

River Management Plan (Final), Skagit River
Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest
1983

Sections on Recreation

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Recreation

RECREATION: RECREATION AND SCENIC RIVERS

Current Situation

The Skagit W&SR offers tremendous potential for recreation and environmental appreciation. Including stretches of non-classified river at either end, the opportunity exists here to experience the total length of a magnificent river: from glacial headwaters on the Cascade Crest and Glacier Peak to salt water delta, the water flows through wilderness and town. This is a unique resource, presenting virtually limitless possibilities for leisure and play.

Because of this value, management of the Skagit W&SR as an amenity resource provides a singular opportunity to meet an important public need. However, along with this opportunity is the challenge to provide adequate public use while also protecting resource integrity. The Skagit W&SR is intended to provide recreational opportunities for not only current visitors, but also for future generations. The present level of public recreation use is not significantly impacting the esthetic or ecological integrity of this resource. It is essential that a management program adequately maintain resource integrity.

In order to carry out the directives of the 1968 W&SR Act, it is necessary to assess what values are present in the W&SR corridor, and to what extent they may be utilized.

Each recreation experience has a quality dimension, which may be easily impaired. However, it is not easy to define quality; people do not all seek the same experiences in outdoor recreation, even in the same area, participating in the same activities. The degree of recreation quality is highly important however, to visitor satisfaction.

It is necessary to consider how much use of each specific recreation activity can be allowed or accommodated without compromising the quality of other uses and/or activities - contemplative, noncontemplative, passive vs. aggressive, consumptive, nonconsumptive - the wide array of potential uses along the Skagit W&SR is a large factor in the river's attraction for recreationists.

The value of specific natural resources and recreational experiences directly depends on the type and level of intensity of management of an area. Different types of developments and facilities attract different types and numbers of visitors. Man-made installations are necessary for intensively used areas but may greatly reduce the value of areas sought for their natural environment.

Increases in population together with a growing attitude of environmental awareness, place demands on management agencies to design management strategies that will reduce or prevent damage to the area or its facilities, while at the same time maintaining optimum recreational opportunities. Natural resources, such as the Skagit W&SR are a finite commodity--man cannot produce them as he can facilities. Care must be taken not to over-develop and thus destroy the natural environment that has attracted him there in the first place.

Therefore, it is necessary to consider the "carrying capacity" of the area - its sociological (human interactions during recreational activities), environmental (resource capabilities as affected by human impacts), and managed (physical capacity of existing or proposed facilities) ability to withstand given amounts of use. In addition, on-going evaluation of visitor and resource management activities (i.e., visitor information services, campgrounds, regulations, etc.) must occur in order to maintain a quality recreation experience.

Additional capital construction funds will be needed to provide adequate public access to the river. Also, more funding support will be required if the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is to meet its responsibilities as lead agency in administering the Skagit W&SR. An adequate level of administration will require more visitor contact by river managers to monitor visitor's recreational expectations, provide public information and education, and protect resource values and private property rights.

Implementation of effective river recreation management program requires the following:

1. An acquisition program must be completed to provide for an adequate system of public recreation access to the resource as well as to protect its scenic integrity.
2. Facility development must proceed in a timely manner to enable optimum public use and enjoyment of the resource.
3. Base line use and ecological data must be collected and analyzed so that use and impact trends can be accurately assessed through an ongoing monitoring process.
4. Managers must be provided the funding necessary to effect adequate on-the-ground administration.

Note that figure 4 at the end of the Recreation Section locates the put-in/take-out sites, campsites, developed/undeveloped sites, trails, access sites, etc., along the entire Skagit W&SR corridor. Reference to these figures may be helpful when using the Recreation Section.

Assumptions

1. General public recreational use of the river and corridor area will continue to increase over the foreseeable future. Use by local and regional populations of these recreational attractions so near to them, will increase as people try to reduce total vehicular travel to save energy.
2. Recreation demands on the Skagit W&SR will increase as more people become aware of it as a nationally recognized resource. Demands for river floating experiences will increase as recreationists acquire the equipment and skill levels necessary for a safe trip. The need for commercial river outfitters to meet public service needs will continue.

