

I. RIVER AREA INVENTORY FORM

A. General information.

1. Name of river

Skagit

2. Location of study unit

The study unit consists of that portion of the river from the Gorge Power House at Newhalem to the mouth of the river which empties into Puget Sound.

3. States

Washington

4. Counties

Skagit County, Washington

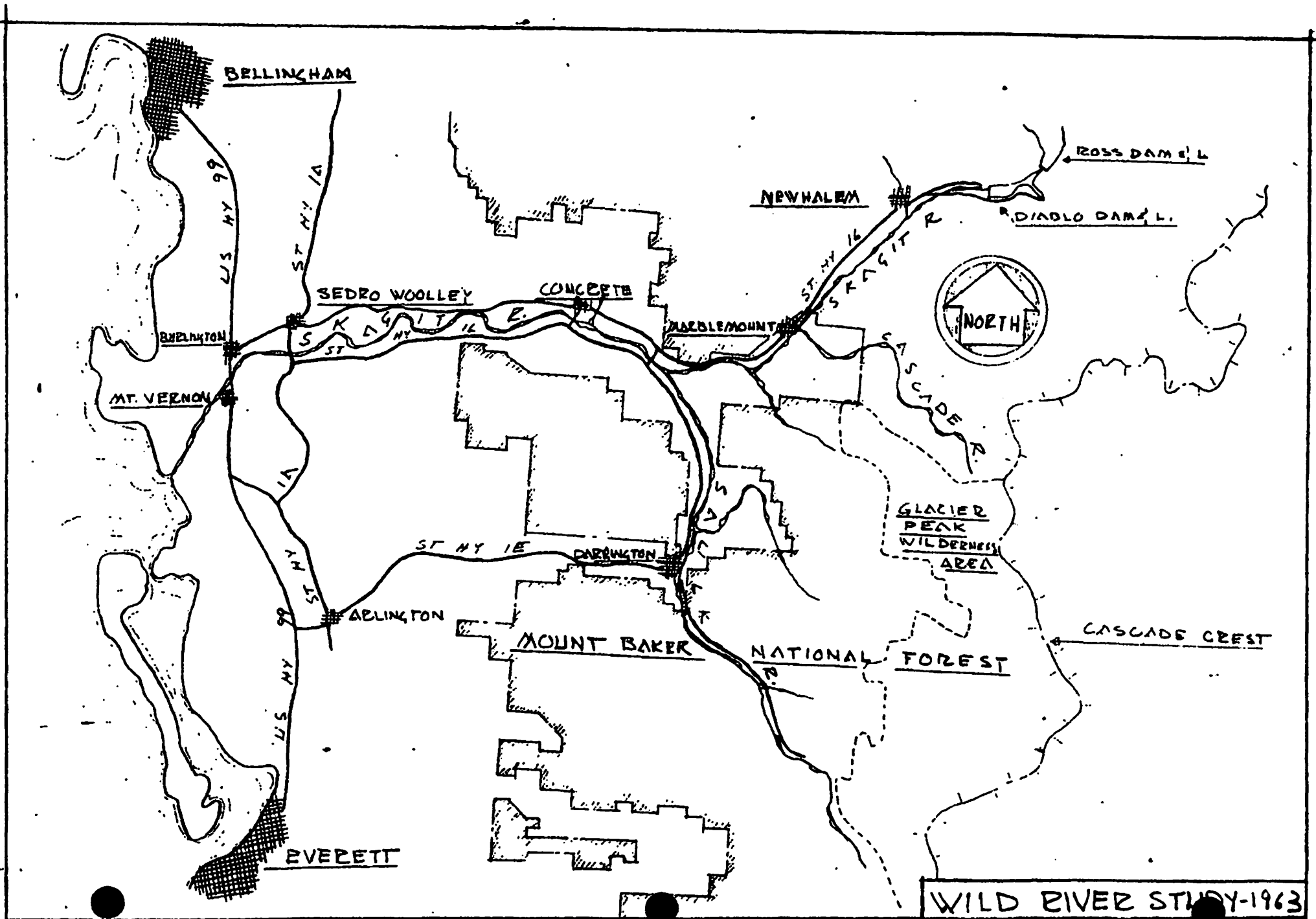
5. Major drainage basin

Pacific Slope Basin in Washington.

