



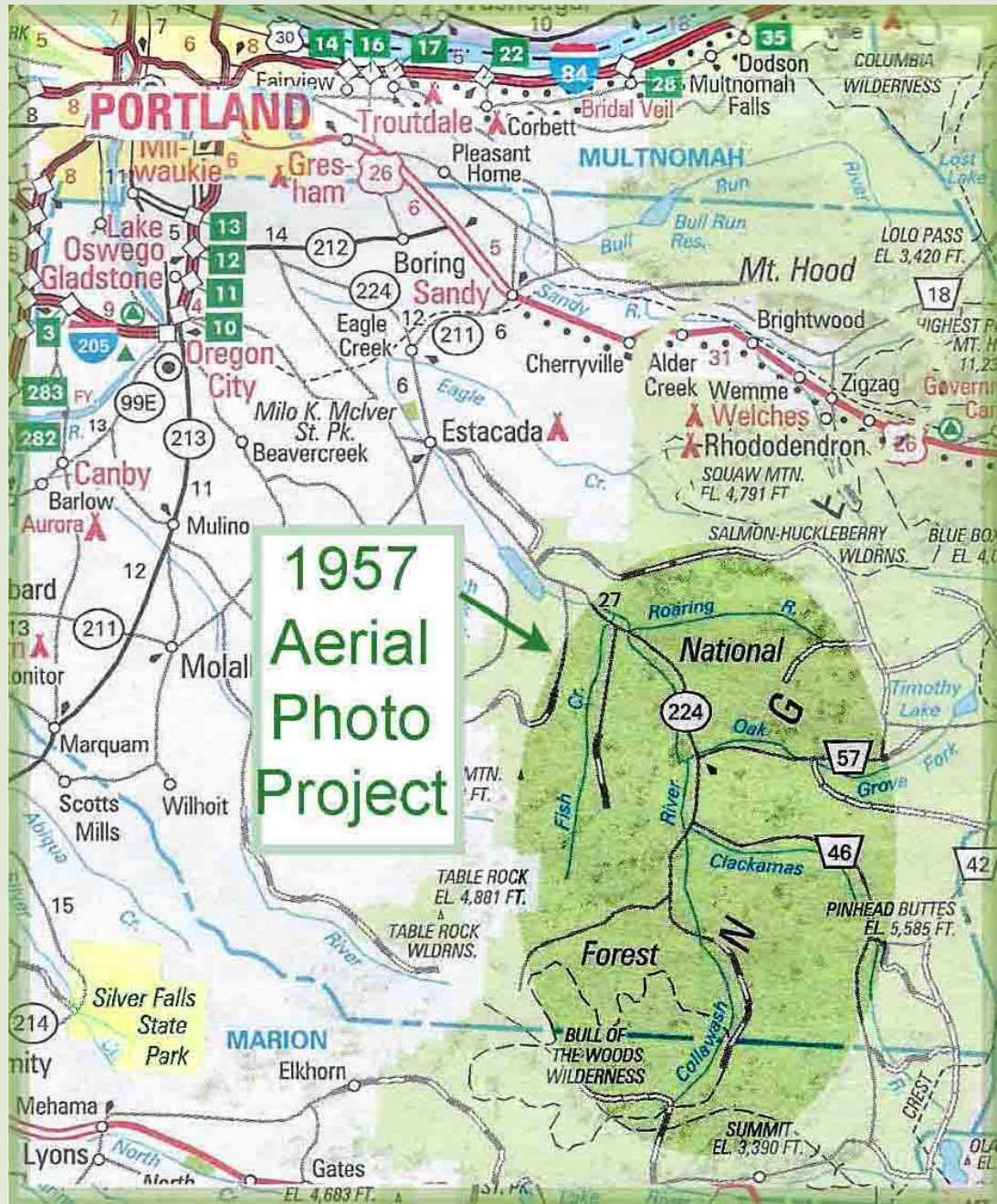
FOREST DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1950s

A VISUAL ACCOUNT

**A VISUAL HISTORY OF
FOREST DEVELOPMENT
on the
CLACKAMAS RIVER DRAINAGE,
MT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST**

PROJECT LOCATION

EARLY CREATION AND USE OF AERIAL PHOTOS



A VISUAL HISTORY OF FOREST DEVELOPMENT, MT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST, CLACKAMAS RIVER DRAINAGE

In the late 1940s and 1950s following World War II, there was a great demand for lumber to meet the needs for construction delayed by the War. Because of the great volumes of Douglas-fir timber in the western Cascades of Oregon and Washington, the U.S. Congress authorized timber removal to fill many of these needs. Forests and Ranger Districts received quotas of volumes to be prepared and offered for sale based on a huge Regional inventory and the growth characteristics of existing timber stands.