3. It is also anticipated that the number of people floating the river with little or no river running skills and poor equipment will increase.
4. Not only will numbers of people increase but the desired experiences may change from one type of use to another. Solitude does tend to be a key part of kayakers, some canoeists and fishermen experience; whereas the social experience tends to play a bigger role for many rafters and some canoeists. The social desires of the rafters will conflict with users desiring to escape noise and sights of people. The fisherman, kayakers, and canoeists may also have a long term bond on certain sections of the river while customers of the commercial outfitters are often a first time or maybe only time users and thus may tend to treat the tranquility of the river environment with less respect. All of these are factors leading to potential conflict.
5. In order to satisfy a wide range of visitor desires, it is necessary to provide varying degrees of camping and picnicking opportunities. Available recreation sites must range from primitive and undeveloped through highly developed facilities. See Figure 3 and Tables 6 and 7.
6. Concentration of people in urban and suburban centers will tend to reinforce and increase the importance of forest experiences as one element of society's recreation and environmental opportunities. Public goods such as scenery, clean air, clear water, and open space will enjoy increasing support from people who have little direct experience with resource extractive uses and users of forests.
7. More jobs will be available in tourism and recreation industries in the Puget Sound region. Small rural communities are likely to benefit from these jobs.
8. The number and diversity of uses along the W&SR will continue to increase along with technological innovation and diffusion. However, it seems unlikely that change will be as rapid as in the last decade.
9. User expectations, river classification, and the natural and man-made features of the river determine the recreation opportunities and management objectives for each river segment.
10. There will be increased conflict among user groups.
11. There will eventually be a need to provide users with opportunity guides by river stage level.

