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Field 'Hearing' Held on Proposed Deadman Creek Recreational Area

A field "hearing" on the proposal by the Forest Service to develop the Deadman Creek section as a recreation area was held Tuesday with more than 40 interested persons in attendance.

The session started at 10 a. m. at Crestview with a preliminary outline of the field trip by W. S. Davis, supervisor of Inyo National Forest.

R. D. Bonnett, recreation specialist of the San Francisco Region office, outlined the project, which would include several sections for summer homes, organization camps, public campgrounds, and trailer parks. One spot on Deadman Creek is tentatively reserved for a small lake for the State Department of Fish and Game. Plans also call for a store site, for furnishing supplies to campers.

The section, a short distance southwest of Crestview, also is served by Glass Creek, and contains interesting geologic formations, such as glass flows, Inyo Crater, and other attractions.

The tree cover in the area is primarily lodgepole and jeffrey pine and red fir, and the upper basin provides attractive vegetation and terrain for hiking and riding.

Davis explained that preliminary to making a recreation area of Deadman Creek, a small percentage of the trees that are dead or dying from old age, rust, and insects should be removed in order to make the area safe for human use and occupancy, and to reduce partially sources of infection. He said the Forest Service proposes to remove by very careful commercial logging the dead, dying and hazardous trees. (Marked trees in two sample spots were viewed by the touring party later in the afternoon.)

Davis also explained that areas adjacent to Deadman Creek will be needed in the near future to relieve the overcrowded camping conditions in the Mammoth Lakes and June Lake Loop areas, and to furnish recreational opportunities for the ever-increasing

"sanitary" cut of dead, dying, or infected trees. Others objected to a network of dry, dusty roads through the area.

Haddaway informed the group that he felt so strongly on the subject that he had drawn up two petitions. One would call for making the Deadman and some adjacent areas into a national monument. The second called for prohibiting logging of any type on the west side of U. S. 395 between Sherwin grade and Mono Lake.

In the field tour, the group was taken to Mono Mills area to see the type of logging that takes place on private property, as against later steps to view forestlands recently logged under Forest Service regulation.

In the tours of the Deadman area itself, Davis pointed out trees

that had been marked for removal, prior to making the section into a recreation area. While some admitted that they would be in accord with removal of these trees, others were still opposed to any type of operation that would scar the natural beauty of the region.

Apprehension was also voiced if the area would be adequately cleaned up following the limited cutting operation.

M. M. Barnum, assistant regional forester in charge of recreation and lands, thanked the group for its steadfast interest in the out-of-doors and Forest Service management.

The group was assured that if a decision is made to develop the area and limited logging is done, public notice of the logging contract would be published and interested persons could examine the contract.

Also representing the Forest Service on the tour were Russell P. McRorey, timber management specialist of the regional office, and Barney Sweatt, district ranger, Mammoth.

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population of California.

A very careful cleanup of scars and debris will be made in the area adjacent to the campground section. In the remaining areas, many of which will not be needed for recreation use for 20 to 25 years, cleanup will be limited to that needed for fire protection and to areas adjacent to roads and trails.

John Haddaway of Mammoth was given the opportunity to present his arguments against the proposal. He showed scores of excellent slides taken of scenic attractions of Deadman Creek and its adjacent areas, and also slide maps pertinent to the subject. Some slides showed the forestlands in a torn-up condition following logging operations. Main objections were that the residents of Mammoth wanted the Deadman area left in a natural state, and they saw no need for the so-called