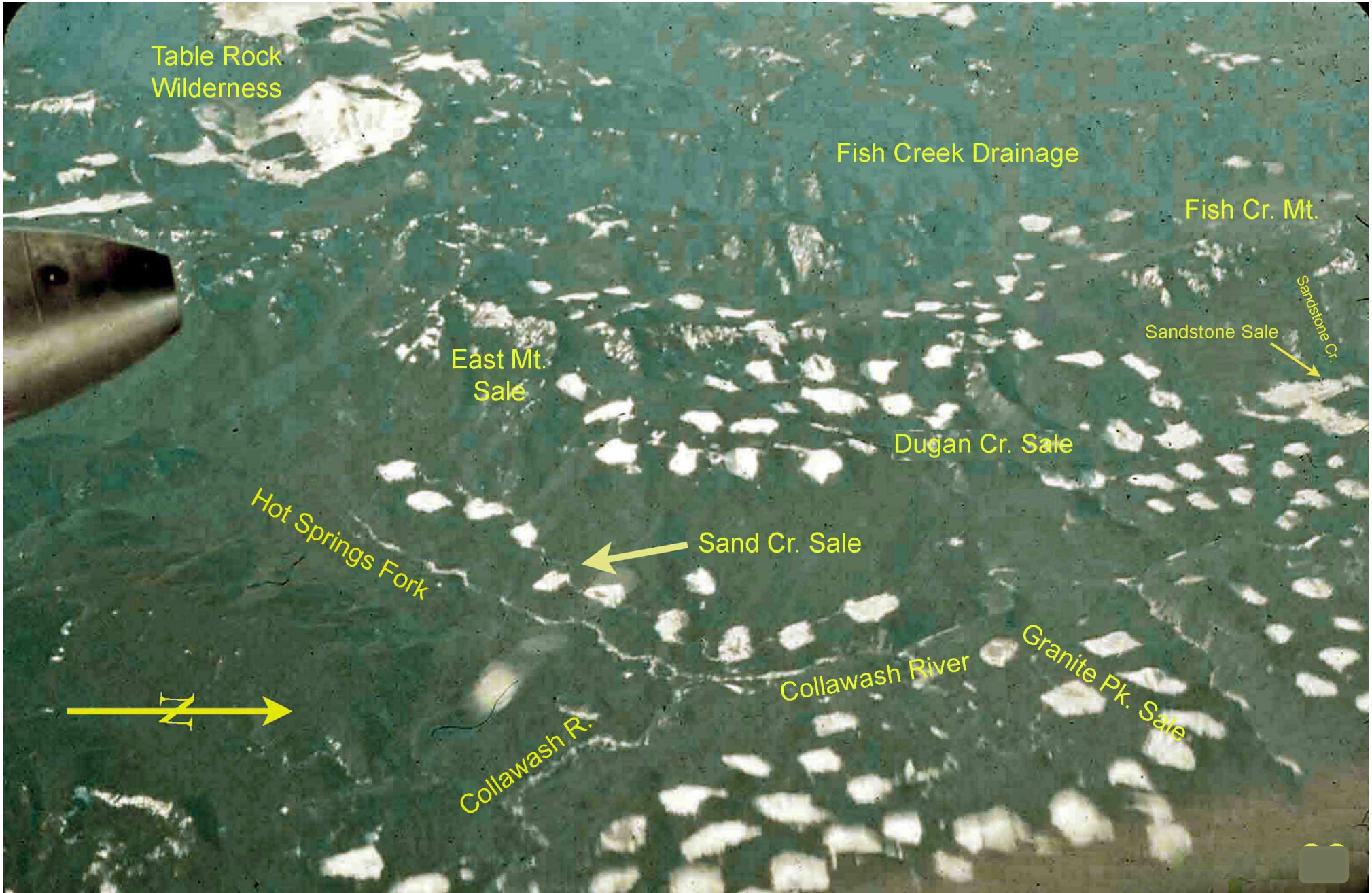
This discussion describes circumstances as they occurred in the Clackamas River drainage on the Mount Hood National Forest. Authorizations in the early 1950s called for annual timber sale volumes approximating 200 million board feet from that area. Professional foresters tried various silvicultural methods to arrive at the needed volume and also to insure regeneration of stands as effectively as possible. Since west side Douglas-fir needs full sun to survive and grow, the prescription for these stands was even-aged management by clearcutting. Concern for the impacts on the watershed and other resources established the practice of generally limiting the size of cutting units to 40 acres, and providing for generous spacing between them.