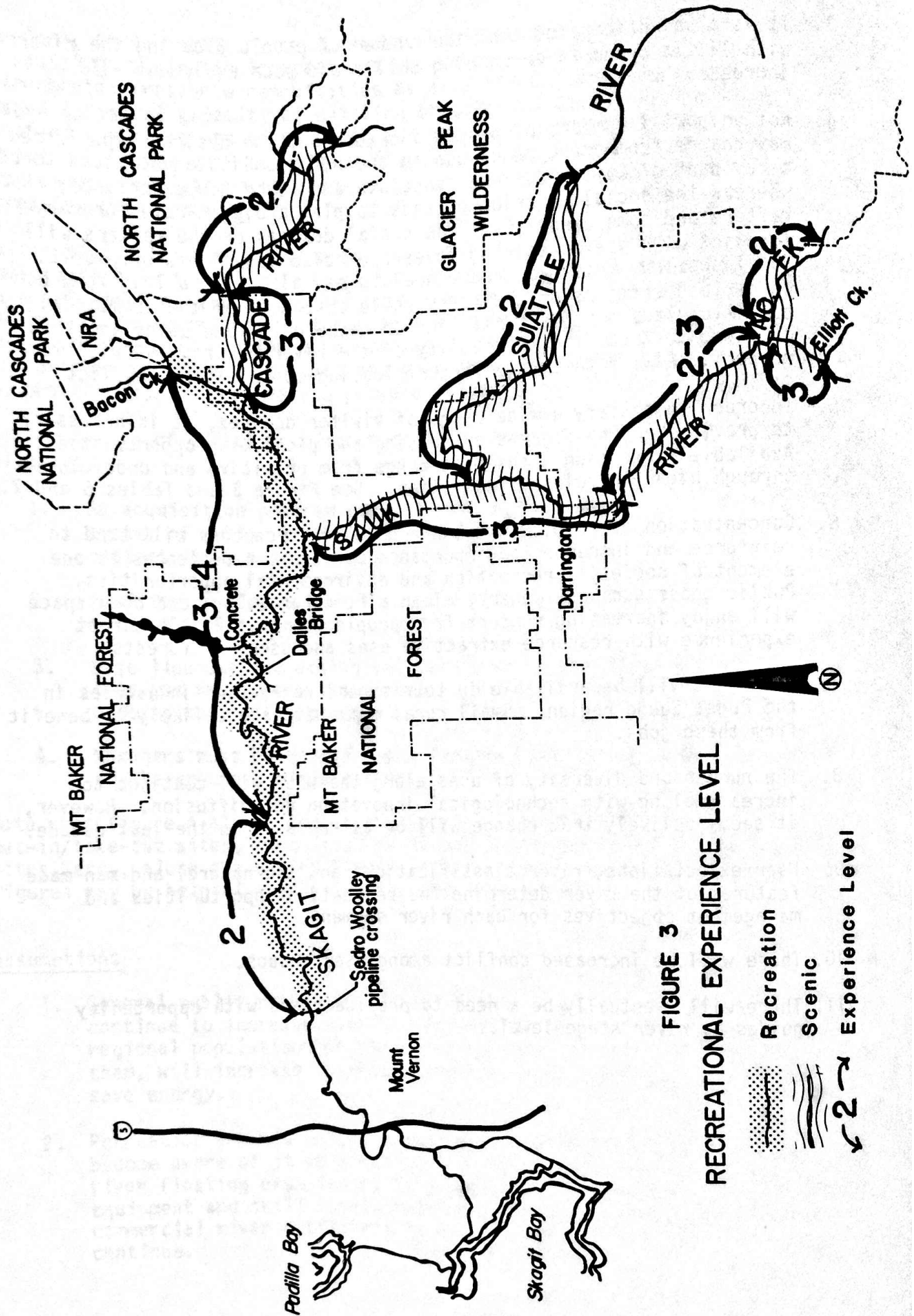


FIGURE 3
RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE LEVEL

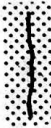


-  Recreation
-  Scenic
-  Experience Level

Table 6.

RECREATION EXPERIENCE LEVELS

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
PRIMITIVE	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to the maximum degree. A maximum degree of outdoor skills required. Unmodified natural environment and an absence of man-made developments and comfort or convenience facilities dominates. Feelings of adventure, challenge, and physical achievement, in the absence of obvious controls, important to the user.
1	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to a near maximum degree. High degree of outdoor skills involved. Little modified natural environment is dominant consideration. Modifications for comfort and convenience are minimal. Feeling of physical achievement at reaching opportunities without mechanized access is important to the user. Adventure and challenge afforded through minimum controls.
2	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to near maximum degree except as tempered by motorized access. Little modified natural environment is dominate consideration. Modifications for comfort and convenience are few. Some feeling of achievement for reaching the opportunity through challenging motorized access is important. Minimum controls evident to the user.
3	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to an intermediate degree. Moderate degrees of outdoor skills are involved. Natural environment dominates but some modifications for comfort and convenience are also important to the user. Controls and regimentation afford sense of security although some taste of adventure is still important to the user.
4	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to only a moderate degree. Moderate degree of activity skills suffice. Natural environment important but modifications for comfort and convenience are more important. Sense of security afforded the user. Regimentation and fairly obvious controls important to the user.
5	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to a modest degree. Skills required for outdoor activities are minimal. Natural environment is important but dominated by man-made modifications. Feeling of security is very important to the user. Learning or beginning skills suffice when supplemented by administrative controls.

TABLE 7

Skagit Wild & Scenic River Criteria for Evaluation of Recreational Facilities by Development Levels

	Development vs. Setting	Sight/Sound of man	Color/Form Line/ Texture	Architectural Style	Materials	Site Modification
LEVEL 1 (No Road Access)	Not Evident	Seldom/ Discouraged	Repeats Native	Not Recognizable	-Native to Site -No Dimensional Material -No Synthetics	Minimum Not Evident
LEVEL 2 (Road - Native Mats)	Subordinate and Harmonious	Occasional	Repeats Natural	Fully Subordinate	-Natural Materials Dominate -Dimensional Material Accepted -No Synthetics	Limited
LEVEL 3 (Road - A11 Weather)	Co-Dominant	Acceptable	Harmonious	Co-Dominant	-Dimension Material Expected -Synthetics Accepted/ Subordinate	Moderate
LEVEL 4 (Road w/Dust Control)	Co-Dominant	Expected	Co-Dominant	May Dominate	-Dimensional Materials May Dominate -Synthetics Co-Dominate	Heavy
LEVEL 5 (Road - Synthetic)	Dominates/ Compatible	Encouraged	Dominate/ Compatible	Featured (Family of Shapes)	-Dimensional Material Dominate -Synthetics May Dominate	Heavy

