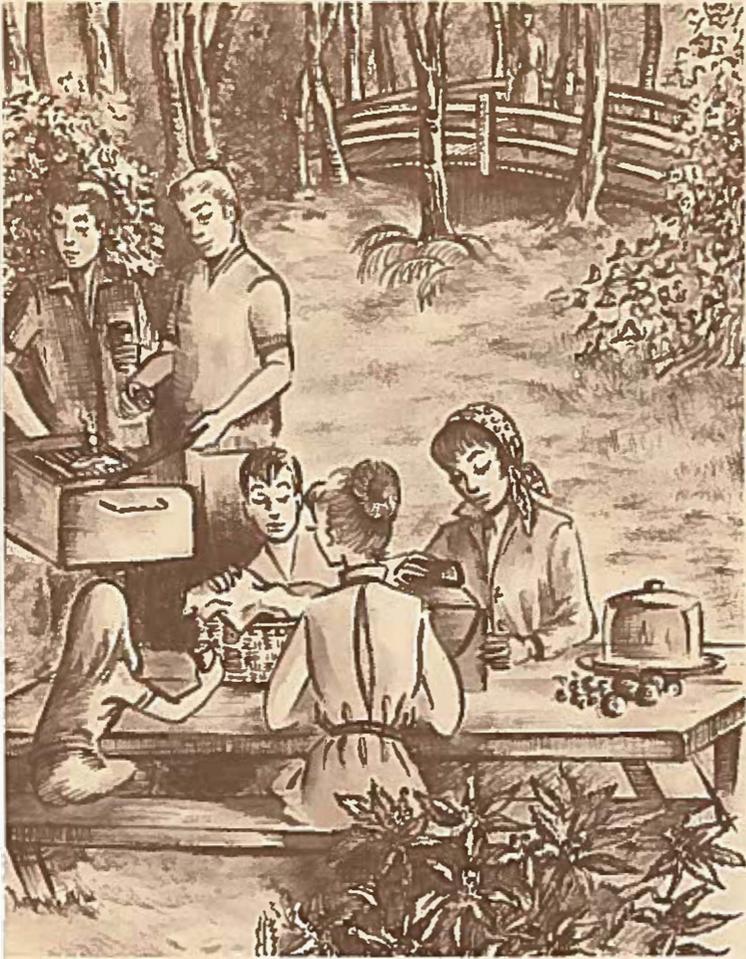
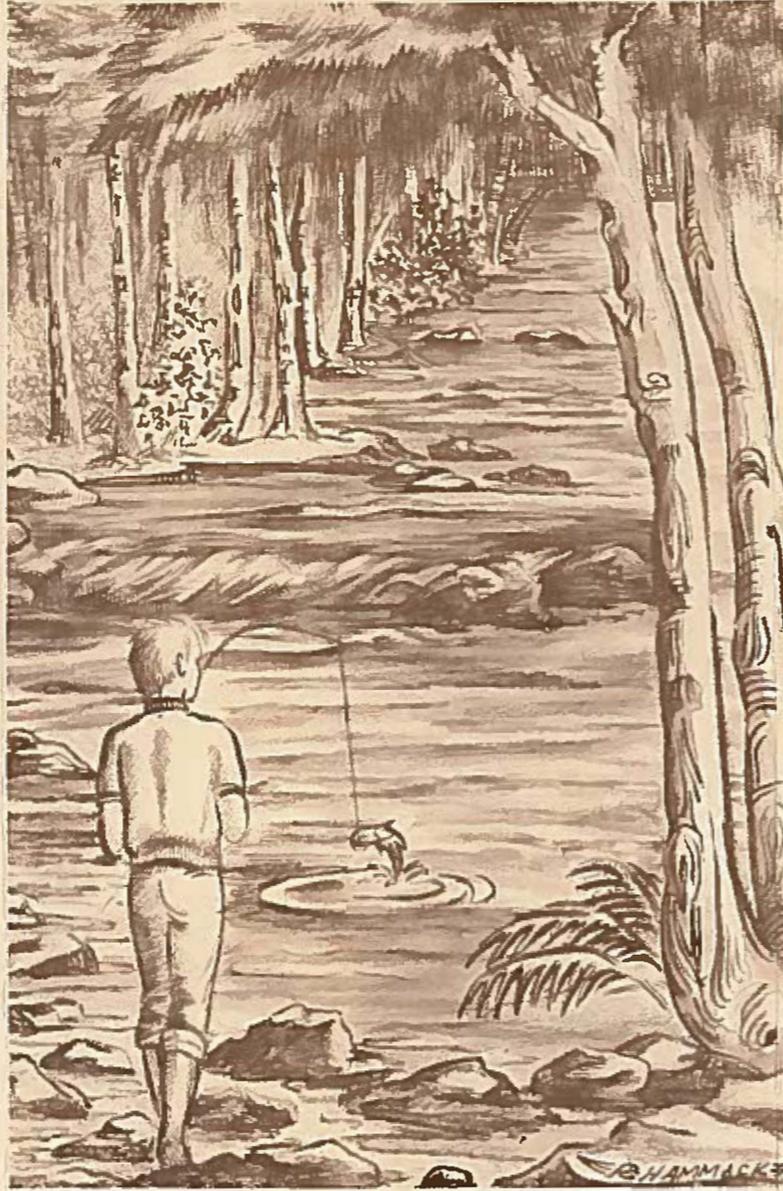


