the north and south entrances could not handle more than 300 tourists during a summer even with all trips running on a perfect schedule.
The ultimate capacity is only limited when the number of people travelling is so great that the wilderness aspect is in danger of depreciating. Even with trips carefully planned to avoid meeting other parties in the field and the maximum use of circle and side trips it would appear impossible to successfully cater to more than 600 people during the summer season. One governing factor in making this estimate is that often only one or two persons are on a trip and so one man may utilize the services of a guide, boat or several horses for a considerable period of time.

VIII. RECREATIONAL POTENTIALITIES: Although timberline country is much the same in any part of B.C., Tweedsmuir Park has several advantages. The variety of terrain, abundance of flowers, the unusual colours of the mountains with their odd shapes, the fine view of some of the highest peaks in the Coast Range and the accessibility of many mountain peaks by horseback, all combine to offer a very high standard of correlated attractions. The Rainbow Mountains and Mystery Falls in the Caribou Mountains would be highlights in any park.

Mystery Falls would be a highlight in any park.
The boat trip of the "Big Circle" is unique in the length of trip and number of lakes and rivers that are traversed. Added to this are the attractions offered by the transition from rugged coast to Interior plateau scenery and the fishing and hunting.

The boat trip of the "Big Circle" is unique.

The recreational potentiality of Tweedsmuir Park as compared with other Provincial Parks cannot be reduced to facts showing the advantages of comparative means of access and the probable number of tourists. It is not near a center of large population nor adjacent to a well travelled highway. There is no promise of it being so situated in the future.

It is essentially a wilderness area and in this respect holds a place all its own in the Provincial Parks of British Columbia. Other parks such as Garibaldi, Strathcona and Wells Gray are wilderness areas now but will not be when development plans are completed. Tweedsmuir Park with its immense acreage, its remoteness and freedom from present or contemplated commercial development presents ideal conditions for a "wilderness" park in the truest sense of the word. Its development and administration should be strictly in accordance with this classification.
IX. FISH, GAME AND WILD LIFE: The early tourist use of Tweedsmuir Park was due directly to the attractions offered by hunting and fishing. Now the attraction of lake and mountain scenery is coming to the fore but the lure of big game and fine fishing will always remain one of the strongest drawing cards.

The fishing and hunting possibilities are not outstanding. Many areas, if judged on the basis of acreage and accessibility, could offer better. This fact is amply compensated for by conditions peculiar to the park. The variety of scenery keeps up a high degree of interest and even the ardent sportsman is content to leave the fishing to short periods at the most desirable locations. If fishing or hunting is the prime prerequisite then the visitor is taken to definite localities where he can enjoy the sport to his highest expectations.

Suggestions have been made that Tweedsmuir Park should be classified as a game reserve. Usually such recommendations come from people who are not familiar with fish and game conditions in the park and who visualize every tourist wantonly shooting all species of wild life. Instead of this ruthless slaughter that either kills or drives off all animals from the park, they picture deer and moose feeding contentedly as the boat or horses pass by.

The fallacy of this reasoning is obvious to most sportsmen. First, the hunting season except for a minor game animal, doesn't overlap the popular tourist months. Although most sportsmen like to carry a rifle on such a trip, if it is fired at all it will be at wolves or coyotes. Secondly, the animal population is so scattered during the summer that the presence of big game animals is not an everyday sight and there is no possibility of them becoming more bold through the safety of a game reserve.

It has been continually stressed in park planning that proper game management cannot be too highly emphasized. Its importance has led to the inclusion of a clause in the Park Regulations providing for adequate control of fish and game. In this way it is quite possible to strike a fair balance in the opportunities afforded both the scenic traveller and hunter to enjoy the wild life in the park.

(a) Fish:

1. Northern portion of the park: The "Great Circle" of lakes and rivers offers fishing that compares favourably with the sport offered in the large lakes of the Caribou District, with certain rivers and creek outlets being exceptionally good.
The presence of coarse fish, mainly suckers and squaw fish, was noted in many of the lakes and rivers. Although they are not found in alarming numbers they can on occasion be troublesome to fishermen.

In these large interconnected lakes there is no practical way of appreciably lessening or controlling these fish. Netting or trapping would require a full time attendant and experiments have shown that only in cases of very small lakes has there been any appreciable benefit.

Sport fish are abundant and conditions are such that natural stocking is very satisfactory. All of the fish are in good condition and evidence points to a continuation of this for years to come.

Notes on the fishing possibilities of the lakes and streams are given below:

Lake trout or Char caught in Francois Lake
Ootsa Lake: Good fishing all summer for rainbow trout up to 12 lbs. Average 5 lbs to 6 lbs. Use troll - Gibbs-Stewart #5 or F.S.T. #5 with 1/2 lb. weight and fish deep.

Ling and squaw fish will take bait or set lines. Generally fished for fox and mink food. Indians sometimes net the suckers for food.

Tahtsa River: Poor fishing - glacial water.

Tahtsa Lake: Fair at creek outlets.

Troitsa Lake: Well stocked but not fished as yet.

Whitesail River: No fishing because of swift water over clean gravel beds giving no shelter or rest for the fish.

Whitesail Lake: Good trolling for rainbow trout up to 10 lbs. Use Gibbs-Stewart #4 or #5 and from 3 lbs. to 5 lbs. of lead. Fly fishing good at creek outlets, particularly at west end.

Little Whitesail Lake: Good trolling as above.

Tatsuk Lake: Good trolling throughout with fly fishing at the creek outlets. Especially good in short stretch of creek below Surel Falls and at creek outlet at west end of lake. Fair at outlet of lake and very fine fly fishing down river. The river is easily fished from the bank and rainbow trout from 6" to 14" are numerous.

Good fishing and good scenery are combined at Surel Falls.
Tetachuck Lake: No definite information but probably similar to Naknek Lake.

Tetachuck River: Reported good fly fishing throughout.

Rainbow trout are abundant in Tetachuck River.

Eucu Lake: No specific information but undoubtedly stocked like the other lakes.

Nechako River: First class fly fishing river with many pools, backwaters and riffles. Parties usually stay on the first 5 miles of river.

Matakus Lake: Poor fishing, quite shallow water and undoubtedly many coarse fish present.

Intata River: Exceptionally good rainbow fishing throughout. Many good pools and eddies and can be fished from river bank.
Intata Lake: Very little trout fishing because of large numbers of squaw fish.

Ootsa River: Good fishing throughout for rainbow trout up to 1 lb. Squaw fish and suckers at outlet and in shallow water.

Summary:

The sportmen will find that successful fishing in the big lakes is usually a matter of trolling with a Gibbs-Stewart spoon size #4 or #5 and using a heavily weighted line. The fish are rainbow trout and average 3 to 6 lbs.

Most fishermen, scorning this type of trolling, will find ample fly fishing at certain points conveniently located along the route and well known to the guides. Fish range from 10" to 16" and are rainbow trout.

The following places are choice spots for fly fishing:

1. Creek outlet at western end of Whitesail Lake.
2. Creek outlet from Surel falls and creek at west end of Batsuk Lake.
5. Intata River.
6. Ootsa River.

For a holiday where fishing supersedes all else, the fisherman is advised to go eastward on Ootsa Lake, fish the Ootsa and Intata Rivers and spend the remainder of his time on the Nechako River.

2. Southern portion of the park: Although there is practically no fishing in the Rainbow Mountains the low surrounding country offers fairly well stocked rivers and lakes. When through trips from Stui to Batsuk Lake are running successfully, most of the overnight camps will be on lakes or rivers with fair to good fishing possibilities.

Notes on the various lakes and streams that may be passed or used as campsites are given below:

Chazko River: No fish seen - swift glacial stream.
Tesla Lake: Small rainbow can be caught on a troll.

Tahuntasko (Bad) Lake: Probably good fishing from a boat. Shallow shore line.

Oppy Lake: No fish - conditions seem alright for stocking.

Nahlouza Lake: Probably good fishing from a boat or raft since many fish were seen jumping. Small rainbow trout and several squaw fish were caught from fishing on the shore.

Sigutlet Lake: No reports.

Iltyusko Creek: (Outlet of Sigutlet Lake) Deep pools and rapids in upper reaches full of rainbow trout up to 1 lb. in weight.

Gualcho Lake: Many rainbow trout up to 4 lbs. in weight were seen jumping and good fishing has been reported. The one fish that was examined had several long thin white worms imbedded in its tail and behind the back fin. It is believed that these worms are seasonal in occurrence.

Ukatcho Lake: Rainbow trout up to 5 lbs. on the troll.

Dean River: Excellent fly fishing for rainbow trout up to 16 inches in length. The best fishing is found a mile or two down the river from the trail crossing.

Tanya Lake: Rainbow and steelhead fishing in August and September with the best fishing near the mouths of inflowing streams.

Takla River: This rather small river has many steelhead in it on their way up to spawn. Many fish were seen jumping after flies so there should be fair fly fishing here in August and September.

Creeks in the Rainbow Mountains: No fish are to be found in any of the small streams. They have never been stocked but there does not appear to be any reason why the creek flowing out of Mackenzie Valley would not be suitable for fish.
Octopus Lakes: No fish but conditions appear ideal for stocking.

Bella Coola River: Poor fishing below junction with the Talchako River because of glacial water intrusion. Good fishing from east of junction depending on season. Fish are running. Coast cut-throat, rainbow, steelhead and several kinds of salmon are caught in season.

Caribou Mountain Region: Most of the streams are glacial fed and none of the creeks or small lakes showed any evidence of fish. Turner Lake appears ideal for fish but mesa information lists it as not stocked. The only lake with the exception of Turner Lake that might be stocked is Nolly Lake.

(b) Game:

The earliest explorations as recorded in the diaries of Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Father Morice showed that these parties were in danger of starvation a great deal of the time. Apparently the lakes and streams were almost devoid of fish and game was seldom sighted. Sir Alexander Mackenzie reports that the Indians shot a type of deer (caribou) on the summit above Mackenzie Valley and that they saw mountain goats in the Burnt Bridge Creek canyon. The same animals are found in these regions today.

Conditions have changed considerably since then and although there are now very satisfactory numbers of deer, moose, goat and bear, the summer range is so vast that tourists seldom encounter the amount of wildlife they expect to see. By the time hunting season opens the game is concentrating at certain localities and it is then that the hunting qualities of Tweedsmuir Park should be judged.

The start of fall hunting coincides with the close of the summer tourist season so there is seldom any conflicting parties in the field and the guides have the advantage of catering to an extended season with well-paying guests.

The following notes give a summary of the main occurrences of animals in Tweedsmuir Park.
1. **Moose**: It is a well established fact that moose have been making a southern migration for the past twenty years. Therefore, it is not surprising to read in a 1913 survey report that moose were so scarce as to be almost non-existent. By 1926 they were fairly plentiful but their migration south and west throughout the park could still be traced. Now they are found uniformly scattered over the whole area.

   In the fall and winter they concentrate at low levels where there is an abundance of deciduous trees. In the summer time the tourist sees them feeding in the shallows along the lakes and rivers and in the high alpine meadows.

2. **Deer**: The large male deer is the common species and although not frequently seen it would appear to range quite uniformly throughout the park. In the summer time a few can be seen along the lakes and rivers but most animals stay at timber line where there is...
ample food and a freedom from flies.
With the approach of snow they migrate
to their wintering grounds and hunters
have little difficulty in getting their
limit.

In the northern region the favourite
hunting areas lie eastward from Otsea Lake
in the low hills along the lakes and rivers
down to the mouth of the Nechaik River.

From Stuie, hunting parties go to the
slopes below Mount Walker and to hills
eastwards from Mosher Creek. The central
plateau should offer very good deer hunting
but at present it is too remote with sat-
sfactory hunting conditions found closer
to outfitting centers.

3. Caribou: According to meagre reports the
caribou, one of the most prized of big game
animals, is decreasing in numbers. There
are definite localities where these animals
are found and in most cases they are in
areas traversed by tourist routes. Needless
to say they are a source of great interest
to the visitor.

The Indians seldom shoot them, but wolves
find them easy prey and have been rapidly
depleting the herds. An increase in wolves
is proving a serious threat to this game
animal even though local trappers have been
appointed as predatory animal hunters and
others are allowed to set out poison for
wolves and coyotes.