RECREATION: RECREATION RIVER

Current Situation

Documentation of recreation use on the Skagit River is sketchy. Probably, the reason for this has been the preponderance of private lands along both sides of the river. Also, use of the river appears to be entering a period of transition. Until recently (less than five years past), the principle recreational activity on the river was fishing. Today, dominance of fishing as a recreational activity is being challenged by guided float trips.

Most of the recreational use of the waters occurs during the winter season, October 1 through March 31. Summer season use is quite light at present. However, the river and its numerous summer season opportunities are and should remain available for use in the future.

The State Game Department monitors fishing activity on the river. However, it is difficult with any degree of accuracy, to separate use that occurs within the classified sections of the river from non-classified sections. Specific forms of fishing activity - bank fishing or boat fishing, for example, are also difficult to sort out.

Other than rafters entering the Skagit W&SR from the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and recreational use of the banks by the residents scattered along the river, there seems to be only very limited use of the total river during the summer season. The river has yet to be discovered by the general public.

Commercial use on the river has traditionally been by fishing guides. This use still occurs, but in lesser numbers than before. Apparent decline in numbers of steelhead fish caught by sportfishermen is the major factor in the decrease of guided fishing trips. Guided rafting trips have dramatically increased. This commercial use occurs during the winter season and is concentrated in the stretch of river between Marblemount and Rockport. Summer commercial use seems to be concentrated in the upper reach of the river, above Marblemount. Outfitters starting within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area who float to Bacon Creek for take out constitute most of this upper river use. A few float as far as Marblemount.

Public noncommercial use of the waters seems to be mainly for fishing. As with the commercial fishing, this use consists primarily of motor-driven boats moving to a desired location and then floating downstream. These groups often motor back upstream to float down again. Boat fishing occurs throughout the system. Native Americans, as provided by treaty with their tribes, utilize the river primarily below Concrete for fishing.

The segment of the Skagit within the classified system is deceptively placid. This stretch has a river use class of I to I+ on the International Scale of River Difficulty. However, the water temperature, water volume, and seasonal currents create situations that trap the unwary. As such, the river is considered suitable for running in open canoes. There are isolated locations

where due to bank configuration or presence of log jams, logs or "sweepers", the unwary may be swamped. Notable among these, is the pool on the upstream side of the Dalles Bridge.

Boaters find a lack of public areas available for a rest or lunching stop. This is especially true above Rockport where no public access points have been developed. There are public facilities on the river at the Rockport County Park, as well as two State Game launching sites located below Concrete at Presentin Creek and Hamilton. Outside of these, no other public facilities on the river have sanitation facilities such as restrooms. This limited availability of public facilities exists throughout the total Skagit W&SR corridor.

The public camping facility within the W&SR corridor is the County Park at Rockport. Nearby is the 455 acre Rockport State Park just off Highway 20 as well as large campgrounds within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The site within the Skagit Segment, supplemented by the State Park and by the several large campgrounds within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, comprise current camping options available to recreationists and are adequate for destination type camping.

Boating access sites along the Skagit are listed on Table 8. Many are public, (few are developed). Private sites are also available (with use by permission, sometimes requiring a fee).

Of these sites, only three of the public sites have sanitation facilities immediately adjacent to the river.