As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, land, mineral, fish, wildlife, forest, range, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



WILDWOOD



Wildwood Recreation Site

Wildwood Recreation Site has been developed by the Bureau of Land Management in an area rich in history and natural resources. Areas for family picnicking and for group activities have been provided. Day use only is allowed, although future plans call for construction of campgrounds.

Family Picnics —

The family picnic area includes 62 units sprinkled through a scenic forest setting cradled in a bend of the Salmon River. Half of the units have one picnic table, plus a charcoal grill and fire ring. Other units have two or three picnic tables for use by more than one family on an outing together. They are shaded by Douglas-fir, western redcedar, western hemlock, red alder, and bigleaf maple trees, and separated by natural screens of vine maple clusters, salal, Oregon grape, and sword fern.

Large Group Picnics —

The group activity area is designed to accommodate organizational picnics. A play area is provided for children.

There are two picnic kitchens, each designed to accommodate from one to four groups. Each kitchen has hot plates, barbecue grills, and a sink. In addition, there are six other picnic units, each with picnic tables, a grill, and a fire ring.

For larger groups, there are two shelters, "Pioneer" and "Mountain View." Each shelter includes picnic tables, hot plates, barbecue grills, and sinks. In addition, for use with each shelter is a softball diamond, volleyball court, and horseshoe pits. Reservations for use of the two large shelters are made with the Salem District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 3227, 3550 Liberty Road South, Salem, Oregon 97302, phone 503-585-1793.

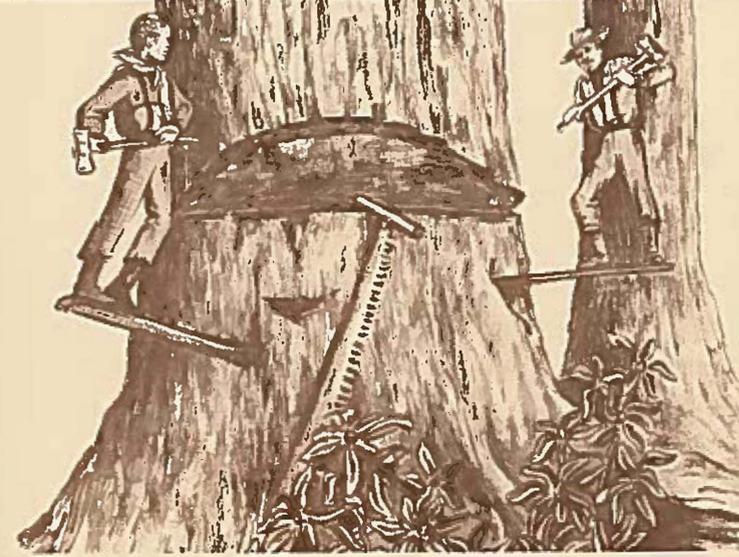
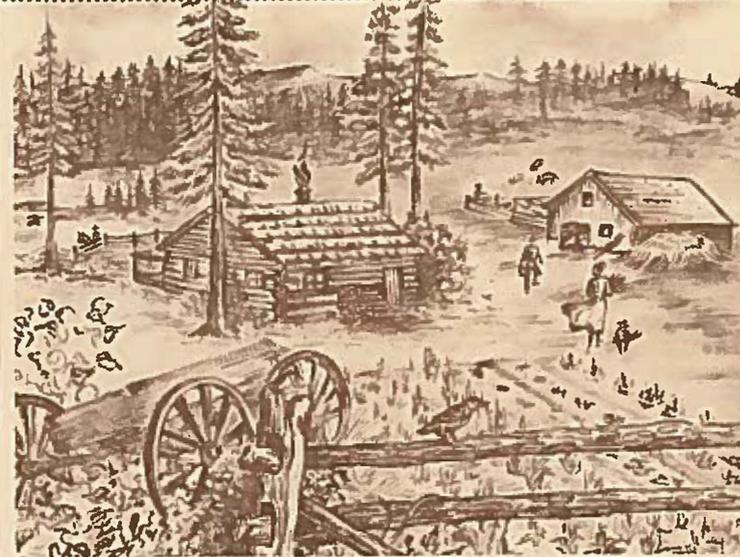