4. Bear: Black bear are seldom seen except in
certain localities in spring and fall.
They are not hunted very much because
most hunters prefer shooting grizzlies.
The black bear is usually found at slightly
lower levels than the grizzly but their
common food source of fresh plant growth
on the slides in spring-time and berries
and spawning salmon in the fall often brings
them together.
The favourite hunting places are the slides on Chikamin Ridge and near the west end of the lake. This area is hunted almost exclusively in the spring as soon as the ice break-up will allow.

Other places which bears frequent are the berry-covered slopes near Mount Walker, similar slopes on the opposite side of the Bella Coola valley which lead to the Caribou Mountains and above all the Bella Coola Valley where they concentrate to fish for salmon.

During the month of September the number of bears along this river is almost unbelievable. Every sand bar is criss-crossed by tracks and even the road is used as a popular trail. Hunters have little trouble in securing their bag limit of grizzlies.

The ideal way to hunt them would be to drift down the river at dusk or dawn in a stout river boat. They could then be shot on either bank and easily retrieved. At present only certain berries that are accessible by foot or horseback can be used. The fact that the grizzly bear is one of the most popular of big game animals and particularly sought by U.S. sportsmen would indicate that here is an aspect of the tourist trade worth developing.

5. Goats: The high rocky ridges along the northwesterly edge of the park offer the best conditions for goats. Scattered reports coupled with the fact that on Chikamin Range and other mountains visible from the boat, many goats could be seen with binoculars, indicate that this game animal is present in very satisfactory numbers.

They were also seen in the south on the Rainbow Mountains, Mount Walker and in the Caribou Mountains. It seems almost safe to say that goats exist on all the high rocky ranges. Hunting them in the northern part of the park is arduous because of the long climb from the boat. However, in the Rainbow Mountains and on Mount Walker they can be approached by horseback to almost within stalking distance.
Goats can be approached on Mt. Walker by horseback to almost within stalking distance.

6. Game Birds: Although Franklin grouse (fool hen), willow, blue grouse, and ptarmigan were seen throughout the park they are not found in sufficient numbers nor are they accessible enough to constitute any hunting attraction.

Ducks and geese are found in sufficient numbers to bring in hunters. The best known place is the west end of Ootsa Lake where there is exceptionally good hunting during the month of October. There are many regions in the park where conditions are favourable for wild fowl both for nesting and migration resting points. The following lists some of the ones noticed:
1. West end Ootsa Lake.
2. Shallow bay in the vicinity of the portage, Eutsuk Lake.
3. Large meadow and swamp behind beach at Sand Cabin Bay.

A large swamp area behind Sand Cabin Bay on Eutsuk Lake is well populated with ducks and geese.

4. Natalkuz Lake - large feeding grounds.
5. Intata River - back eddies and swamps along river.
6. Entasko Lake - many ducks nesting and large feeding grounds.
7. Mahouza Lake - fair amount of feeding grounds.

(c) WILD LIFE:

1. Beaver: Although in 1913 it was reported that "the country swarms with them" they are now very depleted in numbers from over-trapping and poaching. No better natural conditions could be found than those in Tweedsmuir Park yet only the old signs of dams and beaver houses remain to show their once plentiful existence.
The large central plateau is all Indian trapping ground and the poaching for beaver is so intense that trappers seldom leave any animals for propagation.

A few river beaver are found in the Bella Coola River.

2. Marten, Fox and Mink: These three animals constitute the most important fur-bearers in the region. They are found in satisfactory numbers and yield a very high grade of fur.

3. Weasel, Fisher, Muskrat, Lynx: These fur-bearers are secondary importance to the trapper.

4. Squirrels, Chipmunks, Hoary Marmots or Whistlers, Porcupines and Rabbits: Squirrels are common throughout, except at the higher elevations and chipmunks are frequently seen in the dry central plateau.

Whistlers, often erroneously referred to as ground-hogs, were noticed by Sir Alexander MacKenzie and are still plentiful in the rock slides and heads of the alpine meadows.

Porcupines and rabbits probably are quite plentiful but the noise of boat engines or a string of pack horses gives them ample warning to hide.

5. Birds: around the "Great Circle" the visitor sees many golden and bald-headed eagles as well as ospreys. Their bulky nests perched on the tops of snags convey a sense of undisturbed wilderness. They are only seen in the vicinity of the large lakes and rivers.

Eagles are so plentiful that they menace many of the smaller fur-bearers.
Their bulky nests perched on the tops of snags convey a sense of undisturbed wilderness.

The loon is on all the lakes of the "Great Circle" as well as graceful terns. The horned owl makes his presence known at night by hooting.

Some other birds of interest are the raven, crow, dipper or water eau dul, Clark's nutcracker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, whiskey-jack or camp robber, cedar wax wing, snipe, humming bird, king fisher, sparrow hawk, marsh hawk, lesser yellow legs or sandpipers.

Of outstanding interest was a flock of pelicans on Entiako Lake. These birds of which everybody has heard, yet seldom seen, are said to have few and very select nesting grounds. Quite a number were seen on Entiako Lake and it is presumed that this secluded shallow lake offers the necessary food and shelter required for their breeding.

X. TRAVELOGUE: The following description of the main travel routes through Tweedsmuir Park is an attempt to give in brief form the impressions that the various features of land and water leave with the visitor.

(a) Big Circle Boat Trip.

1. Cotan Lake to Whitesail Lake:
Approaching Ootsa Lake the visitor's interest in the trip ahead is heightened by a glimpse of the Lake stretching away to the east and west. The whitish domes of the Quanchus Mountains form a background for the lake and foretell of higher peaks to come.

Once the equipment is stored away the visitor relaxes and contemplates the scenery on all sides.

Once the never old thrill of storing away the equipment and "grub" in the river boat is over, the visitor relaxes and contemplates the scenery on all sides. During the 3 hour run down Ootsa Lake to the Whitesail river the aspect is ever changing. For awhile the scattered farms on the north bank lend a touch of golden colour to the low timbered hills. Soon these last outposts of civilization are replaced by a series of large brown rock bluffs spaced about a mile apart. Actually the route of travel lies close to the other shore of the lake where glistening sand beaches, small bays and promontories provide a continual variety of form and colour.
Before interest can wane, the lowlands near the entrance to the Tahkeetna centers the visitor's attention on the approaching trip up a picturesque river. The mud-flats around the river outlet provide a feeding and breeding ground for ducks and geese and here may also be seen moose, deer and bear.

The main channel of the slow flowing river is entered after an apparently complicated maneuver by the guide who thus demonstrates his knowledge of the intricacies of current and changing channels.

The Tahkeetna River is about 400 feet wide with low brushy banks overhanging the water. Offsetting the light green colour of this deciduous growth is a border of summer spruce, some 600 feet from the river. The very atmosphere is characteristic of the northern wilderness so often described by adventure writers. Mt. Wells in the Chugach Mountains shows up as a barren dome so smooth as to be uninteresting to mountain climbers.

After an hour run up the Tahkeetna River the boat enters Sinclair Lake. Its narrow width and tree covered shores are reminiscent of the river but the water is shallow and clear and many small reedy bays invite one to camp overnight.

The next waterway is the Whitesail River, a 200 foot wide clear stream about 5 feet deep and possessing a fairly swift current. Although the scenic aspect is only mediocre for much of the way along this river, the sudden turnings, shallows and rapids keep the guides busy and the passengers on the alert. In some places it is necessary to pole up shallow water or help the outboard fight swift pieces of current. It is now that the visitor sees what is meant by river travel and realizes the dangers the early explorers encountered in their paper-like canoes.

2. Whitesail Lake - Tetachuck Lake:

On Whitesail Lake the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Range dominate the horizon and minimize the scars of the old burn and windfalls along the shores of the northern portion. It is well worth-while to continue beyond the portage to the end of Whitesail Lake where large glaciers and near perpendicular mountains make a superb camp setting. From there it is often possible to see mountain goats perched on narrow ledges high above timber line. A short side trip into the glacial waters of Little Whitesail Lake takes one into a separate wilderness of water, peaks and glaciers.
Before leaving this lake via portage to Bautuk Lake one side trip to Chikamin Range is highly recommended. This excursion affords a break from boating and gives the traveller a chance to explore the higher peaks and wildflower meadows.

This short climb to timberline will show acres of wildflowers in such profusion of colour and number as to be unbelievable to all but the hardened mountaineer. No one will regret the effort of carrying film and camera to such a paradise.

"Acres" of wildflowers.

Adding to this beauty is the panorama of distant peaks and glaciers and the nearby vari-coloured slopes and ridges of Chikamin Range. No one can regret such a day and it is a memory that will last for many years.
While "back tracking" to the portage the following day in the comfort of the boat, the immensity of the mountain ranges can be studied in more detail. Westerly lies the Whitesail Range which although not spectacular has an attractive colouring set off by patches of dazzling snow. Nearer lie the Chikamin Mountains which after the previous days trip are the subject of intense scrutinizing.

The portage between Whitesail and Kutuk Lake although not made in the traditional manner still requires the proper amount of hard work to move the equipment over a narrow gauge track. Here again the short trip overland allows for a close inspection of the trees and shrubs and provides some variety from boat travel.

On the portage between lakes.

The most remembered thing about Kutuk Lake will be the impression of its immensity. One turn after another reveals new bays, islands, promontories and large reaches of lake until the visitor is thoroughly bewildered as to what section of the lake he is on.
"- - - the impression of its immensity - - -"

The westerly arm of the lake is bordered by steep mountains sloping from the water to jagged peaks and icefields many thousands of feet above. The campsite at the outlet of Surel Creek takes advantage of this spectacular scenery and Surel Falls a short distance back from Eutsuk Lake. The fishing in the creek and the blueberries on adjacent slopes add epicurean appeal.

A day's trip from here leads to another camp at Pondosy Lake, reached by way of a swift flowing river emptying into Eutsuk Lake. The small lake is about completely surrounded by the sheerest of mountains. Nowhere in Tweedsmuir Park does the visitor feel more insignificant than here among these looming walls.

Continuing eastward on the lake a more restful atmosphere is induced by the jagged skyline giving way to rolling hills broken here and there by rock outcrops and domes.
The jagged skyline gives way to rolling hills along the easterly half of Kutsuk Lake.

Kutsuk Peak provides the main landmark to the north. Until the lake narrows for the last few miles little detail can be seen of the shores. Kutsuk Lake funnels down into a swift flowing river with several white water rapids providing some new excitement for the passengers. The entire length of this stream is excellent for fly fishing.

3. Tsetachuck Lake to Gotsa Lake:

Tsetachuck Lake is 22 miles long and surrounded by low hills. The deer, moose and bear that are often encountered along its shores compensate for more rugged scenery.

Tsetachuck is at a considerably higher elevation than Fucha Lake. This drop is concentrated in a 3 mile stretch of river between lakes where rapids and waterfalls...
(Tetachuck 13' high) make it advisable to portage once again. The Tetachuck Falls and rapids show off to advantage the great volume of water that passes between lakes and keeps the "Big Circle" in balance.

![Tetachuck Falls](image)

The Tetachuck below the falls and rapids is a wide swift flowing river with many twistings but within a short distance it empties into Buchu Lake. One unusual feature of the short trip is the rim of a plateau extending along the north shore about 300 feet above the lake. Clumps of aspen landscape the open slope to the rim.

Connecting Buchu Lake to Nataikus Lake is the Buchu River. This piece of water is swift and crooked with reedy swamps on the side. It serves to break the monotony of lake travel and the osprey and eagle nests that top the standing snags along the bank are always of interest.
The Nechako River, famous for its trout fishing, flows out of Satalkuz Lake and near its start camp is made on a sandy beach. An old cabin marks the site of what was once a prosperous trading post. Every travel party will want to make a side trip down the Nechako, although 300 feet to 500 feet wide it is spotted with many eddies and currents which make a series of individual fishing holes.

The north bank slopes gently away and is so open that it resembles farm land. The other shore is given over to nesting sites for eagles and osprey who frequent this river in large numbers.

From this popular fisherman's headquarters the route to Ootsa Lake traverses Intata River, Intata Lake and the Ootsa River.

Intata Lake with its low surrounding hills and sandy beaches conveys an impression of restfulness unlike any other place in the park and the pools and eddies of Ootsa River are the dream of every fisherman, while along the shorelines are often seen deer and moose.

Continuing up Ootsa Lake, brings views of small farms on the north shore and finally the main settlement of Ootsa Lake appears to end the several hundred mile journey around the "Big Circle".

(b) From Eutsuk Lake to Tweedsmuir Lodge by Horseback.