6. Population within 50 miles approximately 1,300,000; 150 miles approximately 3,300,000; 250 miles approximately 5,400,000.

7. Weather characteristics by seasons and inclusive dates when study unit is best suited for public use and normal weather conditions during that period.

The climate varies considerably, depending on the elevation, but generally speaking the best recreation season throughout the entire study unit is from May through October. In the upper reach the winter weather is characterized by heavy snowfall. For instance, at Marble Mount, the measured average winter snow depth is approximately 4 feet.



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Wild and Scenic River Study Report

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

To preserve these rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, it is recommended:

1. That the Skagit River from the upstream side of the pipeline-utility corridor crossing at Sedro Woolley upstream to Bacon Creek (58.5 miles) be included in the National System as a Recreational River component; and that the Cascade River (20.8 miles), Sauk River (50.8 miles) and Suiattle River (27.4 miles), for their entire study area length, be included in the National System as Scenic River components. Rivers recommended for inclusion total 157.5 miles in length. The general location of the recommended boundary of the river area, as well as landownership within the recommended boundary, is shown on the maps in Appendix E.

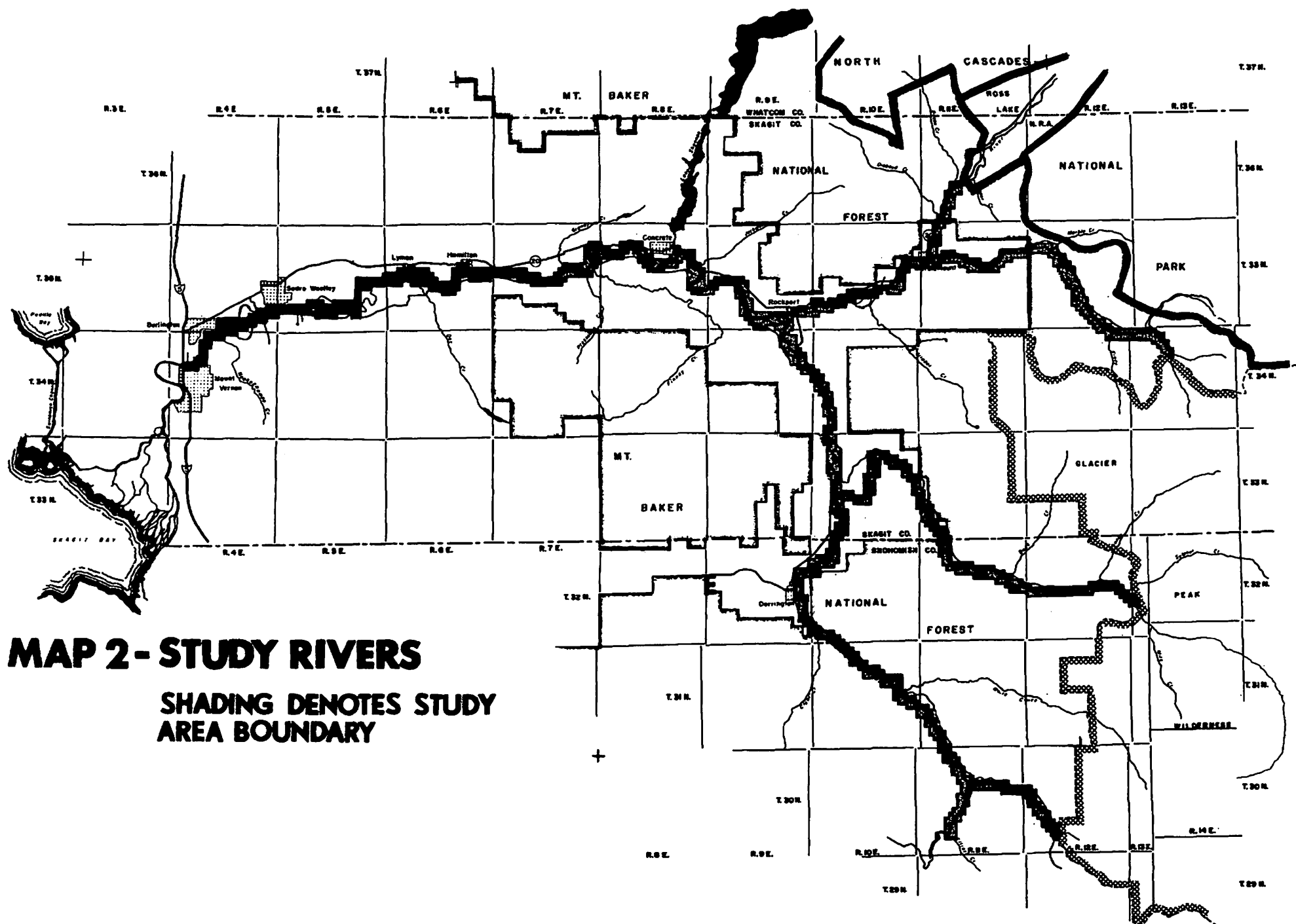
2. The area enclosed by the classified river area boundary contains approximately 34,650 acres of lands whose management is critical to the preservation of the rivers' scenic, recreational, natural and cultural values. Of this acreage, 16,605 acres are National Forest, 1,430 acres are owned by other public agencies, and the remaining 16,615 acres are in private ownership. Administrative agencies will purchase an estimated 1,728 acres, in fee title, and acquire conservation easements on an estimated 3,350 acres. The remaining 29,572 acres within the proposal area boundary are either presently admini-