Table 8

Boating Access Sites Along the Skagit River

Steelhead Guides Association	Private	below lower termini (Sedro Woolley)
Steelhead Guides Association	Private	above lower termini (Sedro Woolley)
State Game	Public	Hamilton
Undeveloped	Public	Hamilton ferry crossing site - both sides of river
Undeveloped	Public	Lyman ferry crossing site - both sides of river
State Game	Public	Presentin Creek
Undeveloped	Private	Mouth of Baker River
Undeveloped	Public	Presentin Ferry Crossing Site
Developed	Public	Faber Ferry Crossing Site
Undeveloped	Public	Cascade River Road Bridge
Undeveloped	Public/ Private	Mouth of Bacon Creek
Developed	Public	County Park at Rockport
Undeveloped	Unknown	Barr Creek

Fishing access for bank or bar fishing is, of course, available at the public boat launch areas. But it is very limited, as most of these sites are actually old ferry crossing sites with the narrow right-of-way being the existing public access. The State claims jurisdiction over all lands below mean high water. Thus at low water periods, the exposed banks are considered public lands. To reach this strip of land, however, most often necessitates travel across private lands. More bank access to the river for the public is needed.

The 1977 Skagit E.S. directed that a twelve mile trail between Sedro Woolley and Lyman be located and constructed within the management corridor. Also, the Pacific Northwest Trail Study of June, 1980, by the Forest Service and National Park Service identified need of a trail within the Skagit River Valley.

At present, no formal trails exist within the Skagit W&SR corridor. Skagit County has begun development of a trail linking Rockport State Park with the County Park on the river at Rockport.

Although a trail along the corridor would be very popular, construction costs (including three bridges with 30 to 60 foot spans) would be high. There is also a high risk to the investment: in March, 1980, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N.F. conducted an intensive reconnaissance of the corridor between Sedro Woolley and Lyman. This reconnaissance revealed that lands within the corridor were covered with from one to nine feet of water during floods of December, 1979. The floods of December, 1980, were more intense. User safety is also of concern, especially with fast rising waters. High ground is often one-half mile or further from the corridor.

There is currently only limited dispersed recreational use of the Skagit W&SR corridor. With most of the land base private, dispersed recreation activities are discouraged. There are, however, some opportunities for dispersed recreation among islands in the lower stretches of the river. These opportunities are accessible only by water. Public control of the islands would probably be required.

There is no off-road vehicle use in the corridor of any consequence, nor is there significant horse use.

There is no indication at this time of conflicts between users - probably due to the limited use occurring. However, public input in 1979 and 1980 indicates the landowners anticipate conflicts between public use and private property if use is allowed to increase without some type of control.

Assumptions

1. Much of the Skagit W&SR has capacity for greater use than is presently occurring.
2. The stretch of river between Marblemount and Rockport is presently receiving the greatest amount of use and is the stretch with the greatest potential for conflict with eagle management.

3. For use of the Skagit to increase, better developed public access facilities will be necessary.
4. Below Concrete, the islands within the Skagit provide opportunities for dispersed recreation.
5. Bacon Creek day use site (Forest Service) does not presently have the capacity to handle use originating within Ross Lake National Recreation Area and provide future access for launching water craft.
6. Eagle viewing is a major winter attraction on the Skagit River at this time.
7. Additional bank access for fishing and other public use is needed.
8. The State Game Department and Skagit County will continue to maintain public launch facilities.
9. It is not prudent to make large capital investments to develop a trail between Sedro Woolley and Lyman when that trail is subject to periodic, if not yearly, flooding.
10. The season of greatest use on the Skagit presently is October 1 through March 31.
11. There is very little use of the river between April 1 through September 30, at the present time.
12. The river is suitable for use by open canoes, although water temperature, volume, and seasonal currents can trap the inexperienced.
13. There are several areas of the river that are considered difficult to the unwary or inexperienced canoeist.
14. The Skagit will continue to be a principle fishery for the Native Americans under their treaty rights.
15. County and State Governments and agencies should continue to have a large role in administration of the Skagit segment.
16. The Forest Service will have to take the leadership to control use of the surface waters when adverse impacts upon the "key resources" begins to occur.
17. The Skagit W&SR provides opportunities for year-long recreation activity to the large metropolitan Puget Sound population.
18. The Rockport State Park and Campgrounds within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area provide adequate destination type camping facilities. There is little need to provide large overnight camping facilities within the Skagit corridor.