Until the summer of 1944 the connecting route between the "Big Circle" and the southern portion of the park passed through Ukitcacho and ended at Tetschuck, an old trading post on the Tetschuck River. The main disadvantage of this trip was the last 5 days stretch of monotonous riding through jack pine flats.

The more scenic route via a group of small lakes and joining the "Big Circle" at Eutsuk Lake will be described since it is anticipated that all future travel will be in this direction.

1. Eutsuk Lake to Tanya Lakes: Comely Bay on Eutsuk Lake will be the change over point for parties making the through trip and a more attractive spot would be hard to find. From here one can look for many miles up Eutsuk Lake to the intriguing mass of the Coast Range. From a psychological standpoint the view of water and mountains is near perfect for the change over from horse to boat.
Several factors also make it ideal for the start of the horseback trip. The trail is on an easy grade and through a glade-like stand of lodgepole pines. This enables the rider to become accustomed to his horse without watching for protruding branches and steep pieces of trail. The first camp at the Chezko River is only 5 miles from the lake and the camp situated at the edge of a meadow with 9,600 foot Tsaydaychus Peak in the background will make a good impression for the end of the first day's ride.

The routine of rounding up horses in the early morning, breaking camp, packing and saddling up, will never lose its novelty. The first highlight is the crossing of the 100 foot wide Chezko River. The glacial water makes it impossible to gauge the depth of the river, but fears are soon dispelled as the horses confidently ford the belly-deep water.

The first highlight is the crossing of the 100 foot wide Chezko River.
A two hour ride leads to Tahuntesco Lake where the rider will cross large meadows at the north end of the lake. The presence of moose and wild fowl add to the primeval atmosphere of this colourful spot and undoubtedly the visitor will have the urge to stop and explore its beauties.

Camp will probably be made on the shore of Mahlouza Lake, some 3½ hours ride past Tahuntesco Lake. Much of the way lies through stands of lodgepole pine, but brushy creek bottoms and small meadows provide variety in form and colour and show many moose beds.

The sandy shores of Mahlouza Lake, the view of Tsyadaychuz Peak, the wild fowl feeding or nesting along the reedy bays and the fish jumping in the evening light are the remembered highspots of this campsite.

The next camp is at Qualcho Lake, a good day's ride distant. The route crosses or follows the edge of numerous meadows, many so large that boundaries are indistinguishable. The golden colour of these vast meadowlands bordered by fringes of aspen and lodgepole pine and with the distant view of snow-capped peaks in a complete change from all preceding scenery.

A few miles from Qualcho Lake the trail passes through an Indian farm, complete with log cabins and hay meadows.

The campsite at Qualcho Lake is on a grassy bench overlooking the water. History has it that in this vicinity the Indians had a big camp and probably signs of it could be found with some search. The restful atmosphere and good fishing is conducive to a few days stop-over.

Depending on the choice of route the next stop would be either the Indian village at Ulkatcho or the Dean River.

Ulkatcho with its tumbledown buildings, church and cemetery is well worth a visit and is of historical interest since it was near here that Sir Alexander Mackenzie in 1793 first entered the present park boundaries.

The Dean River is reached after passing through several meadows where Indians might be seen cutting or hauling course swamp hay. The river is comparatively shallow with rocks showing through the riffles and provides some of the best fly fishing to be found within the park.
A long day's ride from here over comparatively uninteresting country brings the rider to Tanya Lake. The most interesting features in this vicinity are the Indian smoke houses, the Takia River and the salmon or steelhead lying in the clear pools. At certain periods the visitor may see the Indians actually spearing and smoking the fish.

The Indians spear fish in the clear pools of the Takia River even as they did in 1793 when Mackenzie passed here.

2. Tanya Lake to Mackenzie Valley: Now the low rolling country is left behind as the trail swings eastward to Mackenzie Valley. The whole day's trip to the high valley spent always on the climb and following a mountain stream reaches a climax as the large meadows surrounded by a rock walled amphitheatre comes into view.

The cabin and campsites situated at the upper edge of the meadows are in a secluded world of their own. On one side towers colourful Mt. Brilliant and opposite is the equally colourful Yellow Cone. Behind and forming a barrier-like wall are the remnants of an old lava flow. Many are the visitors who would be happy to finish their holiday in such pleasant surroundings.
From this headquarters several remarkable side trips can be made. A five day's outing is the ride to the top of MacKenzie Mountain 7,064 feet high. From here the full colouring of Mt. Brilliant can be seen and on every side is a panorama of spectacular mountain scenery.

From here the full colouring of Mt. Brilliant can be seen.

From this vantage point much of the central plateau area of the park is visible and key points along the route that has already been traversed can be recognized. The Rainbow Mountains are visible in the distance and the route to and from them can be studied. Caribou and wild flowers are but two of the other attractions that will make this short trip one of the highlights of any holiday.

3. The Rainbow Mountains: The three or four days ride to and from the Rainbow Mountains covers such varied country that the ever changing views must be seen to be appreciated. First comes the ride along the high plateau and the full view of hundreds of varied shaped coast peaks. Closer at hand are mountain masses each with its individual shape and colouring. Small sky-blue ponds dot the flatter regions and long grassy meadows follow the beginnings of valley systems that are born on these high ridges.
The main mass of the Rainbow Mountains are softly coloured in various hues, but several ridges run riot in shades of orange, yellow, black and browns. From the campground in Paradise Valley at the base of these ridges, the colouring shows up in good detail, but it is only after a climb to the Painted Ridge that the complete scope of the rock colouring and adjacent scenery can be fully realized. This day's climb is a fitting climax to the beauties of the Rainbow Mountains.

4. Mackenzie Valley to Tweedsmuir Lodge: The three day ride to the Bella Coola Valley is through high country now more or less familiar to the traveller. The high spots are at Octopus Lake where camp is made and swimming can be enjoyed, the climb over rocky Deception Pass the next day and camp that night in the lee of Mt. Walker. It is possible to take horses to near the top of Mt. Walker and the short climb to the summit gives one a view over the Bella Coola Valley to some of the most rugged mountains in the Coast Range. Mountain goats, deer, bear and ptarmigan are likely to be seen in this vicinity.
The final day's ride is over a trail that switchbacks into the narrow Bella Coola Valley and then continues a short distance down the floor of the valley to join the road now being built.

The beauty of the river, shaded by poplar and birch is hardly appreciated in the height of anticipation in reaching the comforts of civilization once more. The lodge in a near perfect natural setting offers just the right touch of hospitality to harmonize with the outdoor atmosphere.

(c) Mystery Falls and the Caribou Mountains.

A trip which will undoubtedly become very popular is to Mystery Falls in the Caribou Mountains. This short horseback ride in less than a week's time takes the visitor not only to Mystery Falls, but also over a circular route which skirts large glaciers, crosses high alpine summits and in general may be described as "riding over the roof of the world".

Starting from Tweedsmuir Lodge, the trail winds through the farm area adjoining the lodge and then crosses the several channels of Bella Coola River. The banks of these streams show the imprint of grizzly bear tracks and the salmon clearly visible in the water give the clue to the activity of the animals.

The next ½ mile of trail is unique in that it passes through a grove of willow trees so dense that the sunlight can barely filter through. After a few hours of steep climbing, during which time one row of peaks after another slowly come into view, the rider finds himself in the scraggly timber growth of sub-alpine country.

After camping in an alpine valley, the visitor continues to climb to the head of a rocky pass. After passing several glacial lakes and traversing high rocky ridges which offer a fine view right back to the Rainbow Mountains, the trail comes out on the edge of Glacier Valley. From here the land formation that has led to the mighty Mystery Falls can be studied in detail and directly across the valley a retreating glacier spills its milky white water into a twisting stream.

A sharp descent into the stream bottom leads to a beautiful campsite beside a small lake in which the peaks and glaciers at the head of the valley are clearly mirrored.

From here a one day's round trip can be made to Mystery Falls. The route to the falls offers nothing in the way of scenery but expectancy is raised by the muffled roar of falling water.
The visitor coming out on the shore of Turner Lake sees it form an outlet at this point and the ensuing river disappear into a huge chasm a hundred yards distant.

Turner Lake forms an outlet several hundred feet from the lip of Mystery Falls.

The lip of the canyon offers many vantage points, but it is impossible to realize the full immensity of this 1200' waterfall and canyon until reaching a promontory that allows a view both up and down the canyon.

The water spills over the lip in a clean break forming twin streams which re-unite at several hundred feet below the crest. Plunging downwards like a white rocket, the ribbon of water is lost from sight in the depths of the gorge. Several hundred feet of falls remain hidden from view, obscured by heavy shadow and spray.
Several hundred feet of falls remain hidden from view.

The great depth and bold immensity of the surrounding canyon walls tend to minimize the volume of water going over the falls. This counter-balancing process actually lessens the impressiveness of what may be the highest sheer waterfall in Canada. Actually Helmcken Falls in Wells Gray Park, although only 450 feet high, would perhaps be longer remembered for its magnitude.

After the climb out of Glacier Valley, the route follows the ridge to its headwaters. Many fine views of glacial streams and ponds are seen far below and directly across the narrow valley a sprawling glacier dazzles the eye.

Further along we pass Echo Lake, its greenish colour disturbed by rocks tumbling into its depths from a steep mountain slope on the south bank. Northwards from the lake lies a sloping sidehill covered with large slabs and chunks of rock broken away from a crag-like ridge high above.

This rock strewn valley is left behind for sub-alpine slopes stretching for 3-4 miles to Holly Lake. The ice-studded peaks of the Coast Mountains form a magnificent background for the pastel colouring of nearby ponds, lakes and mountains.
Holly Lake is situated on the very edge of the Tachensk River canyon. Its blue colour, set off by the brown and gold of bordering meadows makes it an ideal camping spot. High above towers Mt. Panorama affording an incomparable view of some of the highest peaks and largest glaciers in the southern half of British Columbia.

Beautiful campsites are numerous in the Caribou Mountains.

The ride from Holly Lake to Tweedsmuir Lodge can be done easily in one day. Fortunately only the latter part of the route need be retraced. The rider can spend his last day seeing many new views that remain in the mind as a fitting climax for this wilderness trail ride.
XI OUTLINE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

The important thing that must be emphasized in all proposed developments is that they must conform to the concept of a wilderness area. This means that improvements for safety of travel and protection from fire and travel damage should be held to a justifiable minimum.

In outline it is recommended that improvements take the following form:

Campsites: The most scenic and desirable stopping places on the "Big Circle" need protection from the abuses of continual camping parties. A firewood supply, garbage pit and inconspicuous toilet would suffice.

In the southern part of the park the wood problem is not acute and until there is travel other than with the present guides, the outfitter can properly maintain his own camps.

Trails: There are a few trails that should be maintained or built in the north half of the park. The one leading to Chef Peak which is used by horseback hunting parties, may require cleaning out at intervals.

Other scenic spots or fishing areas could be opened up by inconspicuous foot paths. Surel Falls, and the first few miles down Eutsuk River are examples.

In the south a good through trail is needed from Stuie, past Tanyu, Qualich, Rahonza and Tahantesco Lakes to Connolly Bay on Eutsuk Lake. This will eliminate the old route to Tetachuck Crossing.

Several short-cuts or relocations are planned for the present main trail from Stuie to the Dean River. Trail and bridge maintenance is also needed over this route.

If the Caribou Mountain Region south of the Bella Coola Valley is made a part of Tweedsmuir Park then a certain amount of trail construction will be advisable. This would take the form of cleaning out most of the present route and perhaps locating a new piece of trail from the vicinity of Glacier Valley to Mystery Falls. The portion in the vicinity of Echo Lake should be made safer.

Portages: The construction of one portage between Whitetail and Eutsuk Lake and another around a portion of rapids and falls between Eutsuk Lake and Tetachuck Lake is a necessity.
Pastures: The inconvenience of horses straying many miles could be checked at the most troublesome camps by short stretches of rail or pole fences. Time and circumstances will decide whether the Forest Service or the outfitters should undertake this work. In a well organized system of trail rides where the same pastures are used quite frequently, the outfitter might make use of an electric fence.

XII IMPROVEMENTS, EXISTING AND PROPOSED

(a) Roads: At present there is no car road in Tweedsmuir Park. The recommended change in boundaries to include the Rainbow Mountains and Caribou Mountains would take in about 15 miles of the present 48 miles of Bella Coola Valley road.

Although narrow, the road is well graded and has good alignment. It would rate quite high from a scenic standpoint, but even if connected to Williams Lake, its out of the way location and blind end at Bella Coola would limit its use.