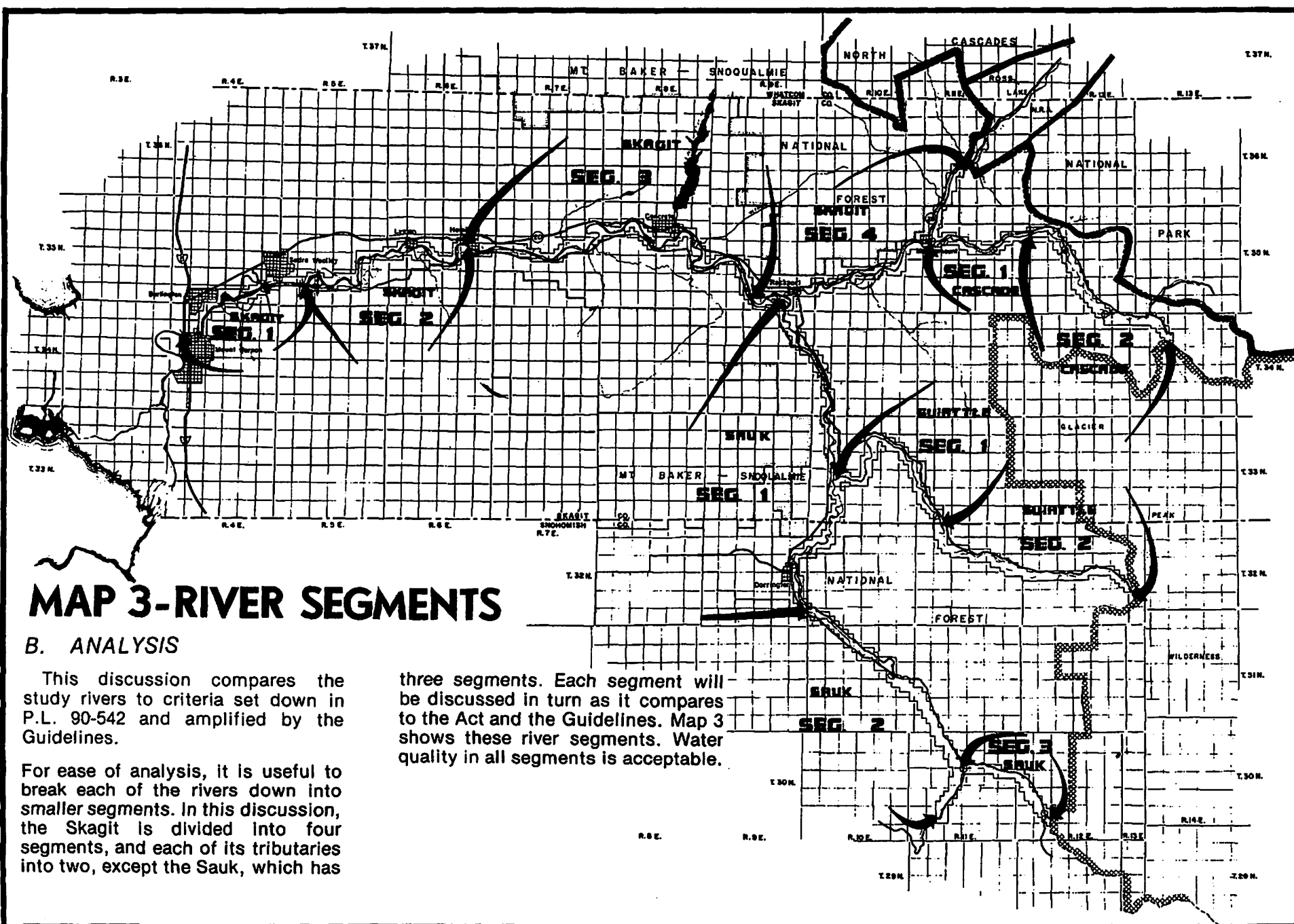
stered by federal or state government, or are under the jurisdiction of the State Shorelines Management Act.

