

T. 20 S., R. 9 W.

CHAINS

clear, rapid-flowing, cold, and turbulent. The Smith River, flowing over bedrock bottom or a thin gravel bottom, varies from one to three chains in width, and from a few inches to eight feet in depth, in summer season when it is lowest. The West Fork, which drains the south slope of Mount Roman Nose, is about one chain wide at most in dry season, the depth varying in proportion. The tributary streams are similar but smaller. Most of the small branches are dry in July and August.

The whole area covered in the resurvey is heavily timbered with Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, Oregon maple, and alder, much of it merchantable. Ash, willow, and white fir are found in the immediate vicinity of the main river. Chinquapin, madrona, yew, dogwood, cascara, bitter cherry, broadleaf willow, and elderberry are scattering over the whole region. An isolated clump of dwarf maple was found on the dividing ridge between Johnson Creek and Coon Creek, in the southeast quarter of section 17. The dense undergrowth includes vine maple, arrowwood, hazel, rhododendron, salmonberry, evergreen huckleberry, red huckleberry, manzanita, salal, Oregon grape, thimbleberry, ceanothus, poison oak, wild currant, dewberry, wild brier, sword fern, and bracken. Evergreen huckleberry, himalaya blackberry, and wild rose have established themselves in old clearings along the Smith River and the West Fork. The small streams are choked with a nearly impenetrable mixture of logs, salmonberry, wild cucumber vines, and a fleshy-stemmed, strong-smelling member of the currant family. Travel away from the roads is almost impossible without the cutting of trails.

Damage to trees caused by severe storms and insect pests in recent years has resulted in need for access roads to make possible the harvesting of affected timber while it is yet sound. Roads are under construction along the right banks of the Smith River and the West Fork, heavily ballasted to accommodate large logging trucks. The roads supersede graded trails which were formerly the only means of access above the junction of the two streams. In the past, most of the wider portions of bottom along these streams have been the sites of small ranches whose owners logged whatever timber could be easily floated out. At the time of the resurvey the only permanent residents are located at the Olsen Brothers sawmill near the south boundary of section 31, where a suspension footbridge has been built across the Smith River. A Western Lane Forest Protective Association guard station is maintained in section 33, opposite the mouth of Vincent Creek. From this point a low-water bridge across the river gives access to a graded, unsurfaced road extending along Vincent Creek toward State Highway No. 38. From the same point an unsurfaced road extends northerly into the northwest quarter of section 21. Several summer cottages have been built near the right bank of the river in sections 30 and 31.

No evidence of mineral deposits was found in the township. Before the turn of the century some effort at placer mining for gold was made along Gold Creek in section 1, but few traces of the work remain. Fossilized clam shells were found in the northeast quarter of section 30, near the east fork of Bear Creek, at about 750 feet elevation above mean sea level. Occasional deposits of sandstone are sufficiently hard for use as road ballast.

An interesting feature of the township is Smith River Falls, located about a quarter of a mile upstream from the mouth of Buck Creek, in section 31. This falls is about 15 feet high, and has apparently been moving upstream from a point where the river cut across a long meander in the past. The canyon formerly occupied extends entirely around a ridge in sections 31 and 32 of this township and section 5 in township 21 south, range 9 west; this ridge has been named The Island. Buck Creek occupies the canyon to the south and west of The Island, and the east and north sides are occupied by Little or Left Buck Creek, which flows in a direction formerly upstream to the river's course. Benches high above the river in sections 25, 26, and 27, also indicate changes of its location in the remote past.