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District
P.O. Box 3227, 3550 Liberty Street South
Salem, Oregon 97302
TEL: 503-585-1793

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HELP KEEP OREGON CLEAN, GREEN, AND BEAUTIFUL

WILDWOOD



Barlow Road

Westward migration established the Oregon Trail in 1841. Of the difficulties encountered on the trail, nothing presented as formidable an obstacle as the Cascade Mountains.

In the beginning, the only route from The Dalles to the Willamette Valley was down the Columbia River on bateaus. The trip was dangerous, expensive, and the scarcity of boats caused long delays.

This dilemma impelled Samuel Barlow to search for alternatives after leading his party to The Dalles in 1845. Encouraged by information about Indian trails over the mountains, he and his party pioneered a road around the south side of Mount Hood. Construction of the road the following summer gave wagon trains a land route over the Cascade Mountains.

The route was a hard and dangerous one. To climb out of Tygh Valley, the pioneers had to double-up their teams. For the trip down Laurel Hill, they had to slow their descent by locking their wheels, using ropes, and dragging logs.

The road originally passed Wildwood along the north side of the Sandy River. However, by 1882 it was relocated to the south side where pioneers were settling. The road is still visible just inside the entrance to the recreation site.

Settlement - Barriers and Blessings

Indians from the Warm Springs area east of the Cascades used to make annual excursions across the southwestern slopes of Mount Hood to gather huckleberries. The Salmon River got its name from the fish they caught there. Pioneer settlers, too, supplemented their fare with fish, game, and berries.

The Provisional Government granted Barlow a charter to operate his road. During the first year that the road was open, 152 wagons, 1,559 head of cattle, horses, and mules, and 13 head of sheep passed through Barlow's toll gate at Gate Creek. Most of the pioneers who braved the perilous journey planned to settle in the Willamette Valley. However, in 1853 the Revenue family cleared land and settled near the present town of Sandy.

Settlers traveling by wagon train considered the forest a barrier to be pierced. It was much more difficult to cut a track through the timber than to cross the treeless plains. Moreover, when they set out to clear land for crops, the forest again was an obstacle to be conquered. Brush and small trees could be grubbed out and burned, but stumps of big trees remained for many years. Settlers plowed between the remaining stumps to prepare the land for crops and pasture.

But even then, the forest and its resources served the settlers who were struggling to survive. Forest streams provided clear water for domestic use and farming needs, as well as power to turn grist mills. Livestock grazed in forest openings. Logs were hewed to build cabins, and western redcedar was split for shakes and fence rails. As the demand for building materials grew, sawmills were established. A forest products industry emerged and thrived. Most of Wildwood recreation site was logged from 1926 to 1944. A small sawmill was operated near the center of the site during the early 1930's. Now another stand of timber is growing, providing shade and a cool atmosphere for visitors to the area.

Settlement of the land around Wildwood required an indomitable pioneer spirit to make a living from the resources available. But the settlers had that spirit. Oregon became a state in 1859. The resources that were both barriers and blessings a century ago proved to be renewable resources and they continue to provide benefits to mankind.

Changing Resource Uses

Farming was the chief occupation of early westward-bound settlers, but by 1883 the McIntyre family, who had settled near Brightwood, built an eleven-room hotel to accommodate travelers. That same year Oliver Yocum started guiding climbers up Mount Hood, and in 1900 he built the first hotel at Government Camp. In 1903 John Kelly drove the first automobile from Portland to Government Camp. It was a steam-powered Stanhope.

Henry Wemme purchased Barlow Road in 1912 and in his will bequeathed it to the public. As the years went by, the dust, mud, chuckholes, corduroy, plank, sand, rocks, and bumps were replaced by a smooth highway with easy grades.

Other changes occurred, too. Billy Welch's calf pasture has become a modern golf course. Timberline Lodge, dedicated in 1937, is visited by about 600,000 skiers and sight-seers annually. Homesteads have become vacation homes.

Snow-capped, 11,245-foot Mount Hood stands in mute testimony to the obstacles encountered in settling the area. People who today picnic at Wildwood and visit other recreation sites along the old Barlow road can think back to the times of the pioneers and the troubles they had.