3. That administration of the proposal area be accomplished jointly by components of federal and state governments. The Forest Service, USDA, should serve as the federal administrative agency.

4. That a committee composed of representatives from each administrative agency, and representatives of appropriate county and local agencies, be formed to develop a master plan for the management and protection of the rivers and their adjacent lands within the river area boundary. Responsibility for the protection and management of the Skagit River and its adjacent lands should rest primarily with State and local administrative agencies, while responsibility for the protection and management of the Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle River components should rest primarily with the Federal administrative agency.

A discussion of the administration, land acquisition, recreation development and maintenance recommended under this proposal is found in Part II, Chapter 5 of this report.





Skagit River - Segment 1

This segment includes the Skagit River from the Interstate Highway 5 bridge at Mount Vernon—the lower boundary of the study area—to the pipeline-utility corridor crossing at Sedro Woolley, a distance of 8.8 miles.

There are no dams or other slackwater impoundments in this segment. There are 11.3 miles of levees providing flood protection for urban areas. The levees are well sodded and natural in appearance. An additional 1.6 miles of river bank has been rock riprapped.

The entire 17.6 miles of shoreline in this segment is paralleled by existing roads. Of the total distance, 26.6% lies within 100 feet of a road; 48.2% within 100 feet to a quarter-mile; and the balance—25.2%—lies more than a quarter-mile from the nearest road.

There are five bridges, one powerline crossing, two pipeline crossings and three docks within this segment.

Shorelines are predominately agricultural land—71.0%. Natural forest covers 23.3% of the shoreline, and residential-commercial development occurs on 5.7% of the shoreline. There are 58 platted recreational subdivision lots in this segment.

The combination of levees, shoreline development and road accessibility limit this segment to Recreational classification.