Ever since 1895 when a colony of Norwegians settled in the Bella Coola Valley there has been talk of a road connecting Bella Coola and Williams Lake. At present there are about 49 miles of road reaching from Bella Coola to a point 7 miles beyond Stelle. This leaves about 50 miles of road to be built to Anahim Lake. This lake lies 220 miles from Williams Lake over a road so poor as to be nearly impossible to a passenger car. Accommodation is provided at Graham's ranch near Tatla Lake 70 miles from Anahim Lake.

It seems likely that this road will eventually be built, but since most of the tourist travel stops around Williams Lake, it is very doubtful if another 250 mile drive over a poor road will bring in enough tourists to make any change in present park policy or influence our planning. The rugged walls on either side of the valley preclude any casual intrusion even if this road were built and the concept of a wilderness area is such that no branch road would be built to take people into the more attractive regions of the park.

One possible branch road that could perhaps be considered as bordering the park has several features worth mentioning. It would lead off from the main road at the junction of the Attnarko and Hotnarko Rivers and follow the Attnarko River valley for 6 miles to the end of Lonesome Lake. With a lodge here it would be possible to make short trips to Mystery Falls (approximately 2 miles) and to follow Turner Lake and its inflowing river past a series of small lakes into the glacier-studded mountain region.
b) Trails: The following trails are briefly described as to location, construction and recommended improvements. A travelogue description describing the scenic aspect along the route is given under TRAVELOGUE.

1. Chief Peak Trail: This trail is one of the more commonly used within the Circle Tour area by tourists and hunters who prefer a horseback trip to the boat trip. The trail starts on the south shore of Ootse Lake opposite Sisteria and leads up towards Mt. Wells and the high country of the Quanchau Range. Following southward above timberline it dips down to the east end of Bird Head Lake from where it rises again towards Michel Peak. Here it joins an old Indian trail which leads on to Fenton Lake and around the west side of Chief Peak to Blanchet Lake.

From Michel Peak south the trail follows the open alpine slopes of this high country from which an excellent view is possible of a great part of the circle of lakes.

This Chief Peak trail is used mainly by one of the Harrison brothers who brings his horses across Ootse Lake from Sisteria by canoe. The trail was built in 1941 under contract by Harrisons' with a $542.00 appropriation from the Forest Service.

The guides may be able to maintain this trail if they have heavy use over it, otherwise its repair may have to be carried out every several years by the Forest Service.

Several other old trails converge towards Chief Peak. The Michel trail starts from the old Ootse Lake-Bella Coola trail north of Chelaslie River and follows westward to Chief Peak and then on down St. Thomas Creek to St. Thomas Bay.

The Chief Louis trail joins it at Chief Peak and starts at the east end of Ootse Lake. Both trails are seldom used at present.

2. Chikamin Ridge Trail: The original trail was built by the Harrison brothers to give access to mineral claims. The new trail, was built with an appropriation from the Department of Mines and is on a good grade and in fair shape. There are no bridges or bad mud holes.

The short and easy 2 hour climb to the alpine plateau will always be popular since it offers a complete change from the boat trip. No other mountain region near the lakes is so accessible at present.
An easy two hour climb to the alpine plateau will always be popular.

The maintenance of this trail will probably be looked after by prospectors and tourist guides since it offers no problems. The location through the last mile of scrub timber to the open meadows could be blazed to everyone’s advantage. There is no need for trail construction through the alpine meadows or to the several peaks in the vicinity because of the open nature of the country.

5. Surel Falls Trail: Very poor trails follow up either side of Surel Creek to Surel Falls about ½ mile from Natsuk Lake and an old Water Rights trail continues up the north side of the creek to Surel Lake.

The falls are a high point of interest and being located near an attractive campsite with a connecting fishing stream, it will merit the construction of unobtrusive foot paths up either side to the base of the falls. The fishing possibilities above the falls have not been investigated but if they are good, the trail could be continued on to Surel Lake.
Surel Falls are a high point of interest.

4. Butsuk River Trail: A poor trail follows the north bank of the river for several miles. It is used by fishermen for travelling along the bank of this excellent stretch of fishing stream.

Trail building on this side of the river is no problem. The forest cover of aspen and lodgepole pine is light and a foot path could be cleaned and blazed out in a few days.

The south bank of the river has a heavier growth of trees and is a more roundabout route for the first \( \frac{3}{4} \) to \( \frac{3}{2} \) miles since the river branches into several channels. A fisherman’s trail could be built down it for one or two miles, if the need arises.

5. Tetachuck Crossing – Ulkatcho Trail: Leaving Tetachuck Crossing, a trail climbs slowly for 9 miles reaching a low ridge 600’ higher than the elevation of Tetachuck Lake. The trail, once a well cut-out sleigh road, is fast overgrowing with alder and young lodgepole pine. After crossing an almost imperceptible summit the
route leads on a well graded and direct line for the Matiako River, crossing approximately 15 miles from Tetschuck Lake. No obstacles other than a rapidly overgrowing trail are encountered to this point.

Leaving the good campsite at Matiako River, travel for the next 6 miles is very slow through heavy windfall. The trail improves as it meets an Indian sleigh road leading to a lone Indian cabin. About 3 miles from Ulkatcho a short length of trail is badly overgrown with brashy alder. The last few miles lead through a narrow valley bottom which is alternately overgrown and rocky. This slows up travelling, but no other route appears more practical.

Because of the existence of a more scenic route via Qualcho and Mahlouza Lakes to join with the "Big Circle", it is recommended that the Ulkatcho - Tetschuck Crossing trail be abandoned. Its lack of scenery and cost of maintenance rules it out for a tourist route although the trail may have some value from the fire protection standpoint.

6. Ulkatcho - Kutsuk Lake Trail via Qualcho Lake, Mahlouza Lake, Takransko Lake. Several miles west of Ulkatcho, over a fair to poor route, the trail joins a well cut-out sleigh road that leads westwards to an Indian's (Captain Harry) home and hay meadow 5 miles beyond Qualcho Lake. The only bad places on the trail are several mud holes along Qualcho Lake and between the lake and Captain Harry's farm.

A half mile beyond the farm the trail narrows down becoming quite indistinct as it circles or crosses numerous meadows.

A large meadow in the vicinity of Mahlouza Lake.
Several miles before Mahlousa Lake, a tributary creek is crossed and after winding around large meadows, the trail enters a stand of lodgepole pine and spruce. Windfall areas cause many twistings in the half mile of trail that eventually comes out on the beach of Mahlousa Lake.

After following the sandy beach for half a mile, the well-marked trail swings away from the lake and climbs slowly through fairly open stands of lodgepole pine. Entering a spruce lowland the route becomes very indistinct, but after a mile of indecision it can again be traced following along the north side of a creek. Three bad mudholes in this region can be missed by following the other side of the creek and then recrossing. Beyond here for several miles two routes are shown in the map folio, the most southerly being the best.

From here to Tahanakeko (nad) Lake no great difficulty is encountered although many meadows and swamps running down to the lake have forced the trail back about ½ mile from the lake. From the north end of the lake several trails fan out. Probably several of these are used by trappers but from a large meadow at the end of the lake two distinct trails lead off. One that has been cut out through heavy windfall many years ago heads towards Tusa Lake or Mt. Nadeikus and may be an old prospecting or survey route. A second one, poorly blazed and with many low windfalls, leads with many ups and downs to the Chezko River about 5 miles distant. The ford is quite safe and on the far side of the river are meadows and a good carpats.

Fording the Chezko River.
The first half mile of trail from the campsite is very difficult to find because it follows brushy meadows for most of the way. The next 2 miles are over a lodgepole pine plateau with the trail zig-zagging to take advantage of small open glades. After crossing a deep draw, a 1/2 mile stretch of windfall is encountered and then a boggy meadow which the trail skirts. Another mile of apparently aimless wanderings past meadows and along narrow ridges leads to a semi-open plateau which leads for the last 1/2 mile of the estimated 4 1/2 miles to Connelly Bay on Butsuk Lake.

The above described route offers no great obstacles to trail construction, presents a variety of scenery over its entire length and finally ends at an attractive place on Butsuk Lake, thereby eliminating passing the rapids between Tetachuck and Butsuk Lake. It is therefore recommended that this route be adapted as the main route between the north and south portions of the park and that trail construction be carried on until a safe, well blazed and located trail is completed.

The most immediate concern is to get this trail blazed out and in shape to safely accommodate the first visitors that make the through trip. Even if the location is only tentative in certain places it will at least act as a guide to any trail construction crew that might follow.

The only effective and economical way this first work can be done is to have the local guide that made this trip hire one or two Indians and fix up the worst pieces of the route and distinctly blaze the remainder.

At some later date a small crew with a foreman who can run trail traverses and make advantageous re-locations, should go over this route and put it in final shape. During the final construction, the foreman should definitely plan on fixing up short lengths of the best pieces of trail so that horses can trot over them. Frequent lengths of 1/4 to 1/2 mile are easiest on horses and riders. The travelling time between camps will be appreciably lessened and the rider is refreshed by a change in pace.

Given below are the main locations where trail construction is necessary or needs further investigation.

Locations for Proposed Improvements

Qualcho Lake:

Several mudholes along the lake need bridges. Although the trail passes close to the lake, a screen of trees and brush hide
view across lake and peaks in background. At key places a little judicious cutting is needed.

Qualcho Lake to Captain Harry’s:

Several bad mudholes need proper bridges and some of the bends in the trail could be eliminated.

Captain Harry’s to Nahlouza Lake:

The many meadows that are crossed or circled lead to confusion unless the route is carefully marked. In many cases any amount of travel will weaken the meadow for horse travel and trails must be built around them. This phase of construction will be based on the foreman’s judgment and circumstances of travel, unpredictable as yet.

The half mile or more of trail through fairly heavy timber around Nahlouza Lake needs some re-locating and almost completely new construction.

Nahlouza Lake to Tahunteako Lake:

Several miles from Nahlouza Lake lies a windfall and swamp area. The trail is very indistinct and confusing. It needs re-locating and blazing out and if it keeps to the south side of the creek until the creek joins to a large swampy meadow, it will miss 3 or 4 very bad mudholes on the old route across the creek. Beyond the meadow, the trail divides into alternate routes. The most westerly trail is the best, avoiding both windfalls and mudholes and offering a glimpse of one of the Umchietlat Lakes.

Approaching Tahunteako Lake, the visitor's interest is built up to see the lake, but the trail is located such a distance back that he only gets occasional glimpses of it. A slight amount of trail re-location near the south-easterly end of the lake would bring the rider close to promontories giving good views up and across the lake.

Tahunteako Lake to Chezko River:

This route appears fairly direct and since there is no practical re-location that would better the scenic aspect, it is recommended that the above described route be used. Work should consist of cutting out windfalls and perhaps improving several rocky stretches.
Chezko River to Connelly Bay on윤파크 Lake:

The first half mile of winding trail across backwaters from the river and through brushy meadows can be investigated and the best route determined. Starting at the edge of the tree-covered plateau, a trail traverse is needed for approximately 3 miles and on the basis of this, the final trail should be located.

Since the Chezko River may provide the stop-over campsite for visitors exchanging from horse to boat travel, it is important that the connecting trail be short and allow fast travelling between lake and camp.

View from proposed exchange point at Connelly Bay.

Dean River - Qualcho Lake, Shortcut Trail:

Instead of going from the Dean River to Ilkatcho and then to Qualcho Lake, a trapper's trail reportedly leads direct from the Dean River to the west end of Qualcho Lake.
This route would save a day's travelling time if travellers were not interested in visiting Utkatcho or were trying to make up lost time.

It is important that this trail be investigated and blazed out preferably at the time the Qualicho Lake - Batsuk Lake trail is first worked on.

7. Dean River - Mackenzie Valley Trail

(a) Dean River - Tanya Lake Trail: The Dean River is easily forded and the estimated 5 miles of good trail to Squiness Lake crosses 3 or 4 large meadows, each about ½ mile long.

The next 2½ miles are very poor. The first mile of trail is through bad spruce-lodgepole pine windfall and the next 1½ miles are over a twisting, rutted and rocky trail. One creek, subject to a rapid rise after heavy rains or hot weather and dangerous on occasion, is crossed on the way.

The remainder of the way to the north end of Tanya Lake is across a brushy sidehill. Reaching the lake at almost water level the trail climbs and drops for no apparent reason as it parallels the shore.