Undertaking a program of this size, virtually from scratch, called for a significant buildup of technical skills. Critical to management of the Forest was a transportation system of permanent roads. Road design skills were particularly scarce. Bud Unruh, with a degree in forest engineering from Oregon State University, conducted a formal training class in road design for foresters and technicians. This greatly facilitated the ability to meet the demands for timber from the Clackamas drainage.

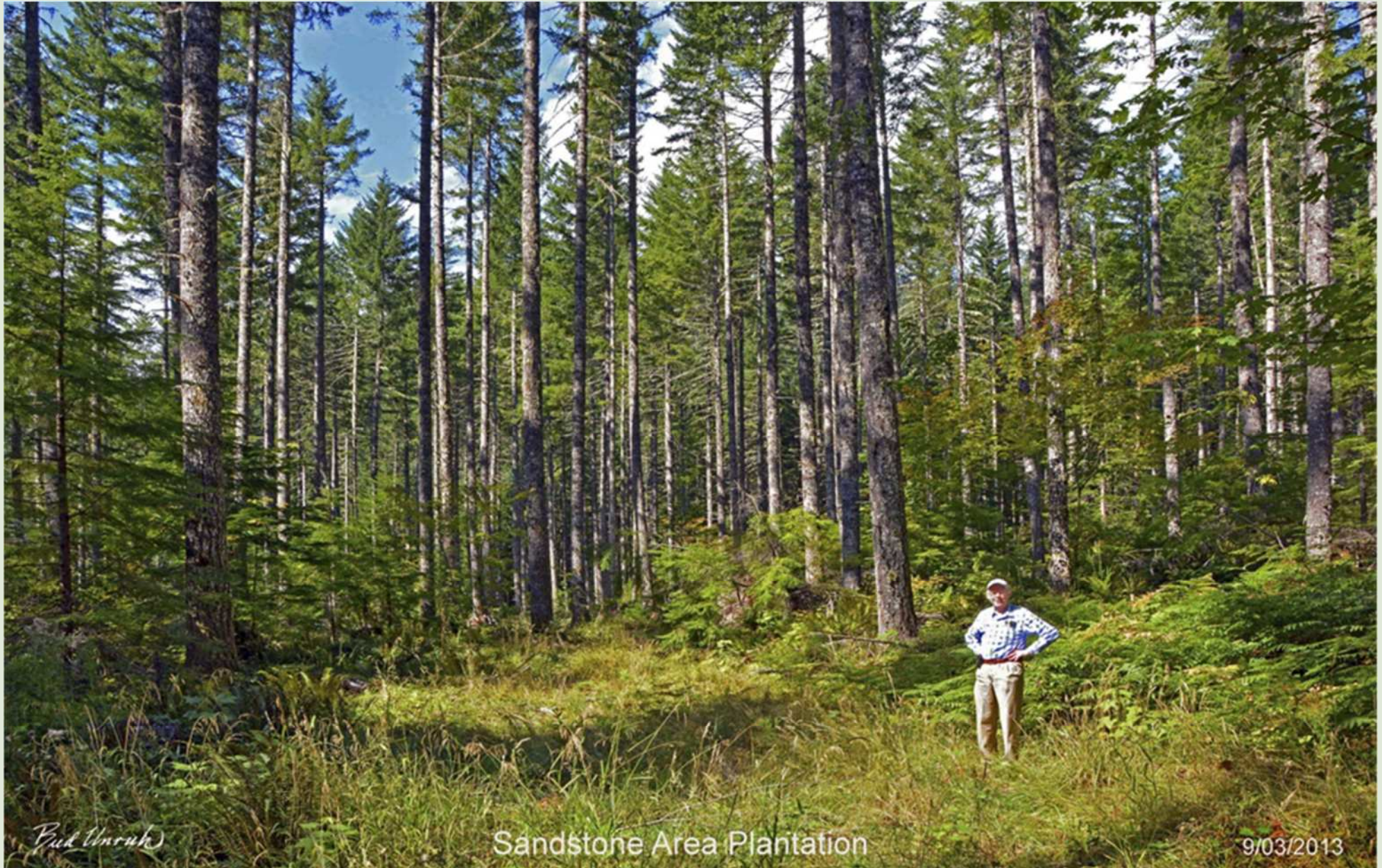
Current mapping displayed development on paper. As roads and timber sales progressed up the drainages, and harvesting took place, missing was an aerial view that gave a visual picture of the resulting landscape. Richard “Dick” Pfilf, also a member of the Oregon Air National National Guard, in 1957 often flew over the Clackamas River drainage. Dick took the aerial photographs in this report using a 35MM camera and Kodak transparency film. At that time, these were the only known aerial photos in the area, giving land managers a visual picture of clear-cut size, spacing, and whatever effects these factors may disclose.