Skagit River - Segment 2

This segment begins at the Sedro Woolley pipeline-utility corridor crossing and continues upstream to the town of Hamilton, a distance of 15.6 miles.

There are no dams or slackwater impoundments within this segment. One mile of levee occurs at the town of Hamilton, and 2.1 miles of rock riprap, scattered in short stretches on the outside of bends. One short — 0.04 mile—wooden weir is built in the river channel. It is falling into disrepair and will probably disappear within 10 years.

All of the 31.2 miles of shoreline are paralleled by roads. Roads lying within 100 feet of the river occur in 14.7% of the segment; 23.4% is paralleled at between 100 feet and a quarter-mile; the balance—61.9%—has parallel roads beyond a quarter-mile of the river.

There is one powerline crossing this segment of the river.

Shorelines in the segment are forested for 75.3% of their length. Agricultural lands occupy 21.5%, and residential developments 3.2%. The segment has 37 platted recreation subdivision lots.

The combination of accessibility and shoreline development render this segment unsuitable for a Scenic classification. However, management of this segment under a Recreational classification should recognize the

pastoral and forest glade values present, and discourage future developments which threaten these values.

Skagit River - Segment 3

This segment includes the Skagit River from the town of Hamilton upstream to the downstream mouth of McLeod Slough, a distance of 26.0 miles.

There are no dams or levees in this segment. Riprap work has been done on 2.2 miles of shoreline.

Of the 52 miles of shoreline, 34.4% is accessible from a road lying within 100 feet of the river. Another 37.7% has a road within the 100-foot to a quarter-mile distance. The balance, 27.9%, is paralleled by roads lying farther than a quarter-mile away.

One bridge crosses the river in this segment.

Agricultural lands occupy 26.9% of the shoreline in this segment, and 9.1% is developed residential areas. The remaining 64% of the shoreline is forested. The segment has 1108 platted recreation subdivision lots.

Because of the accessibility, shoreline development and high number of platted lots, this segment is eligible for a Recreational classification.

Skagit River - Segment 4

This segment includes the Skagit River from the downstream mouth of McLeod Slough upstream to Bacon Creek, the upper boundary of the study area on the Skagit, a distance of 16.9 miles.

There are no dams or levees within this segment. A total of 0.7 miles of shoreline have been riprapped.

Of the 33.8 miles of shoreline in this segment, 33.1% is paralleled by roads lying within 100 feet of the river. Another 19.8% is paralleled by roads at a distance of 100 feet to a quarter-mile. The remaining 47.1% of the shorelines are paralleled by roads lying more than a quarter-mile from the river.

One powerline and two bridges cross the river in this segment.

Residential development occurs on 5.6% of the shorelines, and agricultural lands occupy another 19.8%. The remaining 74.6% is forested. There are 78 platted recreation subdivision lots in the segment.

Because of its accessibility and shoreline developments, this segment meets the criteria for a Recreational classification.

Paradoxically, this segment also displays the most visually exciting scenic vistas on the Skagit River. It is in this segment where spectacular views of the glacier-clad North Cascades, Sauk Mountain and the Eldora does occur. Future management must

recognize these qualities and take steps to protect the scenic resource.

Cascade River - Segment 1

This segment includes the Cascade River from its mouth to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest boundary, a distance of 7.2 miles.

There are no impoundments within this segment, and only 0.2 miles of riprap which is well overgrown by brush and fairly natural in appearance.

Of the 14.4 miles of shoreline, 1.4% is accessible from a road lying within 100 feet of the river. A large part of the river, 64.6% is paralleled by roads at a distance between 100 feet and a quarter-mile. Another 24.3% has a parallel road system located over a quarter-mile away. The remaining 9.7% has no parallel road system. Two bridges cross the river in this segment.

The shoreline is forested along 76.4% of its length. Agricultural lands occupy 11.1% of the shoreline, and residential development another 12.5%. There are 449 platted recreation subdivision lots, located in one large tract.