Opposite the neck between the two lakes a branch trail leads off and after dropping sharply for several hundred feet, crosses the connecting creek to a fair campsite.

Much of the trail between Tanya Lake and Squiness Lake needs repairing and one bridge across the main creek mentioned above is required. The maintaining of an even grade along Tanya Lake should also be investigated. Only a slight amount of re-location is needed on these 5 miles in by-passing the worst stretches.

(b) Tanya Lake - Tekia River Trail: The main trail continues past lower Tanya Lake and a short distance beyond forks, one branch leading to Mackenzie Valley and the other going down the Tekia River, presumably to its junction with the Dean River. A good foot trail leads for ½ mile down the north bank of the river to the main pool where the fishing is done.

(c) Tekia River - Mackenzie Valley Trail: After crossing the creek a short distance below Tanya Lake, the trail crosses several small meadows while climbing on a steady grade and comes out high on the bank of a canyon. This affords an impressive and scenic lookout point. Angling along the sidehill for a mile brings the trail down to the creek and after a crossing, a water grade is maintained through large meadows until the cabin at the head of the valley is reached.
The above trail was cut out in preparation for Lord Tweedsmuir's visit and is still in fair shape.

8. Mackenzie Valley - Rainbow Mountains Trail

The encircling rim of Mackenzie Valley is reached by following a steadily climbing and narrow trail up a pass southeast of the cabin.

Reaching the top, an immense alpine plateau comes into view.

An immense alpine plateau comes into view.

There is no marked trail and the route chosen is purely up to the guide or the individual's taste. High valleys separated by barren, rounded shoulders are crossed or followed eastward for 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles until the head of a short, deep valley is reached. This short branch valley joins Paradise Valley at the campsite and to get down its steep tree-covered slopes a rough trail zig-zags steeply to the long meadows in the bottom. The 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles into the campsite can only be described as following the valley bottom since there is no blazed or worn trail visible.
There are two places on the above route that need considerable cutting. They are the stretch of trail leading up through the scrubby timber out of Mackenzie Valley and a similar piece leading down to the valley bottom about a mile from the Paradise Valley campsite. The main work is in cutting out windfalls and widening the trail. In time new trails on easier grades will be advisable.

The trail zig-zags steeply to the long meadows in the bottom of Paradise Valley.

The route along the barren plateau may have to be marked with stone cairns if any amount of travel without guides develops. Otherwise they are not recommended.

Rainbow Mountains - Mackenzie Valley Trail via Boyd's Pass:

It is possible to return to Mackenzie Valley by following the floor of Paradise Valley westwards on a slight up-grade for 3 or 4 miles. Crossing over a shallow divide, the trail follows along the floor of the valley for several miles and then swings southward up a branch valley. After angling along the sidehill for a mile it crosses the valley and climbs the other side to a high pass, (Boyd's Pass) actually the head of a short valley branching off from Mackenzie Valley.

After a sharp drop to timberline, a steep narrow trail leads down through scrub timber to a meadow a half mile below the cabin in the main valley.

This piece of trail was hurriedly cut out in 1937 by a Y.M.C.A. crew and although too steep and narrow, it serves its purpose very well. Some time in the future it could be re-located and re-cut, but it is not of primary importance.

9. MacKenzie Valley - MacKenzie Mountain Trail:

The first part of the route is through a narrow belt of timber. Some re-location and re-cutting is necessary here. Climbing up the sub-alpine slopes is easy, but once the rocky shoulder of the mountain is reached, a guide is needed to pick a safe route through the rocky or soft ground for the horses.

This short side trip is a highlight and it would be well to have this trail marked so visitors could climb the mountain without the services of a guide. This would require rock cairns or guiding posts in the region above timberline and a well-blazed trail through the timbered areas.
Mackenzie Mountain affords a wonderful view of the southern portion of the park.

10. Mackenzie Valley - Stuie Trail:

Mackenzie Valley - Octopus Lake Trail

The trail climbs out of the valley on a good sidehill location. Coming out on the rocky rim it leads directly to Octopus Lake over an alpine plateau. The route is indistinct to a newcomer, but easily traced by a guide.

The recommended improvements are widening of the trail leading out of the valley and stone markers along the high country.

Octopus Lake - Deception Pass - Bear Camp Trail

Leaving Octopus Lake, the trail heads directly for Deception Pass over rolling slopes broken up by rocky ridges and small lakes. After climbing a typical sub-alpine valley it emerges in an open rocky draw and switchbacks up the center to the pass.
View from Deception Pass over Octopus Lakes to the Rainbow Mountains.

Over the summit it continues for 2 miles down one side of a wide alpine valley, the headwaters of Mosher Creek, and keeps to grade by swinging up a tributary valley. After doubling back on the other side it rounds the nose of an intervening rocky ridge and drops into Bear Camp Valley. The camp is reached by following a branch trail westward for 1 mile.

One piece of new trail is recommended to replace a portion of the above route. This would link up Bear Camp and the westward end of the piece of switchback in the next valley northward. This would allow a good permanent campsite in a location suitable for horse feed and building logs.

Trail from Bear Camp - Bella Coola Valley Road

Swinging back on to the main trail, the route then follows a slight down grade for approximately 1 mile to the side of a ridge. In a steep 300-400' switchback climb it reaches the top and descends just as steeply on the other side.
The section of trail over the last summit was never intended as a permanent location. It is too steep for the horses and has a poor psychological effect on visitors, who after climbing steadily for several hours find themselves on a false summit with another hill in front yet to be climbed.

The recommended re-location would take off a short distance above the 3 mile trail marker and continue around the edge of the timbered ridge on an easy grade, meeting the present trail at its lowest elevation on the opposite side of the ridge.

The remaining 3 miles of trail have been carefully built on a 15% grade and switchbacks down the western side of Mosher Creek over a sidehill liberally covered with rock slides.

After reaching the narrow bottom of the Bella Coola Valley the trail continues on the main travel route to and from Anahis Lake for about 1½ miles to the end of the road.

Necessary improvements include some small bridge repairs, brushing out the last 3 miles of trail every few years and smoothing out the trail across the numerous rock slides crossed near the bottom of the valley.

Small bridges are in need of repair or replacement.
The above mentioned work is not extensive, representing only accumulated disrepair since the trail was built in 1937.

The road in the valley bottom is being slowly built and within another year or so should be along to the start of the trail thereby eliminating the 1 1/2 miles now travelled to the end of the road.

11. Miscellaneous Trails:

There are numerous trails in Tweedsmuir Park about which little is known. Except for the usual travel routes already described, most of the old Indian trails are seldom used. Their locations have been solely determined by finding easy ways from the interior to Coastal fishing waters and as such are of small importance to a park recreation plan.

The historical significance is high, but there is very little showing that would appeal to visitors.

The old Indian trail down the Dean River to the old fishing grounds and salmon house is nearly impassable and only meagre evidences of the old smoke houses and associated relics can be found. Their out of the way location limits any preservation work that might be done to them.

The old "Stick Trail" from Ulkatcho to Kisiskit via Qualcho and Sigutlat Lake has been disused for many years.

The Kisiskit-Sakamtha Pass Trail is so seldom used that no improvement work is recommended for it. It has now been largely abandoned in favour of the present route.

The Capoose Summer Trail, used by the Indians before horses were introduced into the north, provided a foot path between Anahim Lake and Bella Coola. It is still in evidence but very seldom used.

The Burnt Bridge Trail is an alternate route from MacKenzie Pass to the Bella Coola Valley. It has now been largely abandoned in favour of the present route.

12. Trails in the Caribou Mountain Region:

(a) Stuie to Whistler's Pass

Leaving Stuie, the trail passes through the farm area and crosses the main channel of the Bella Coola River. Two other small channels are forded shortly thereafter and the trail continues across a flat very heavily covered with brush and willow trees for 3/4 mile.
It then climbs a shoulder of a knob through a park-like stand of fir and continues for another mile on an easy grade to the base of the main mountain.

Fording a small channel of the Bella Coola River near Stuie.

A series of switchbacks take the rider up 2000' in elevation in a distance of two miles. This piece of trail has been well cut out and graded, but now has many loose rocks on it and near the top and mountain alder is steadily encroaching.

The next mile is through a spruce-balsam stand riddled with snags and thick with heavy underbrush, and finally through an old open burn. Many windfalls, mudholes and a creek crossing combine to make this a poor length of trail.

Emerging at an old trapper's cabin on the edge of sub-alpine slopes, the route swings eastward through a series of small meadows and patches of timber until it rounds the edge of a rocky mountain.
Here it enters a broad valley leading up to Whistler's Pass.

A broad valley leads up to Whistler's Pass.

Although there is no worn trail or visible blazes, the general route is followed up the easterly side of the valley to the final climb to the top of the lowest point on the encircling ridge.

It is possible to continue up the main creek bottom and follow over another low pass into Molly Lake. This route is more generally used on the return trip.

The general trail location to Whistler's Pass is suitable and it is only at the higher elevations that more blazing and cutting out is needed. The spruce-balsam stand below timberline is particularly bad for mudholes and windfalls and needs periodic maintenance.

(b) **Whistler's Pass to Glacier Valley**

Continuing southward from the pass, Ptarmigan Lake in its rocky setting is passed near the easterly shore and the trail continues up a long, broad, rocky ridge. This slowly slopes off to the steep timber covered slopes of Glacier Valley.
The trail into the valley is hard to find, but the best one is reported to lead down on a fair grade. Reaching the valley bottom, it follows up the north side of the creek past several meadows and ponds to a suitable camp ground.

If the primary purpose of a trip is to get to Mystery Falls in the shortest time, then the swing into Glacier Valley is lost distance. It remains to be seen if there is horse feed closer to the falls than at the present place. The present camp setting is of such high quality that it makes up for the inconvenience in reaching it.

![A beautiful camp setting in Glacier Valley.](image)

However a short route to the falls without dropping into the deep valley may be practical by following the descending edge of the valley to near a creek crossing place not far from the falls. This route looks feasible, but needs further investigation to determine the suitability of a creek crossing and a camping site near Turner Lake.

(c) Glacier Valley to Mystery Falls

The glacial creek is crossed ½-1 mile below the campsite and the trail then follows the south bank through a series of small meadows...
for over \( \frac{3}{4} \) mile. The next half mile is on an upgrade through a stand of lodgepole pine-spruce-balsam. It then drops on a 10\% grade for approximately 2 miles to the vicinity of the falls where there is a more gentle grade. The trail comes out at a ford at the very end of Turner Lake and crosses about 150' above the lip of the falls. The trail reportedly follows along the east side of Turner Lake for an indefinite distance.

As mentioned above, under heading (b), there may be an alternate route to Mystery Falls that would eliminate the Glacier Valley camp. If this is not feasible, then the above described trail needs some slight re-location and re-cutting. It is important to reduce the travelling time between camp and Mystery Falls so more time can be left for sight-seeing.

(d) Glacier Valley to Molly Lake

After retracing the route out of the valley, the trail follows the barren edge westwards to an imperceptible height of land. This side of the plateau above Glacier Valley offers an exceptional good view of the mountain and glaciers to the south. From here the route enters a narrow valley pass and follows along the rock-strewn shore of Echo Lake to beyond the divide.
The remaining 3-4 miles to Holly Lake is along open slopes allowing easy travelling.

Proposed improvements are limited to several dangerous places for horse travel and to the marking of the route across alpine areas by stone cairns.

The rock strewn slopes along Echo Lake and several narrow crossing points on slides a mile or so before the lake need special attention.

(c) Holly Lake to Panorama Ridge

Panorama Ridge rises across the valley from Holly Lake and affords an excellent view of the mountains west of the Talchako River and several near-by glaciers.

It can be climbed on foot in 3 hours by taking a direct route to the top over immense rock-slide areas.
Horseback rides to near this peak and into the intriguing country beyond is a distinct possibility, but requires further reconnaissance than was possible at the time.

(f) Molly Lake and return

From Molly Lake it is possible to return to the start of the trail down the Bella Coola Valley by either of two ways.

One route climbs the pass northeast of the lake and drops into a long sloping valley with Janet Lake centered in it. This takes the rider into the same valley leading to Whistler's Pass. From here it is just a matter of retracing the trail to Stuie.

The other alternative is to follow, at timberline, the edge of the Talchako Valley and join the trail to the valley at the trapper's cabin previously mentioned. This is a difficult route and hazardous without a guide. It is not recommended for improvement, but outfitters may undertake this at their own expense.