**Following are photographs
with appropriate descriptions and comments:**

Overview: Location of: Fish Cr., Fish Cr. Mt., Sandstone Sale and Plantation, Big Cr., East Mt. Sale, Clackamas River, Collawash River, Table Rock Wilderness, and Sand Cr. sale.



SANDSTONE PLANTATION: The Sandstone Plantation location shown in the preceding aerial photograph was planted with Douglas-fir seedlings in 1948. Collawash District crews pre-commercially thinned the Plantation in 1962 or 1963. Since then commercial thinnings have resulted in the healthy stand pictured below.



Bud Urub

Sandstone Area Plantation

9/03/2013

New and healthy Douglas-fir stands such as shown on the previous page are evident throughout the Clackamas drainage area due to the chosen clearcut practice and follow-up restoration management efforts. The healthiest stands of all have resulted where thinnings took place as prescribed by the professionals on the ground

RESILIENT PANSY BASIN

A forest development road provides this outstanding view of Pansy Basin for visitors to and from the Bull of the Woods Wilderness. The road (shown at the lower right corner) and the clearing below were part of the Lily Pad timber sale prepared in 1957 by Dick Fitzgerald, Bill Rines, Dick Pfilf and “Gil” Gilbert. Subsequently, timber harvest, including using balloons to lift logs off the forest floor to awaiting trucks, left numerous openings in the Basin with minimum ground disturbance. Visible on the far hillsides are scattered clearcuts that are well restored with vigorous timber stands. Pansy Basin and Sandstone exemplify the resilience of the Clackamas drainage after development carefully done.



(Panoramic photo by Bud Unruh, 2013)

Ward's Meadow Sale And Nearby Features.