Despite a fairly high percentage of agricultural and residential developments, the overall nature of the shoreline in this segment is natural. The percentage of closely paralleling roads is low. Scenic values are high. This segment qualifies for a Scenic classification.

Cascade River - Segment 2

This segment includes the Cascade River from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest boundary upstream to the Glacier Peak Wilderness boundary, a distance of 13.6 miles.

There are no impoundments or riprap within this segment.

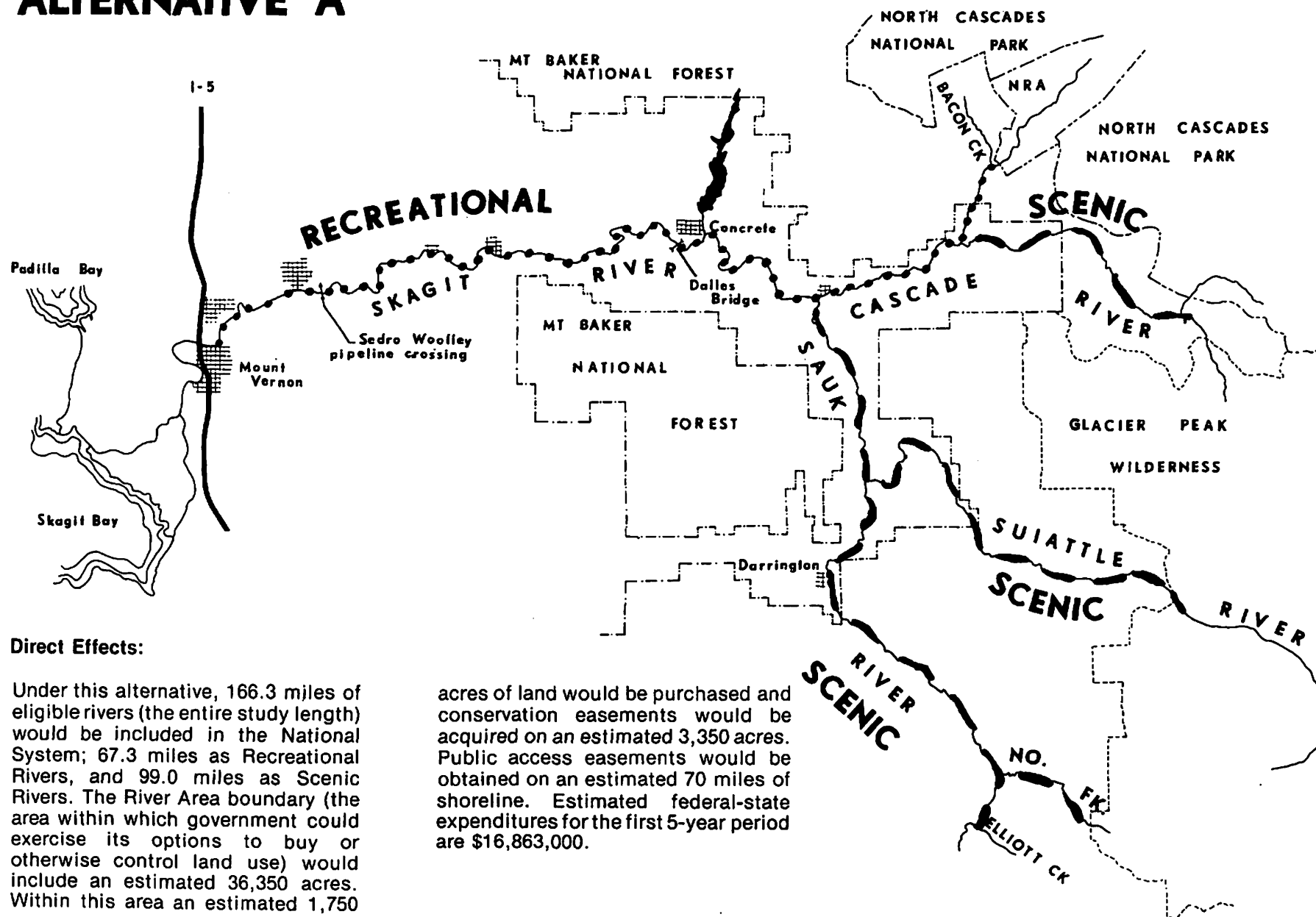
Only 0.7% of the 27.2-mile shoreline is accessible from roads lying within 100 feet of the river. Roads lying at a distance from 100 feet and a quarter-mile parallel 38.6% of the shoreline. Another 29.4% has parallel roads more than a quarter-mile from the river. The remaining 31.3% has no existing road system. Two bridges cross the river in this segment.