(c) Campsites: The distinctive characteristics of the two types of wilderness travel in Tweedsmuir Park designates the form and requirements that their respective campsites must have.

On the boat trip, the stopping places are chosen primarily for their sheltered location. Other factors are ease of landing, suitability for tents and fire, wood supply, scenic aspect and nearness to particular attractions such as the start of trails, portages or fishing waters.

Riding parties must camp at or near grazing sites. In conjunction with this is the requirement of water and wood supply, scenic setting and nearby attractions.

Travel routes logically fall into day trips between points of outstanding interest so the campites are well adapted to stop-overs for special sightseeing or fishing trips.

This fairly definite day by day movement requiring certain conditions for stop-overs, leads to continual concentration at key areas and explains the apparent variance in stressing campsite protection in such a vast area.

Generally speaking, the guides and other persons using these sites have kept damage to a minimum, but it is easy to foresee that with steady use there will be a serious deterioration through lack of a planned camp area.
Technically, any camp ground improvement is incompatible with the true concept of a wilderness area, but the improvements suggested below will do more good than harm by preventing deterioration of this wilderness aspect.

For certain key campsites on the "Big Circle" it is recommended that some of the following improvements be made by a small specially trained work crew.

1. Tent sites - to prevent needless chopping, 3 tent site areas approximately 10' square, could be roughly levelled. One suitably located some distance from the other two would be for feminine use. The view of the lake and camp fire must be kept in mind.

2. Garbage pit - the practice of throwing tin cans just out of view is to be deplored. A garbage pit is the best answer to the problem. It need only be a 4' x 4' hole 4' or 5' deep placed a convenient distance from camp.

3. Toilet facilities - a pit toilet is needed at the most frequently used camps. It can be simply built and maintained.

4. Wood supply - indiscriminate chopping around a camp as evidenced by high stumps and hacked stumps does more to give a second-hand look to the area than anything else. It is not long before the dead trees have been used and the guide is forced, through lack of time, to cut trees that should not be touched.

If use was confined to one guide he could be made responsible for the proper upkeep of the camp. When various parties make it a regular stopping point it assumes the aspects of a public camp ground. Solving the wood problem is a matter of trial and error and largely depends on the intensity of future tourist travel and the amount of fuel that would be burned.

A small work crew could easily float dead trees from suitable areas to the depleted campsites. If they were cut in short log lengths and piled behind camp, the most serious problem to camp maintenance would be overcome.

1. Campsites on the "Big Circle"

The following campsites are shown in the map folio.

(a) Shelter Bay on Ootsa Lake.

This bay is useful for stop-overs in the event of stormy weather on the lake. Windy Point, about 2 miles eastward, is very
difficult to round in rough weather and the above beach is a convenient waiting point. It has some use as a luncheon stop on the first day out.

(b) Tahtsa River.

Since the Tahtsa River end Lake will be used mainly by hunters, the wilderness aspect is less important. Several trapper’s cabins exist along the shoreline which may possibly be used for shelter, especially as the hunting is done in the fall. It would appear that there is a tendency for each guide to take his parties to his own trap-line district when possible.

(c) Whitesail River Camp.

If Whitesail Lake is too rough for travel, this camp near the start of the river is used. However, Deer Camp can generally be reached.

(d) Deer Camp on Whitesail Lake.

This camp can generally be reached on the first day. It offers fair shelter for the boats and can be made a pleasant camping site. A rock knoll back from the beach a short distance is an attraction for a hike to stretch the legs after the first day in the boat.

(e) Privateer Bay Camp on Whitesail Lake.

Some camp spot is necessary as a headquarters for making the climb to the alpine meadows on Chikamin Ridge. Although Privateer Bay is the most logical spot, it may lead to conflict with mining interests using the same beach. A camp on Zinc Bay or the promontory west of Privateer Bay would be an alternative and possibly more attractive.

Privateer Bay has a sheltered sand beach and a fair wood supply from dead trees on the surrounding mountain slopes.

(f) Portage Camp on Whitesail Lake.

The start and end of a portage is a concentration point for travel and invariably utilized for making meals or camping. At the Whitesail Lake end of the portage, a camp ground has come into being. Although the damage is slight, a planned camp is a necessity. A garbage pit, toilet and tent sites are the first requirements. Further requirements will be a rough fireplace and wood supply.
Privateer Bay Camp.

(g) Portage Camp on Buteuk Lake.

The same conditions apply.

(h) Survey Camp - Buteuk Lake.

An old Water Branch Camp near the neck of St. Thomas Bay is now used as a stopping place. It is attractively situated on a promontory and gives very good shelter from winds blowing down the main lake. A cache and the remains of an old cabin supply some historic interest.

(i) Surel Falls - Buteuk Lake.

Both Surel Falls and the fishing in Surel Creek are drawing cards for tourists so a camp is usually made near the creek outlet. The view is very good and because of the steep rocky shore elsewhere, Surel Falls Camp will always be a key campsite. The blueberries are abundant during August.

Numerous standing dead trees will supply wood for years to come, but the other necessities for a camp are required. Tent sites and a garbage pit are the most important.
Surel Falls Camp.

(j) Pondosy Lake Camp.

Pondosy Lake and adjacent mountains are high in scenic appeal. The campsite on this lake appears to be at the foot of an immense glacier and the steep mountains across the lake gives it a true wilderness atmosphere.

All the requirements of a good campsite are present and with the limited use by tourist parties, the guides can for several years be left responsible for good camp practice.

(k) Sand Cabin Bay - Futsuk Lake.

Near the centre of Futsuk Lake and on the north side is a long sandy beach well protected from west winds by a promontory. Since most boat travel follows the north side of the lake, it is often used as a logical stopping point. Indians have used the camp too, but damage to natural features are as yet negligible.

Here too, the tourist guides can maintain orderly campsites. The ground is flat and dead trees are sufficient for many years fuel supply.
Fondasy Lake and adjacent mountains are high in scenic appeal.

This camp is within an easy hike from a knoll which dominates the surrounding country and offers a pleasant view. In warm weather the shallow bay provides good swimming.

(1) Connelly Bay Camp.

This camp will be the meeting place and exchange point for travellers from the north and south areas. While no camping is intended here, if connections can be properly made it may often be required by one party or the other. Camping facilities are good although there is little protection for the boats. The bay is not sheltered from all winds. The horse food is limited but not missing.

(m) Eutsuk River Camp.

Eutsuk Lake narrows down to a swift flowing river and at this point a camp can be made on a jack-pine flat on the south bank. The excellent fishing in the river is the chief reason for stopping.
No recommendations for improvement are given for the above mentioned camp since the plateau allows for freedom of movement.

(a) Tetaschuck Lake Camp.

No information at present on possible camps on this lake.

(c) Tetaschuck Portage Camps.

A 3 mile stretch of rough water culminating in Tetaschuck Falls will have to be portaged. This means that heavily used campsites will come into being at either end of the track. Their exact placement depends on the final location of the grade and they could be improved the same time the portage is built.

The present campsites is on the other bank of the river at the old trading post. The buildings are of no use, but the horse feed nearby is satisfactory when horses are brought in from the south.

The falls, although impressive, are not of outstanding scenic value.

(p) Mechako River Camp.

The upper five miles of the Mechako River are famous as a fishing stream and lie within a day's travel of Ootsa Lake. A sand beach at the outlet of the lake was the site of a trading post (Hansen's) of which only a 20 year old tumble-down building remains.

The wide beach, providing ample camping room and a good supply of firewood, should not require any improvements. As in other cases, the guides can be held responsible for maintaining clean camps.

(q) Camps between the Mechako River and Ootsa Lake.

The relatively short distance between the Mechako River and Ootsa Lake is covered in one day so the need for intermediate campsites is not great. Intata and Natalkuz Lake have many fine beaches and the connecting rivers also offer many attractive stopping places. This limited use has not presented any problems as yet.

It was on the north shore of Intata Lake that the Tweedsmuir party camped for 10 days. Groves of aspen scattered along the shore near gravel beaches offer very pleasant campsites.

2. Campsites from Tetaschuck Crossing South to Stuie

(a) Entiako River Camp.

One day's ride south from the Crossing brings the party to the Entiako River where large meadows, good water and plentiful fuel
make for a good camp. This location is not on the recommended through route to Buttsuk Lake so no improvements are needed.

Entisko campsite on Tetachuck trail.

(b) Ulkatcho Village Camp.

Ulkatcho Village will probably be by-passed on the new proposed route. If guests are specially interested in seeing the Village, a short side trip can be made. The campsite is on the edge of the settlement and during the tourist season the Village is usually deserted.

The water from the lake may tend to be a bit stagnant during hot months and wood fairly scarce, but the establishment of a comfortable camp is quite feasible. No improvements are desirable until a travel route becomes more stabilized.

(c) Qualcho Lake Camp.

Qualcho Lake with its fishing and nearby meadows has all the requirements of a good camp. Successive years of use, chiefly
by Indians, has removed the nearby firewood supply. Large quantities still exist within a feasible carrying range.

The main requirements for keeping this camp unspoiled are in providing tent poles and tent stakes from areas where the cuttings will not be seen and in burying tin cans and other camp refuse.

(d) Nahlouza Lake Camp.

Another good camp can be made at Nahlouza Lake where the scenic aspect of a mountain lake backed by a 9,000' snow-capped mountain peak makes a very desirable setting.

Fishing in the evening at Nahlouza Lake.

Meadows and wood supply are convenient and the usual precautions against indiscriminate cutting and careless garbage disposal should suffice for several years.

(e) Takunesko Lake Camp.

The north end of the lake is very attractive and quite suitable for camping purposes. Its proximity to the Chesko or White River
camp may limit its use if the latter camp becomes the last stop before delivering the visitors at Kutsuk Lake to complete their trip by water. A better trail connection to Kutsuk Lake may make this the connecting camp.

(f) Chezko River Camp.

The trail crosses this river by a safe ford and enters several large meadows flanked to the west by a lodgepole pine plateau. Various tenting areas on the edge of the meadow can be used. Tsaydaychuz Peak dominates the skyline to the south and a good view of this mountain should be considered when choosing a more permanent campsite. This camp will probably be used as a base camp in organizing switch-overs from boat to horseback and as a headquarters if delays should occur. The large meadows are suitable for heavy grazing.

(g) Dean River Camp.

The Dean River has been a favourite camping place with Indians and as such has suffered considerable damage from indiscriminate cutting. It is quite feasible to camp a short distance from the ford and thus avoid "second-hand" camp grounds.
Any permanent improvements would soon be destroyed by Indians so none are recommended.

(a) Tanya Lakes' Camp.

Tanya Lakes are separated by a brushy meadow and it is on this flat that camp is made. There is good water and horse feed, but the wood supply is quite depleted in the camp vicinity. Several tourist attractions, namely fishing in the lakes and Takia River and the possibility of watching Indians spear and smoke fish may make this site popular for an extra day's stay.

(i) Mackenzie Valley Camp.

All the prerequisites for an ideal campsite are found at the head of Mackenzie Valley. Large meadows provide unlimited grazing, a clear stream flows past the camp and fair-sized trees assure an ample wood supply. Besides these necessities, a log cabin, 14' x 18' eliminates the inconveniences of the usual tent camp. The views on all sides enhance the scenic setting and it is little wonder that many visitors are content to finish their holiday in this vicinity.

Mackenzie Valley cabin.
When a steady tourist flow is established, there will be need for definite toilet facilities and garbage disposal.

(j) Paradise Valley Camp.

This camp, in the heart of the Painted Mountains, is another "natural". On either side of the sub-alpine valley, coloured mountains throw up a protecting wall and beckon the visitor to explore them more closely.

In years to come this place will be one of the most popular in the park. When the extent of this anticipated travel can be more clearly foreseen, definite plans for campsites will be needed.

(k) Octopus Lake Camp.

A day's ride south from Mackenzie Valley ends at irregularly shaped Octopus Lake. The present campsites is on the north shore of the lake. The rocky nature of the ground and scarcity of nearby firewood will probably lead to the establishment of a new camp ground across the lake.

The lake is used during hot summer months for swimming. The added attraction of fishing is lacking until the lake can be stocked.

(l) Bear Camp.

The present stopping place at the foot of Mt. Walker has been chosen because of the grazing possibilities. The camp is well situated from water and scenic viewpoints, but the scrubby trees limit both wood supply and the possibility of constructing a cabin or shelter.