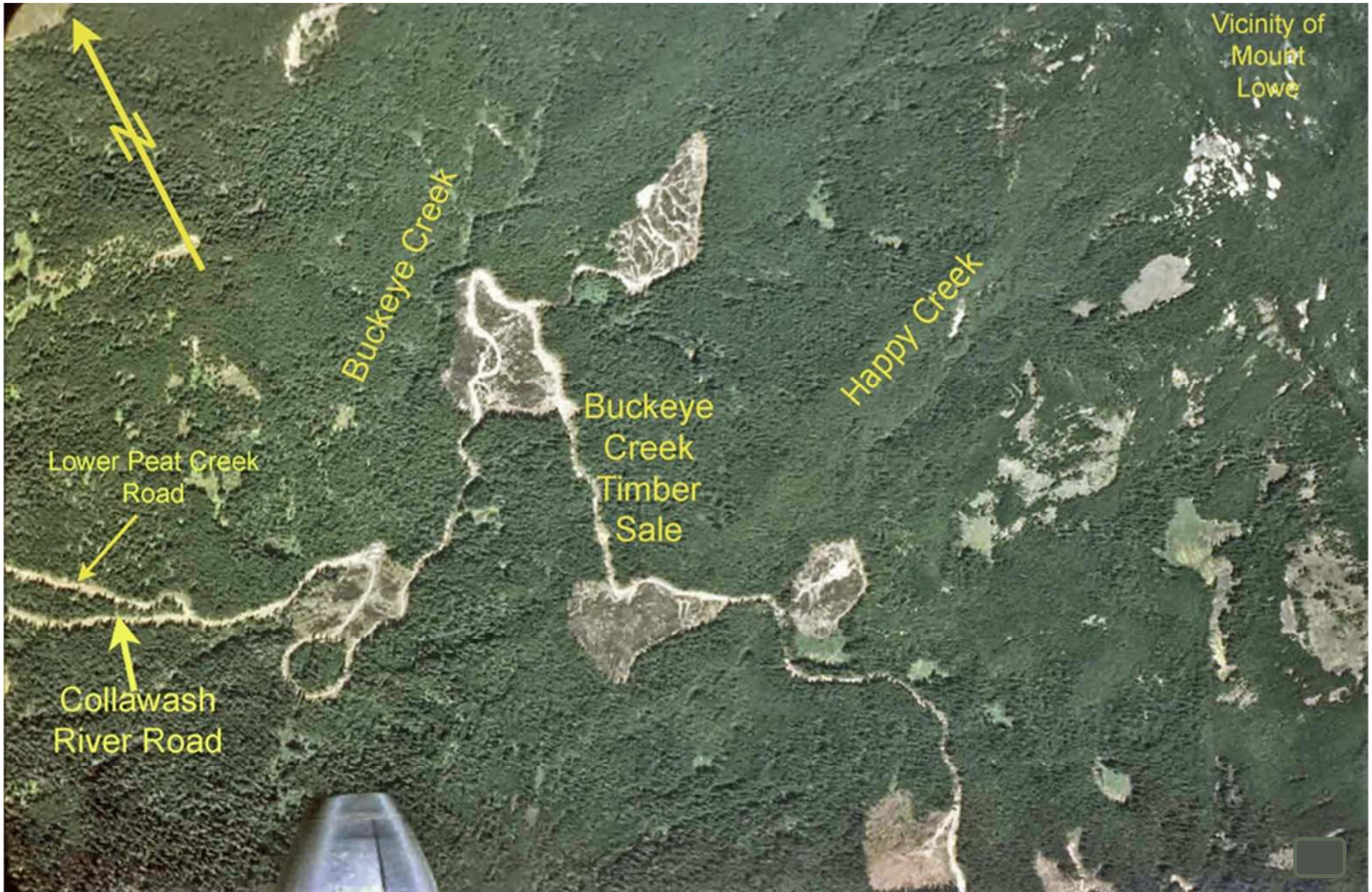


Granite Peaks and Jack Davis Sales

The Granite Peaks Sale was prepared by Jack Frost and Bud Unruh in 1949. It was one of the earliest “clear-cut” sales sold following WWII. Clearcut size and spacing were still in the testing stage, and units exceeded the 40 acre guideline established later. A contrast of unit sizes is readily apparent from the view showing surrounding clearcuts of a later vintage, such as those on the Jack Davis Sale.