The entire shoreline is undeveloped forest land.

Of all river segments within the study area, this segment comes closest to meeting the criteria for a Wild River. Because of the existing road system, however, it does not meet the Wild criteria. It is, in all respects, a high-quality example of a Scenic River.

Future management of this segment should recognize the near-Wild situation and act to preserve the primitive qualities of the river corridor.

ALTERNATIVE A



Direct Effects:

Under this alternative, 166.3 miles of eligible rivers (the entire study length) would be included in the National System; 67.3 miles as Recreational Rivers, and 99.0 miles as Scenic Rivers. The River Area boundary (the area within which government could exercise its options to buy or otherwise control land use) would include an estimated 36,350 acres. Within this area an estimated 1,750

acres of land would be purchased and conservation easements would be acquired on an estimated 3,350 acres. Public access easements would be obtained on an estimated 70 miles of shoreline. Estimated federal-state expenditures for the first 5-year period are \$16,863,000.

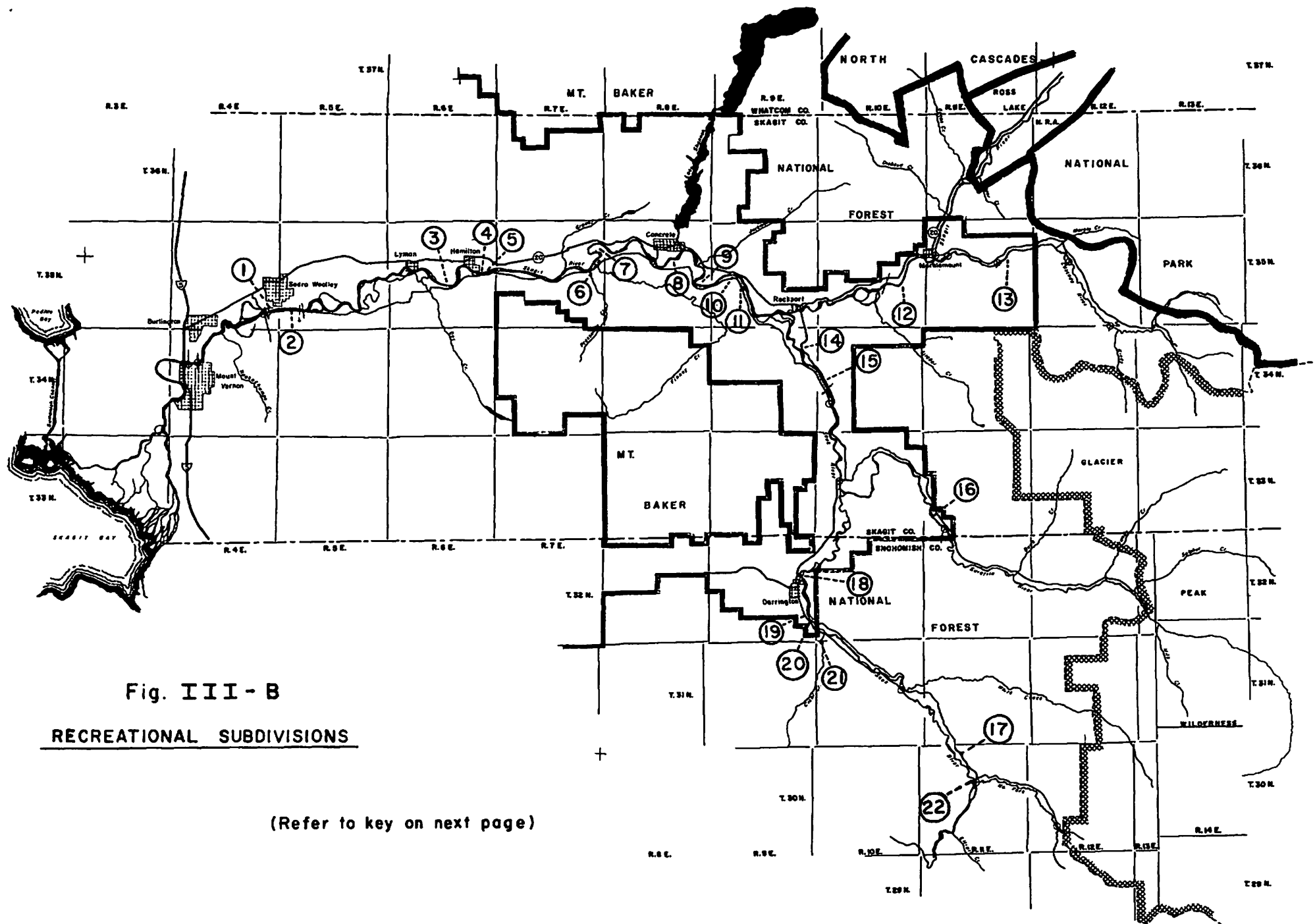


Fig. III - B

RECREATIONAL SUBDIVISIONS