A new campsite of a more permanent nature is contemplated a short distance from here. It may eventually serve as headquarters for short trips from the main lodge. The scenic and hunting possibilities are very good in this vicinity.

3. Campsites in the Caribou Mountains

The Caribou Mountains are ideal for short trips from Tweedsmuir Lodge and will therefore have a much heavier use at specific campsites than will the vast northern region.

As yet the trail system has not been definitely determined so there is considerable leeway in campsites. The following notes cover the most likely regions for camping.
(a) Whistler Pass Campsite.

A long sub-alpine valley with good pasture, wood and water, allows considerable leeway in the actual choice of tent and campfire site. Individual preference is the main factor in the location.

(b) Glacier Valley Camp.

The closest known pasturage to Mystery Falls is in this beautiful valley bottom. Strings of meadows and ponds allow a choice of stopping places and once again it is a matter of preference.

(c) Mystery Falls Camp.

The lack of meadows near the giant waterfalls excludes camping at present. A closer examination of nearby areas will probably reveal a suitable campsite. If boating and fishing can be developed on Turner Lake in conjunction with a more direct trail, then the area would likely receive very heavy use.

(d) Molly Lake Camp.

Although there are various possibilities for camp grounds towards the end of the westerly swing of the trail ride, Molly Lake is considered the most suitable.

Mt. Panorama rises almost directly from the lake shore and offers easy climbing and excellent views. Pastures are found along the lake and all the amenities for pleasant camping are present.

(e) Portages:

1. Whitesail - Kubauk Lake Portage. This portage was constructed in 1939 by the Public Works Department. The railway in its present location has a length of 6,000 feet with grades ranging from zero to thirteen percent. The difference in elevation between the lakes is 132'.

Twelve pound rails are spiked to hewn ties laid 40" apart. In many places the ties are supported on rough log trestles 16"-36" off the ground. The awkward distance between the ties, together with the heavy brush that has grown up on the right-of-way, adds greatly to the difficulties of the portage. The rails have loosened from the rotten ties and the car frequently becomes derailed.

A specially built 4-wheel flat car with a wheel gauge of 32 1/2" is used for transporting boats and equipment. There are no mechanical brakes and on steep hills poles are thrust between the spokes of the wheels and the flat car is let slide, causing heavy wear on the wheels. Originally a windlass was used to pull the car
up the first steep grade from Whitesail Lake. Landings at either end of the portage allow the boat to be brought close for loading, but the rails do not run under the water, which would facilitate loading the boat directly on the dolly.

Although the portage could be temporarily repaired by putting in some new ties at the worst places, the present poor location and type of construction should be abandoned.

A much easier grade would follow the creek which flows in near the present landing on Whitesail Lake. This creek leads to Beaver Lake and although some investigation is needed to determine which side of the lake the route would lie on, this new route is entirely feasible. Sketches of proposed routes are in the accompanying map folio.

Several recommendations covering the type of proposed construction follow:
1. The route should be levelled to grade and not built up by trestle work. This can best be done by employing a small caterpillar tractor (kitten).

2. The graded right-of-way would be 8' - 10' wide allowing for passage-way on either side of the cart.

3. The ties should be partly hewn to provide a bearing surface, dug in flush with the ground level and spaced 24" - 30" center to center.

4. The present rails could be re-employed.

5. New slips are needed at either end of the portage. The rails should protrude into the water similar to conventional slip-ways.

Four wheel flat car and landing on Whitesail Lake.
2. Tetachuck River Portage. Tetachuck Falls and numerous rapids on the same river make it impossible to complete the "Circle" unless such arduous labour is spent in portaging and lining boats.

The remains of an old Indian portage route around the falls is still discernable and is used on occasion.

During the summer of 1939, a Youth's Forestry Training Project started the construction of a 3 mile portage. The right-of-way was cleared out and roughly graded for about ½ mile before the project terminated.

![A portion of the uncompleted portage.](image)

No recommendations are made for the remainder of the location since time did not allow for any detailed study. The type of construction including slip-ways, should be similar to that of the Whitesail-Butsuk Lake Portage.
(e) Commercial Development:

1. Big Circle Region. Several guiding concerns are established on the north shore of Otsa Lake.

(a) Billy McNeil, operator of the Circle Tour Guides and the Otsa Lake Lodge, has been guiding since 1922. He caters to fishermen, hunters and general tourists. He has one large cabin which is used for staff living quarters and main dining room and 3 guest cabins providing overnight accommodations. His present equipment, which includes 6 river boats, outboard motors and tents is all kept in good repair.

(b) Jim Morgan and Orald Harrison are part time operators with 3 or 4 boats. They cater to fishing, hunting and scenic tours.

(c) Buster Harrison of Mistoria, specializes in horse trips to Chef peak, catering largely to hunting parties. The horses are freighted across the lake to the start of the trail. He occasionally takes fishing parties eastwards to the lower lakes on fishing trips, but does not make the "Great Circle" trip.

(d) Ed Vantine of Otsa Lake, specializes in duck and goose hunting. He has a large house boat driven by two outboard engines. The westerly end of Otsa Lake is the favourite hunting grounds. During the hunting season, October 1 - October 30, he handles a fair number of hunters, accommodating up to six in one party.

(e) In 1929 Les Woods built a large modern lodge on Whitesail Lake which cost approximately $17,000. The main building consisted of a living room 26'x48' connecting to a dining room and kitchen measuring 26'x48'. Two fair sized buildings were built nearby. The lodge only operated one year and was then abandoned. It has now fallen into complete disrepair. Its failure could be attributed to various causes - 1/ The depression years were not conducive to this type of expensive holiday.
2/ The lodge was too far off the main routes of travel and therefore could not cater to elderly people who were afraid of boat travel.
3/ The direct exposure to winds kept the boats on the shores much of the time.

House boat owned by Ed Vantine.

The problem of controlling commercial development in the "Big Circle" region is a matter of policy. If, as recommended in this report, the park is to be maintained as a "wilderness area", there must be an absolute minimum of buildings within its boundaries. A blanket rule covering all the northern park area and all high country to the south should stipulate: "no buildings are to be allowed except for such industrial use as is necessary and permitted, and a minimum of cabins to be used by guides for "cache" purposes". By referring to the "high country to the south", the Bella Coola and Atnarko Valleys are eliminated thus permitting the existence of Tweedsmuir Lodge, a proposed lodge on Lonesome Lake and such farms that may come within the proposed park area extending over those valleys.
The remnants of the lodge on Whitesail Lake.

If this rule and the licencing of guides is to be enforced, it will be found expedient to place the north-east park boundary a \( \frac{1}{2} \) of a mile north of the shore of the rivers and lakes from the east end of Gotsa Lake to the east park boundary. The reasons for this, as discussed under III Park Boundaries, are for technical administrative purposes as well as protection of that very valuable section of the Circle Tour.

The number of guides and operators that may eventually be needed on the "Big Circle" is hard to foretell. McNeil contemplates having some 13 river boats which would accommodate about 35 visitors at one time. A guide is required for each boat so at least 15 persons would be connected with the one headquarters.

An estimate would be that 4-6 commercial concerns would handle all the visitors for the 10 years to come. They would likely all have their headquarters near the road system along Gotsa Lake.

One possibility that has been raised in connection with guiding tourists in the park is that of bringing them in by horseback from
Freser Lake, The route would lie past several small lakes and finally follow the Nechako River to Battle Lake. From here they would be guided around the water trip.

2. Southern Portion of Park. Only one person is operating in the southern region of the park at present. This is Mr. T.A. Walker of Tweedsmuir Lodge, Stuie, B.C.

The lodge is a well designed 3 storey rustic structure with modern plumbing and fixtures. Its setting amid graceful birch and majestic fir trees and backed by several thousand foot high cliffs is extremely well chosen.

The lodge is well designed and located.

In conjunction with the lodge are several cabins, hay barns and stables. They are hidden from casual view from the road by a screening of trees and provide an attraction in themselves for the city visitor.

A factor that limits the establishment of other concerns in this vicinity is the lack of farm land needed for hay fields and pastures. Although there is some cleared land at Atarko, it will be of little value until it can be reached by road.
Mr. Walker has the lodge facilities and equipment to cater to all tourists that may be expected for the next several years. Until a very definite expanding trend in travel promises to render this accommodation inadequate, no other concern should be encouraged to start.

There are two other possibilities for commercial enterprises in conjunction with the southern part of Tweedsmuir Park. One would have headquarters at or near Anahim Lake which is accessible by road from Williams Lake. From here trips could easily be made up the Dean River and circle the Rainbow Mountains. The hunting aspect is excellent as a fill-in for spring and fall activities.

The above organization would provide no serious conflict with park travel originating from Stale.

Another theoretical possibility is based on the supposition that the road from Bella Coola to Anahim Lake will be constructed. Then a short branch road could be built down the Alarko Valley to Lonesome Lake where a headquarters lodge could be established. From here trail rides would radiate to Mystery Falls and the Caribou Mountains. Good hunting and fishing would enhance the scenic attractions.

(f) Organization Camps:

No groups or organizations have any buildings in the park nor have they enquired about the possibilities. The remoteness of the park is the chief restraining factor since organizations depend for success on cheap and quick accessibility.

The southern portion of the park is ideal for hiking because the high country is clear of all obstructions. There may eventually be some form of organized hikes to the Rainbow Mountains, Mystery Falls and Caribou Mountains, but for the present this type of activity has no influence on our planning.

(g) Picnic Grounds and Campsites:

The need for such facilities will not be evident until the road between Bella Coola and Anahim Lake is completed.

(h) Private Homes:

The classification of Tweedsmuir Park as a wilderness area automatically eliminates the construction of private homes. However, two areas bordering the park very closely will probably have a certain number of homes built on them. The most important is the north shore of Otara Lake where most of the waterfront property is privately owned.
In the past few years 4 summer homes have been built and there is a prospect of more to come. The scenic aspect and road paralleling the lakeshore are two attractive features.

The recommendation to include in the park a 1/2 mile strip along the Otse Lake, Intata Lake, etc., down to the Nechako River would eliminate any further building and thus preserve the wilderness aspect beyond Otse Lake.

The other area in which building might take place is the Bella Coola Valley. This would have no adverse effect on park values since the road and valley bottom are subject to considerable commercialism.

XII PROTECTION

Satisfactory fire protection of Tweedsmuir Park can only be achieved when a more adequate protection system can be afforded for the whole of the Province.

The greatest fire hazard exists in the north-eastern part of the park where Indians roam freely throughout the low rolling lodgepole pine country. Although many fires have occurred in that area, there are relatively few noticeable burns. This is greatly due to the quick reseeding of lodgepole pine.

At present there is only one lookout tower covering the park. This is the Verdin Tower, located on the north shore of Otse Lake near the Otse settlement. Its range of visibility covers only a part of the area within the circle of lakes.

A minimum coverage would require one lookout tower located somewhere on the Quaychus Range, another in the Rainbow Mountains and a third in the Fawley Range. This triangular lookout system would give maximum coverage to the area of highest hazard, the north-east third of the park, and would afford reasonably good coverage to the remainder. Air transportation would be necessary for fire fighters and supplies. These, although dependent on the organization covering the surrounding country, could be sent from Otse or Francois Lake in the north and Bella Coola or Anahim in the south. A definite protection plan for the future depends on too many unknown factors to be drawn up at this time. It is only important at present to impress the protection authorities that the park must be rated at its recreational value rather than its timber value.
It is believed that the greater influx of visitors will not increase the hazard, as most visitors will be with guides whose livelihood depends on maintaining the beauty of the park.

XIV INDUSTRIAL USE

(a) Logging - Except for a few small timber sales mainly along the southern shoreline of Gitams Lake, no extensive logging has taken place within the present park area. The two main reasons for this are the inaccessibility of most of the area and the low volume of timber.

From Mr. Collin’s report, R.33, on the headwaters of the Nechako in 1929, it is apparent that in the northern part of the park where most of the timber occurs, stands of any volume are rather small and scattered. The only fair stands of spruce and lodgepole pine within the park are in the Cheelaslie River drainage and on the north shore of Whitesail Lake. However, the latter is over-mature and of poor grade.

A stand of balsam-lodgepole pine-spruce runs from the south shore of Whitesail Lake up the Thomas Creek valley, but the balsam which forms the greatest percent is of very poor quality; small, limby and decadent.

It is apparent from the small amount of timber involved and its inaccessibility that no industrial use will be required of this area for some considerable time. Furthermore, the Cheelaslie drainage could be logged without any great damage to the park.

