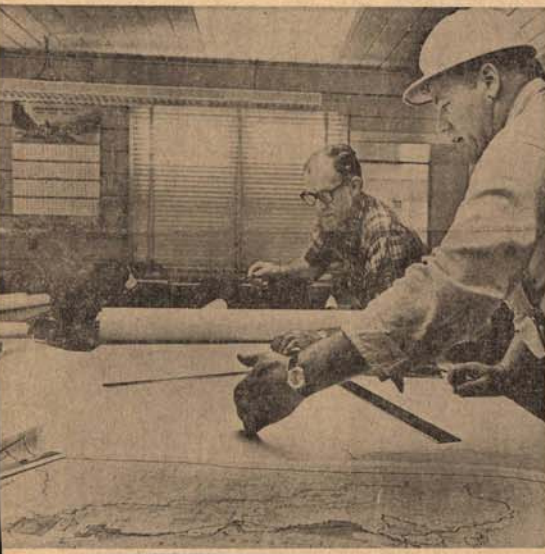


Did Georgia-Pacific Cut Trees Inside the National Park Line?

Border Hazy, Loggers State



GEORGIA-PACIFIC Corp. loggers don't deny they may have cut virgin redwoods inside the boundary of a proposed national park.

They just wonder where the boundary really is.

On Nov. 1, bill number 2515 passed the United States Senate by a vote of 74-16 authorizing creation of the national park, and contained the statement, "The boundaries of the park shall be as generally depicted on the drawing numbered NP-RED-7112, and dated October 1967, which shall be on file and available, for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior."

A draftsman in G-P's Big Lagoon logging office says the boundary line on that map is 600 feet wide, when enlarged to ground size.

"With the knowledge we have now, we've been falsely accused," G-P's logging boss in the area says.

Other national redwood park bills proposed in the Congress have contained specific survey-type descriptions of boundaries. Not so the new Senate bill, G-P charges. That 600-foot-wide boundary traced on the National Park Service map leaves things in the air.

PUBLIC Controversy is nothing new in the national park battle, and criticism is nothing new to Georgia-Pacific. Probably more than any of the other major redwood logging firms, G-P has drawn the wrath of the Sierra Club and Citizens for a Redwood National Park, a local organization.

Close scrutiny accompanies the criticism. Aerial observations are made of G-P operations almost every day. Tuesday, as a Times-Standard reporter-photographer team talked to G-P loggers in a clearing near the park boundary, one plane circled overhead at least 10 times, coming closer and closer.

But G-P logging boss Clarence "Casey" Casebier has an answer. "We don't have a damn thing to hide. You wonder how ridiculous people can get."

This particular skirmish in the redwood park battle erupted on Nov. 16, when the Sierra Club and Citizens for a Redwood National Park charged that cutting was going on inside the boundary of the Senate bill.

ACTUALLY, there is a four-year history which must be examined if the truth of the charges is to be judged.

1963-Feb. 1965 — Georgia-Pacific constructed logging road L-2-2, on the ridge between MacArthur Creek and Elam Creek, west of Redwood Creek.

Sept. 6, 1966 — G-P vice-president Gary Evans wired senators Thomas Kuchel and Henry Jackson of the Interior committee, stating that G-P was willing to "work out any reasonable adjustment in our harvesting program on our redwood lands in order to minimize cutting in proposed redwood park areas. We believe a one-year period would give everyone sufficient time to study carefully the needs for more redwood parks and the suitability or unsuitability of our land for such parks."

June, 1967 — G-P advised Jackson that "in order to avoid irrevocable damage to our long-range plans it would be necessary to resume operations in some of these areas."

July, 1967 — Rock was placed on road L-2-2.

AUGUST, 1967 — Cutting started in the L-2-2 area, above MacArthur and Elam creeks.

Sept. 1, 1967 — G-P president R. B. Pamplin wired Sen. Jackson, extending the cutting "moratorium" 90 days. "This does not mean that at the end of the period the timber involved would be harvested," Pamplin said. "It simply means that intelligent management calculated to maintain redwood forests forever on all the land would be put back into effect."

Oct. 26, 1967 — Hauling logs in the area started, including right-of-way trees cut prior to February, 1965.

Nov. 1, 1967 — S. 2515 passed the Senate, 77-6.

Nov. 9, 1967 — G-P forester A. H. Merrill received a copy of the map specified in the park bill (NP-RED-6112). Cutting was halted east of station 38 on the L-2-2 road, some 1,900 feet from where G-P thinks the park boundary is and about 6,200 feet from the center of Redwood Creek.

Nov. 14, 1967 — Kuchel and Jackson wired Pamplin, implying that G-P cutting files in the face of overwhelming public opinion and in a manner calculated to frustrate consideration of the bill by the House. The statements were made on the basis of ground and air surveys by the National Park Service.

Nov. 18, 1967 — The Sierra Club and Citizens for a Redwood National Park charged that G-P had cut inside the park boundary.

Nov. 17, 1967 — G-P vice-president Harry A. Meris stated, "From the sketchy park outline we have received some part of this (cutting) may be within it (the park.) We have stopped all cutting in that area and are hopeful a more precise location for park boundaries will be made available to us."

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Senate Interior Committee says there is a more accurate map available. The National Park Service has a map of the park area prepared by a forest mapping firm, available to company officials. G-P Washington representative Thomas Mitchell made tracings from the map, the committee spokesman said.

But Mitchell denied that the map was superior to the one supplied the G-P Samoa logging office. It is, he says, the same scale with the same markings.

The copy of map NP-RED-7112 that G-P is using was received by Crater Lake National

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Did G-P Cut Park Timber?

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Park superintendent Don Spaulding on Nov. 1. It was passed to Merrill on Nov. 9. Cutting was stopped at a line 1,900 feet from where G-P thinks the boundary is.

The cutting done in August and September should have left about 200 feet between the logged area and the park boundary, Casebier feels. But, it is impossible to say because of the hazy status of the line.

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DRAFTSMAN Louis Viredaz explains the scale of the map is a half-inch to the mile. The map line used to mark the park boundary is thick enough to measure 600 feet wide on the ground. To attempt a fair measurement, G-P has plotted the line from the center of Redwood Creek to the center of the 600-foot boundary, on its detailed maps of the area.

This placement puts the boundary 4,300 feet from Redwood Creek's center, and 490 feet

closer to Redwood Creek than the most advanced landing on road L-2-2. The landing now in operation is farther back up the road.

No cutting will be done closer than 1,900 feet from the line supposed to be the park boundary, Casebier says. But logs already on the ground will be taken.

G-P maintains that if it had anything to hide, it was done in a strange way. All cutting plans were filed with the California Division of Forestry. Washington representative Mitchell kept the staffs of the House and Senate Interior Committees informed.

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"WE HAVE NOT cut any timber inside that area since we received our map," Casebier states. And in the next breath he adds that he just doesn't know if the boundary line falls inside or outside the cutting already done.

Casebier adds that he has

asked permission from the company to go into the L-1 area to log out trees felled and bucked in 1964-65. G-P has denied permission, he says, in an effort to avoid further trouble and charges.

Donkey engines and cables are in place to do the work, but sit idle waiting for the park controversy to be resolved.

Did Georgia-Pacific cut inside the park? The Sierra Club and the National Park Service say "yes." G-P says "we don't know." A draftsman says the boundary is too vague to define, and a logger says "if we did, we stopped."

The debate is sure to continue this winter and next spring, as House discussion of the redwood national park develops. Field hearings by the House Interior Committee are planned around Easter time; action on the park bill may follow shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, the planes keep buzzing around and around.