RECREATION: SCENIC RIVERS

Current Situation

Water Use

The Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade rivers are prime rivers for water-related recreational activities. Fishing access for bank or bar fishing is adequate on National Forest lands. However, parking and sanitation facilities are limited. Outside of the forest boundary, access and facilities are both limited.

White water boating has existed on the Sauk River for many years and has experienced a slow but steady growth. Recently, this growth has greatly accelerated.

The Suiattle river and, to a lesser degree, the Cascade river, have also been discovered and are receiving some use. The Cascade river is less suited for float use than the Suiattle or Sauk rivers.

Boating activities can be subdivided into three categories. One group of users, consisting of kayakers and white water canoeists, have used these rivers for many years and are generally seeking a challenging white water experience, solitude, and a natural setting. Many are associated with one or more of the State's canoe or kayak clubs.

A second group includes rafting companies which began commercial trips in 1977 and have high potential for rapid growth. Because of this growth potential (including impacts on National Forest land), commercial rafting is a primary concern of management along the scenic segments of the Skagit W&SR.

Kayakers generally concentrate on the river utilizing various "play-spots" and float through with no or few stops. Rafters, while enjoying the rapids, are generally more leisurely and enjoy lunch, water fights, wading, swimming, and fishing stops.

Commercial rafting use began on the Sauk River in 1977. Extensive press coverage, promotional work by rafting companies and inquiries for permit applications has promoted a dramatic increase in applications for commercial permits and use. Commercial river use trends on other western rivers also indicate a substantial increase will continue on the Sauk and possibly the Suiattle and Cascade rivers.

Commercial operators are playing an important role in providing recreation activities not available to the inexperienced rafter. Many of the public served by existing commercial outfitters would otherwise be precluded from the river experience by constraints of time, knowledge, equipment, ability or money.

A third category would include private rafters and fishermen. Of these two, the numbers of private rafters, at present are relatively small. Number of fishermen is growing in light of the increasing popularity of a catch and release program during March and April.

Currently, the Sauk, Suiattle and portions of the Cascade Rivers provide a unique river recreation opportunity. Several factors contribute:

1. Roads paralleling the rivers are screened visibly and audibly by vegetation and are visible only at a few points.
2. The rivers offer white water and have been rated as Class III to Class V on a scale of VI.
3. An important element in the unique character is the opportunity for solitude while floating the river. Commercial rafting use is still at a low level.
4. The rivers are relatively free of indicators of commercialization. Summer home subdivisions are located on the Sauk at Bedal, the Forgotten Mountain River Tract, and below the National Forest boundary. No summer homes are evident from the Suiattle. There are no billboards or other evidence of commercialization within the river corridors on National Forest lands.

Presently, most boating activity has been on a day use basis. Commercial floaters are interested in overnight trips. Two permits for overnight trips have been issued as of the 1980 season. Also, little is known of private individuals camping along the river systems on overnight trips.

There are no developed launch sites inside the National Forest boundary. Undeveloped sites are present. The use of campgrounds for launch sites has become a problem. Both Clear Creek and Bedal campgrounds have experienced this use. Since there is no parking available, unused camping spurs are often taken for parking by floaters.

There are few developed launch sites on the three rivers. However, several user developed primitive locations do exist. Public access has not been obtained at many of these sites. Table 9 provides an inventory of launch sites.

The Sauk has traditionally been utilized by kayakers, canoeists, and fishermen to whom solitude is a key part of their recreation experience. It is believed that the increased popularity of rafting and kayaking and other water sports will have a substantial impact on solitude values. There is little quantitative data available to support these observations, since total use studies have not been conducted and there is not a registration system from which to obtain use data.

Table 9

Existing, Used Boat Launch Sites.