(Refer to key on next page)

KEY

Map No.	Name	Legal Description	No. Lots	Year Platted
1	Janicki Cove	S.25, T.35N., R.4E.	40	1971
2	Rod & Reel Tracts	S.13, T.35N., R.5E.	18	1962
3	Heart O' the Skagit	S.21, T.35N., R.6E.	37	1965
4	Smith Skagit Hideaway	S.13, T.35N., R.6E.	7	1965
5	Shangri-La	S.13, T.35N., R.6E.	59	1964
6	Skagit Wilde	S.13, T.35N., R.7E.	23	1961
7	Cape Horn	S. 7, T.35N., R.8E.	593	1965
8	Cedargrove	S.14&15, T.35N., R.8E.	220	1966
9	Thunderbird Lane	S.24, T.35N., R.8E.	104	1964
10	Skagit River Colony	S.20, T.35N., R.9E.	58	1964
11	Skagit Steelhead Tracts	S.28, T.35N., R.9E.	44	1960
12	Carefree Acres	S.23&26, T.35N., R.10E.	78	1963
13	Cascade River Park	S.11,14&15, T.35N., R.11E.	449	1963
14	White Falls Estates	S.12, T.34N., R.9E.	26	1964
15	Sauk River Estates	S.18, T.34N., R.10E.	140	1961
16	Suiattle River Forest Sites	S.32, T.33N., R.11E.	34	1962
17	Forgotten Mountain	S. 5, T.30N., R.11E.	102	
18	Armstead River Tracts	S.13, T.32N., R.9E.	9	1962
19	Begis Sauk River Tracts	S.25, T.32N., R.9E.	36	1964
20	Darrington River Front Tracts	S.25, T.32N., R.9E.	40	1962
21	Timber Bow River Tracts	S.25&26, T.32N., R.9E.	56	1961
22	Reece's South Fork Hideout	S. 9, T.36N., R.11E.	42	1963
TOTAL			2,215	

SKAGIT RIVER RIVER AREA BOUNDARY INDEX MAP