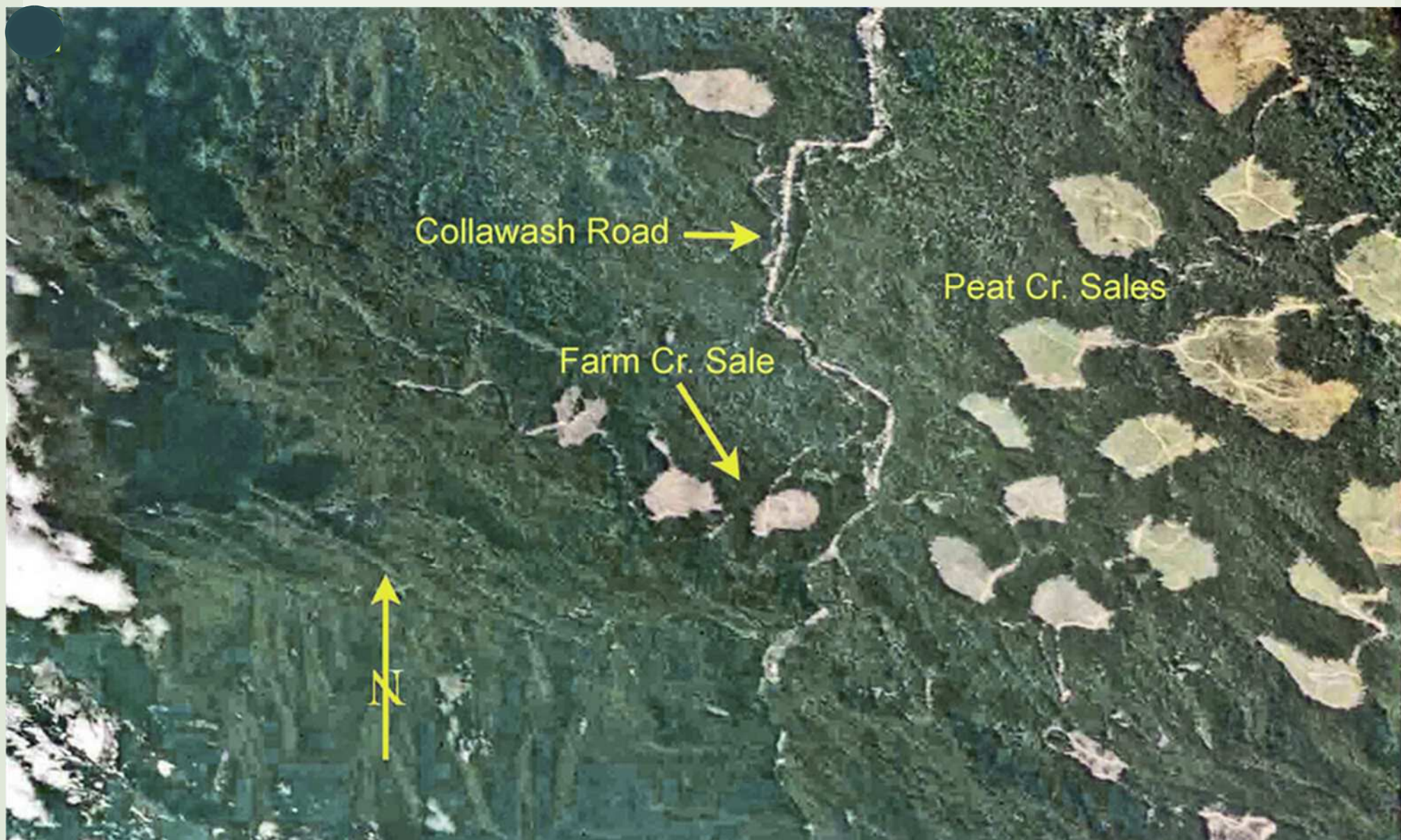
The Jack Davis sale was laid out during the summer of 1955 by Harold “Smokey” Olson and Dick Dorsey along with a summer presale prep crew. The sale was later sold but the original purchaser defaulted on the sale after cutting the first few units. The sale was resold in 1957/58 and logging was completed shortly afterwards.



