

County Surveyor's Record, Douglas County, Oregon

11736

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Dependent Resurvey of Portion of Subdivisional Lines of T. 20 S., R. 10 W.

CHAINS

illegible.

Land, mountainous.

Soil, sandy loam.

Timber, fir, hemlock, cedar, alder and maple.

Undergrowth, vinemaple, rhododendron, salmonberry, hazel, evergreen huckleberry, salal and arrowwood.

General Description

The lands included in the resurveyed portion of township 20 south, range 10 west, are extremely mountainous and broken, with a small amount of bottom land along Smith River and lower Spencer Creek. The elevation ranges from sea level to about 1400 feet above sea level. The soil is sandy loam, very shallow except in the bottoms, but seemingly fertile. The underlying formation is sandstone, exposed on the steeper slopes. When not cleared, the land is heavily timbered with Douglas fir, western hemlock, red cedar, Oregon maple and alder, the Douglas fir predominating. Chinquapin, madrona, yew, dogwood and cascara are scattering over the region; willow and ash were noted along the river. A small clump of myrtle is located on the south boundary of section 36. Little of the timber has been damaged by fire; however, winter storms in recent years have uprooted a considerable number of trees on the ridges and steeper slopes, where the soil is shallowest. The undergrowth is dense throughout, the commoner species being vine maple, evergreen huckleberry, salmonberry, thimbleberry, hazel, rhododendron, salal, red huckleberry, arrowwood, poison oak, slickleaf (ceanothus), wild cucumber, manzanita, redberry elder, Oregon grape and sword fern.

The township is watered by many small streams, the smaller of these being dry in summer months. Though blocked by logs and overhanging brush, these streams form the only present practicable means of access to the interior of the area. Smith River winds through the southern part of the township in a general westerly direction. This stream flows partly on bedrock, partly on a gravel bed; the average width is about 150 links, the depth from a foot to five feet above tidewater, which reaches about to the line between sections 34 and 35. Below the head of tidewater the river is only fordable at low tide. Spencer Creek, an important tributary of Smith River, average width about 50 links, drains nearly half of the resurveyed area, and joins the river just south of the line between sections 27 and 34. Railroad, Edmonds, Georgia, Cedar (locally called Fisher), and Bob Creeks, together with several unnamed creeks, all tributary to the North Fork of Smith River, drain the most westerly and northerly parts of the area; these streams are somewhat smaller than Spencer Creek. Headwaters of Bear Creek and Johnson Creek, which flow into Smith River, drain a small portion of the land along the east boundary.

The narrow valley of Smith River is the location of several farms. Beef and dairy cattle are raised; grains, fruits, hay, walnuts and vegetables grow satisfactorily. A small sawmill is located in the northeast quarter of section 35, and there are a number of occupied cabins in section 36. A gravelled, all weather road, a power line, and a telephone line extend along the river across sections 34, 35 and 36. A truck trail reaches up Spencer Creek into the northeast quarter of section 27, and an old trail goes about half a mile further. There are no other trails.

No evidence of mineral was noted in the township.

The average of 206 readings taken over the area resurveyed gives a value of 20°57.5' E. for the mean magnetic declination. There is a range of 1°35' in local attraction.