Within the proposed extension of the park to the south, the only timber involved would be in the Bella Coola Valley including the Talchako and Hotnarko Valleys. This is generally a narrow strip extending up the bottom of these valleys. The only real volume is at the junction of the Talchako and Bella Coola Rivers. Most of this is Crown land, except for a few quarter sections held as pulp-lease by the Pacific Mills Limited who hold most of the remaining timber westward down the valley.

Except for a narrow strip of timber which forms an excellent park entrance and scenic drive along the road to Stuie from Burnt Bridge Creek, there is no conflict with private holdings. The possibility of exchanging the timber along the road for some in the Talchako Valley seems quite feasible and very necessary. This is recommended because of the importance of preserving this pleasant park-like atmosphere in the valley where visitors get their first impression.
It is further recommended that except for this exchange or timber purchase, no other Crown timber be sold until a more detailed survey can be made of the proposed park area in the valley. This reserve of timber can but increase in value as time goes on and a greater portion of it can be made available for logging if selective methods are used.

(b) Mining - Although the mining history and geological surveys of this region indicate the possibility of mineral deposits, especially on the eastern slopes of the Coast Range, no mines are operating at present. However, within the past two years, two new discoveries have excited some interest in the country.

The most important appears to be the Harrison Group situated on the north side of Lindquist Lake. It is being investigated at present by the Pioneer Gold Mines of B.C. Ltd. Whether this mine will go into production and how it will affect park administration cannot be determined at present. The mine site itself is in a seldom visited area of the park, but the transportation of machinery and ore may present a problem. However, Lindquist Lake is situated in a low divide to the West Coast and access from the west may be feasible.

The second discovery is within a group of claims staked on Chikamin Ridge to which access is possible from Whiteail Lake. No report has been received on the possibilities of this mine which is being investigated by the Privateer Mining Company. The ridge is of particular scenic value, and mining development should be carefully watched so that no needless destruction is caused.

(c) Agriculture and Grazing - There has never been any extensive grazing or agricultural development within the present park boundaries. Some land speculation has taken place in the northern half of the park and people have been induced to buy so called agricultural land, but the results have been a failure. There are no large areas of arable land and the distance and inaccessibility to any potential market would make any such undertaking prohibitive.

The Rainbow Mountains offer a restricted amount of grazing area but no attempt has been made to make use of the area. This is probably due to its inaccessibility from established ranches in the Chilcotin country to the east. No grazing should be allowed in the scenic portion of the Rainbow Mountains nor in the vicinity of any of the travel routes.

Although the Ulkatcho Indians scatter throughout the interior park area, between the large lakes and the Rainbow Mountains during the summer, their only farm activity is limited to cutting just enough hay to see their horses through the winter. In general they just have a cabin located near a natural meadow and surround their hay stack with a fence to guard it from moose and deer.
Even in the Bella Coola Valley in the proposed park area, farming is limited to a small area in the bottom of the valley and this is restricted because of the flooding by the Bella Coola River. Only two or three Crown Grants now held can be developed for farming and this would not interfere with the park developments.

(d) Power Developments - The Water Rights Branch of the Provincial Government have made extensive surveys of the power possibilities of the larger lakes and rivers. No power-house site is proposed within the park, but the lakes would form excellent storage basins to supply power-houses which would be situated across the divide in the Kimsquit Valley. While the development of such a project is remote at present, its realization would mean the construction of dams at the mouth of the lakes to raise their water level. This would destroy the scenic attraction of the shoreline by killing the vegetation and flooding the beaches. Furthermore, diversion of the water westward would partially dry up the Whitesail and Tsetachuk Rivers eliminating the present value of the circle tour.

Detail of this power project can be found in the Water Rights Kutsuk Lake - Kimsquit Report.

XV ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

The status of Tweedsmuir Park as a "Wilderness Park" must be clearly established in order that a definite policy for its administration can be followed. Although this "Wilderness Park" status is an invaluable psychological asset, the enforcement of a policy to maintain it as such will require much backing of public feeling. As the popularity of the park develops, its remoteness and inaccessibility will be much criticized by people of average means who cannot afford the trip through. Political pressure may be exercised by surrounding communities and private individuals who may hope to develop additional commercial concessions.

The present and future policy must be to maintain developments to the absolute minimum and to exclude private and commercial concessions other than those such as trapper's and prospector's rights naturally found in remote territory. It may be necessary to permit cache cabins at a few central spots for the convenience of authorized park guides, but the number will be very limited.

There is some tendency among Travel Agencies and Tourist Bureaus to recommend the possibilities of setting up commercial concerns to operate in Tweedsmuir Park. This should be discouraged since the present outfitters can comfortably handle all incoming tourists. It is a well established fact that a surplus of operators only causes a deterioration in service and equipment. Both boat and horse trips
require a great deal of experience for the proper organization and execution and very few applicants have had any such training.

All guides must be put under license to operate in the park and it should be generally known that obtaining a license is a prerequisite to starting a concession. The number of licenses issued will depend solely on providing the proper facilities for the people. Cutthroat competition should not be allowed to start.

It was suggested several years ago that a Park Ranger be appointed in Tweedsmuir Park. This is impractical for some time because of the great distances to be travelled, the high cost of establishing a headquarters and the need of cumbersome equipment. At least two men are needed on the portages. It also would not be advisable to have one man travelling alone by horseback and attempting to work along the route.

It is therefore recommended that a trained group of men from 2 - 6 in number be sent at intervals through the park on a program covering the construction and cleaning of campsites, trail improvement and portage maintenance. At the same time they would be acting in a supervisory capacity and checking the camp practices of the various guides.

When money is available and tourist travel has expanded, the setting up of a Park Ranger system should be considered. This would require one ranger in the north and one in the south, each with suitable help and headquarters.

XVI. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Park Boundaries

1. Extend park boundary in the north to take in ½ mile strip along north shore of waterways from east end of Octopus Lake to eastern boundary on Mackenzie River.

2. Extend park boundary to take in Rainbow and Caribou Mountains.

(b) Fish, Game and Wild Life

Suggestions have been made that Tweedsmuir Park should be a game reserve. There is no purpose in this and it is recommended that no reserve be established.

One of the most prized of big game animals is the caribou. The original large herds have been fast depleting from attacks by wolves. Every effort should be made to cooperate with the B.C. Game Commission in building up the herds.

Several lakes and streams should be studied and then stocked if suitable. They are Octopus Lake, the stream flowing out of Mackenzie Valley and possibly Wolly Lake in the Caribou Mountains.
(c) Work Program

There is so much leeway in the thoroughness with which the following projects can be done that no attempt is made to estimate the number of man-days of work. Circumstances now unpredictable will stipulate the number of men and amount of time that can be spent. There is virtually no limit on the number of men that could be employed, yet if necessary, 2 or 3 men could do a great deal of valuable work.

1. Trails - The most important trail to be built is the new through route from Deer River to Camally Bay on Buteaux Lake. Other short pieces of trail are required in the vicinity of Sarek Falls and Buteaux River. Several pieces of re-location are needed in the trail from Deception Falls to Stuie. The trail system in the Caribou Mountains should be definitely decided on and built for tourist use.

2. Campsites - Certain key campsites on the "Big Circle" are recommended for improvement. The main improvements will center around tent clearings, garbage disposal, toilet facilities and wood supply. The extent of these will depend on the growth of tourist traffic and the wise judgment of a trained foreman.

Campsites in the Rainbow and Caribou Mountains can be maintained for some time by responsible guides.

3. Portages - The re-location and construction of the White-sail-Buteaux Lake portage and the completion of the Tetechuchuk River portage are primary projects once a large scale improvement program can be organized. The use of a "kitten" for grading is the most practical way to do the work. It could be freighted in in two trips using one of the larger river boats.

4. Commercial Development - It is important to avoid an uncontrolled number of second-rate concerns from being established. Therefore each guide using the park for organized tourist travel must be licensed under a Park Use Permit and fully realize his responsibilities. Continual park misuse will lead to the cancellation of the permit.

The fact that a guiding permit is needed should be brought to the forefront as the primary means of controlling the number of guides and assuring a high quality of service.

For the present, no new commercial concerns should be encouraged in the park. With the extension of the park boundaries and the completion of the Bella Coola Valley road there will be another good place for a concession near Lonesome Lake or Mystery Falls. A further possibility, beyond the park boundaries, but
utilizing park attractions is at Anahim Lake.

5. Organization Camps, Picnic and Campsites, Private Home Sites - No provision for any of the above have been made in the present planning because the need for this type of park use is far distant.

Picnic and campsites may eventually be needed adjacent to the Bella Coola Valley road. Private homes will be confined to the north shore of Botza Lake with the building on private land. There is no objection to homes for recreational use along the Bella Coola Valley within the park, but there will probably be very little or no demand for this.

6. Protection - Better protection is needed for Tweedsmuir Park. A lookout in the Quanchus Range, another in the Rainbow Mountains and a third in the Faemie Range would provide minimum coverage.

The protection of the park must be rated on its recreational value and not its timber value.

7. Industrial Use - The extension of the park boundaries includes a section of the Bella Coola Valley. The timber within this valley bottom is held under pulp licenses by Pacific Mills. It is recommended that as much of the timber on the north side of the road as can be economically purchased or traded be preserved as an essential part of the park. This will maintain a scenic drive, protect the approaches to a view from Tweedsmuir Lodge and in general safeguard from despoliation the most threatened area in the park. The exchange of this timber is simplified by there being a suitable Crown-owned stand of timber in the nearby Talchako River Valley.

8. Administration and Policy - Tweedsmuir Park should be faithfully maintained as a "wilderness area". This means no commercial or private buildings within the park and the absolute minimum of campsite improvements. In the southern region where long distances complicate the matter of packing supplies, several cabins to act as caches will be needed.

The appointment of a park ranger is not practical because of the difficulties of one man travelling such great distances. Instead a trained work crew of from 2 - 6 men are recommended to do periodic clean-ups.

The licensing of all guides is a necessity and the inspection of their camping practices should be undertaken at every opportunity.
Both the approaches to and the view from the southern gateway to the park should be protected.

XVII  PARK SURVEY AND AVAILABLE DATA

This report was compiled from the park reconnaissance made by Messrs. C.P. Lyons and D.M. Trew from August 1st to September 14th, 1944, and from other sources of information on file or as listed below:

(1) Alexander Mackenzie's Diary

Fur trader and explorer, Northwest Company, 1793.

(2) Geological Surveys of Canada Report by -

Dr. G.H. Dawson, 1876
Dr. R.W. Brock, 1920
Mr. J.R. Marshall, 1935.

(3) Department of Lands' Reports by -

Mr. F.C. Swannell, 1921-23
Capt. R.P. Bishop, 1923.
(4) B.C. Forest Service Reconnaissance Reports

R.26, Nechako by H.E. Collins, 1929
Reconnaissance of the 55rd Parallel by A.E. Chives, 1913-14.

(5) C.P.R. Survey Report, 1926-77.

(6) National Geographic Magazine, April, 1933

Article by Lady Tweedsmuir.


The park maps in Tweedsmuir Park folio were assembled from
the following available data and additional sketch maps made during
reconnaissance.

(1) Tweedsmuir Park Map 3 miles = 1 inch 4.T.9539. (This is
the official park map for distribution to the public and
is reproduced in miniature on park pamphlets available
from the Tourist Bureau. This map is not complete in the
Rainbow Mountain area).

(2) Swanell's Topographic map of the lake area of the Park,
1920-21-22. Tracing 5.T.255, 3 miles = 1 inch or photostat
negatives at 3 miles = 1 inch.

(3) Swanell's maps of southeast part of Park, 1929. Tracings
1 mile = 1 inch; 18 and 19 T.2., Topographic.

(4) Pacific Hudson Bay Railway maps of Bella Coola Valley,
3 miles = 1 inch. Photostat 8.T.259. Pacific Hudson Bay
Railway maps of Anahim Peak 3 miles = 1 inch. Photostat

(5) Bella Coola Valley Road reconnaissance by Martizambert and
Rolston 2 miles = 1 inch. Photostat 2.T.279.

(6) Geological maps on attached to Geological Survey of Canada
Reports. Scale 4 miles = 1 inch.

(7) Water Rights Branch maps at variable scales showing plans
and profiles of water diversion projects.

(8) National Topographic sheet. Ocean Falls - Cotsa Lake.
3 miles = 1 inch.

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