Buckeye Sale, Buckeye Cr. and Lower Peat Cr. Road.

The unit off the tip in the switch back on the Collawash River Road is across Buckeye Creek. The upper road on the left is the Lower Peat Creek Road which is now closed due to land flow. The unstable terrain repeatedly required restoration of the road so eventually the road was abandoned. Buckeye Sale units are located to the right and are a part of the Buckeye units laid out by Bud Unruh and Norm Gould.

This photo, taken over the Collawash Ranger District, includes three units of the Farm Cr. Sale which was prepared during 1955 and sold early in 1956. Members of the “layout” party were; Harold “Smokey” Olsen, Lowell Gilbert, Bill Rines, Mark Luedtke, and Bud Unruh. Clearcut units across the river from Farm Creek were created by earlier sales named “Upper Peat Creek and Lower Peat Creek.”



Most Timber Sale Layout Projects Involved Lengthy Campouts To Avoid Loss Of Time From Hiking In And Out Daily.

A Typical Camping Arrangement Is Shown By The Farm Creek Timber Sale Layout Camp At Halfway Shelter In 1955.



SMOKEY OLSEN AND BILL RINES AT FARM CREEK SALE LAYOUT CAMP



Smokey Olsen cooks breakfast on a Sibley portable camp stove at Halfway Shelter

East Mountain Sale and Trout Creek

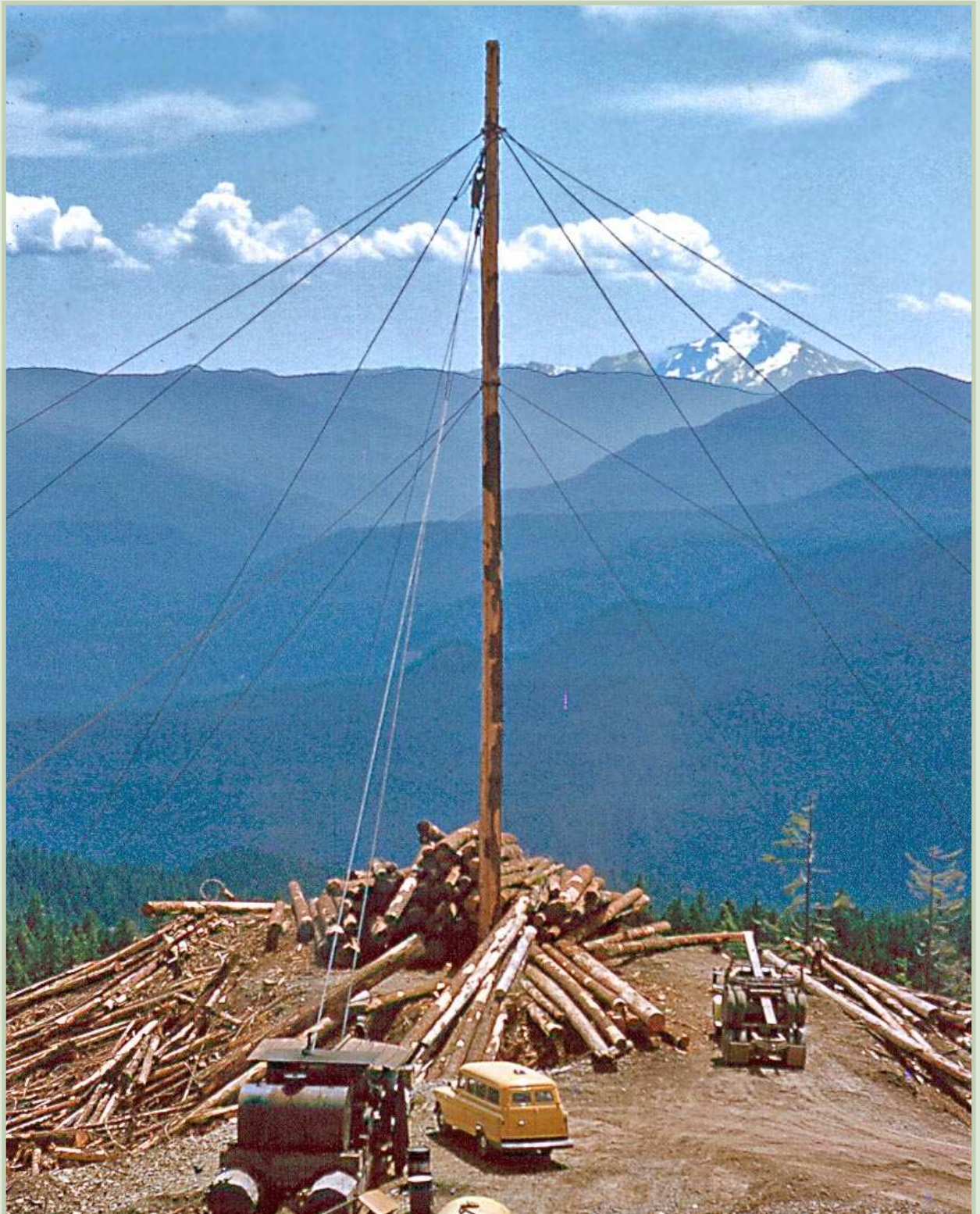
The East Mountain Sale was prepared during the winter of 1951-1952 by Roy Bond, Norm Gould, and Jack Frost.



Log Landing at Clearcut Unit #1 of the East Mountain Sale

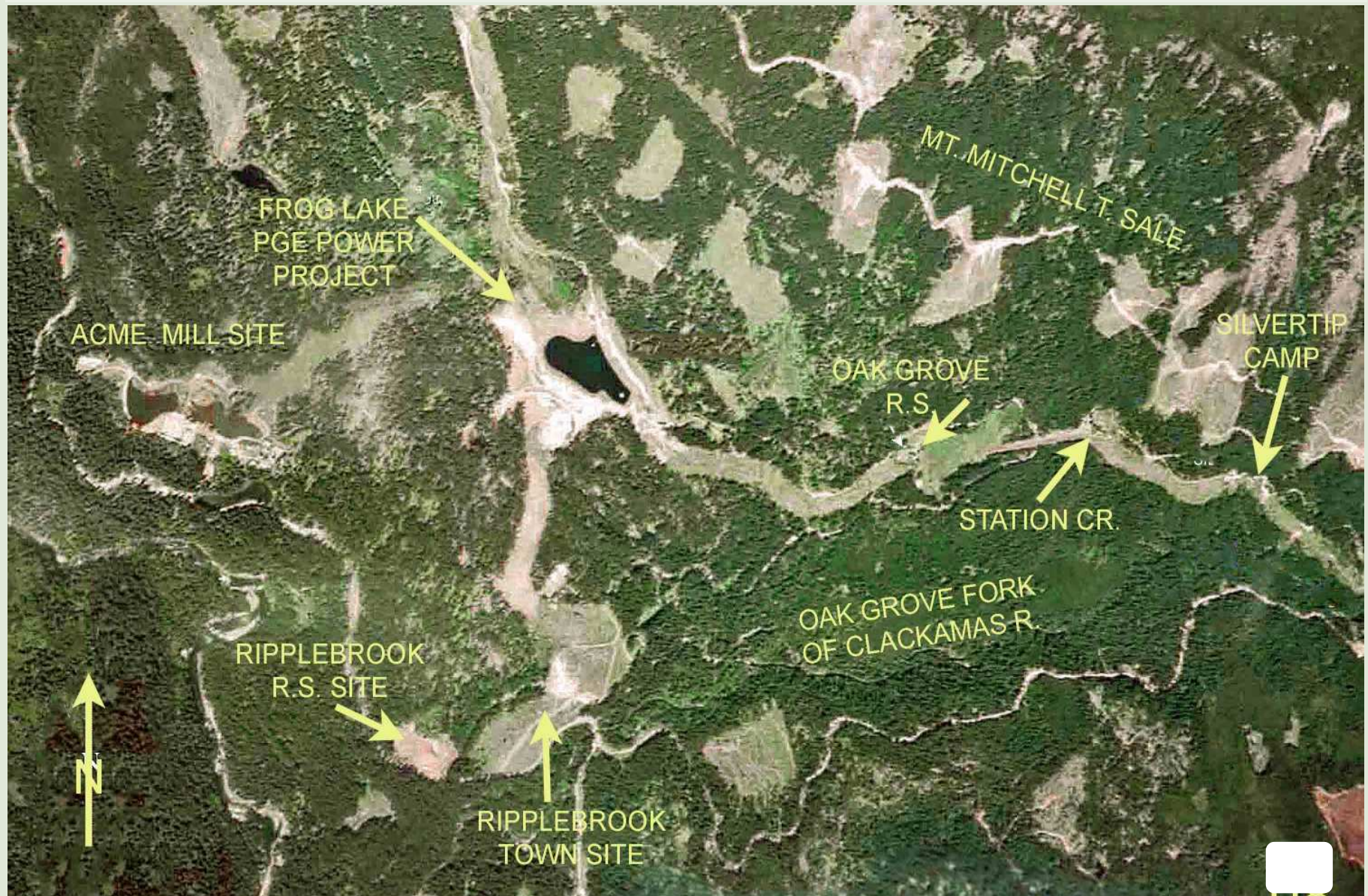
Logging system is
“High-Lead Cable.”
Cable systems are
specified because,
as a minimum, the
front end of logs
while being yarded in
will be raised, thus,
disturbance on the
forest floor is mini-
mized.

Photo—1956 by Bud Unruh



Location of Facilities in use, 1957:

Silvertip Camp, Station Creek Office, Oak Grove Ranger Station including the pasture and barn, Frog Lake (Portland General Electric Power Project), Ripplebrook Ranger Station, Ripplebrook Town Site, Acme Mill Site (now Timberlake Job Corps Center)



The Forest Service divided the Clackamas Drainage into three ranger districts in 1952; Estacada, Collawash and Lakes, with Earl Karlinger, Roy Bond, and Bob Leavengood respectively as District Rangers. Gearing up to carry out the program, the Forest recruited additional foresters, technicians, laborers and office staff, many of them with families.

The years of 1957 and 1958 ushered in building construction to fill the needs of the staff, their families, and the program. At the time, the Lakes District headquartered at the Oak Grove Ranger Station and the Collawash office was at the Station Creek site. Seven new dwellings arose at the Ripplebrook Town Site to supplement the housing at the Oak Grove Ranger Station. The Forest Service acquired the Silvertip logging camp with its bunkhouse, cookhouse and several dwellings. The Acme Timber Company closed its mill and handed over its buildings, including several residences, to the Forest Service. The site later became the Timberlake Job Corps Center.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUED

Ripplebrook Office: Finally, with completion of the Ripplebrook office building, Lakes District Ranger Dick Worthington, and Collawash District Ranger Evan Jones brought their staff to their combined office. A year later an office annex and two warehouses completed the Ripplebrook Ranger Station complex.



Ripplebrook Ranger Station, Mount Hood National Forest,

Photo - 1957 By Dick Pflif

Mount Adams



Mount Saint Helens



Photo by Dick Pfilf in 1957

Mount Hood



**Aerial Photography Courtesy of the
123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron,
142nd Fighter Wing,
Oregon Air National Guard.**



Lt. Richard Pfilf

CONTRIBUTORS

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Registered Professional Engineer, Oregon #4585

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