<u>River</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Status for Boat Use</u>
Sauk	Bedal Campground	Undeveloped
"	White Chuck Campground (both sides of Sauk River)	Undeveloped
"	Clear Creek Campground	Undeveloped
"	Bachman Creek	Developed
"	Darrington	Undeveloped
"	Suiattle River	Undeveloped
"	Sauk River Park	Developed
Suiattle	Buck Creek	Undeveloped
"	Conrad Creek	Undeveloped
"	Dearinger State Park	Developed
"	Boundary Bridge	Undeveloped and Private
Cascade	Cascade Island Campground	Developed
"	(No take out sites downstream)	

There has been some site disturbance at the put-in, portage and take-out sites. The impact is considered minor and consists of soil compaction, localized erosion, and some damage to vegetation. There has also been some disturbance in these areas due to congestion caused by vehicles. The amount of congestion varies depending on the size of the group and the length of time it takes them to unload equipment. However, many of the sites are far short of adequate space and proper design. Most sites also lack any sanitation facilities.

The following is a brief overview, by river, of recreational conditions and opportunities.

The Cascade:

On the Cascade River, due to rough terrain and lack of access, only light spring and late summer use occurs (before and after peak run-off). There is potential, however, for floating between Mineral Park and Marble Creek Campground. Additional data is needed regarding this opportunity before any management direction can be formulated. The stretch of river between Marble Creek and Cascade Islands Park is considered to be very dangerous. From Cascade Island Park downstream to the Skagit the Cascade River offers a short float opportunity. At certain times of the year, there is insufficient water depth at many locations on the Cascade to support boating activity. It should be noted that this river is subject to infrequent surges of stored water released unpredictably from glaciers during summer months. There is almost no winter use of the Cascade.

The Suiattle:

Until recently, the Suiattle has experienced low levels of surface water use. The stretch above Boundary Bridge is often impassable because of debris jams. In contrast, the river downstream from the bridge is normally passable and has the added attraction of exciting white water passages. River use on the down river stretch has increased slowly until 1980, when use levels increased explosively, especially commercial use.

This is a glacier-fed, geologically active, young river. The riverbanks are subject to constant water erosion, resulting in numerous trees being toppled into and, in places, completely across the water surface. These trees, called "sweepers", create a very real and continued hazard to rafters and kayakers. Many of these trees, released from their hold on the banks, create numerous, often impassable log jams.

The Suiattle River, because of its origin, is subject to surges of stored water released unpredictably from glaciers during rainless periods of the summer months. These sudden releases have the potential of causing unexpected floods and mud flows; they could do extensive damage to river channels and bridges; and could pose an infrequent hazard to surface recreation use.

Appendix D contains a description of the International Scale of River Difficulty. According to the scale, the Suiattle provides a variety of boating difficulty (see Table 10).

The Sauk:

The Sauk has a number of qualities which make it a unique river for white water boating including easy access, scenic quality, and a variety of rapids and adequate volume almost year round. The Sauk has proven to be a unique northwest outdoor classroom for learning kayaking skills and studying river dynamics for kayaking since its access-related segmentation allows for progressing from easier to more difficult waters.

The variety of difficulty levels along the Sauk is recognized by the ratings given it on the International Scale of River Difficulty (see Table 10).

It has been noted for the Cascade, and in particular for the Suiattle, that these rivers are subject to surges of stored water released from glaciers. Although, like the Cascade, the Sauk is not as subject to such unpredictable releases as is the Suiattle, it should be noted that glacial releases do occur.

Primary use period on the Sauk is during summer. Rafting occurs between Bedal Campground and the Sauk-Suiattle junction. There is a limited amount of winter use on the Sauk to fish and/or view the eagle concentrations below Darrington. To date, there has been 18 applications for commercial permits for use on the Sauk River.

Table 10

International Scale of River Difficulty ratings for the Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade rivers. It should be noted that these are subjective ratings and that water levels and navigation hazards can change rapidly.

Sauk River - Normal Season May 1 to August 15

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Difficulty Scale</u>	<u>Hazards</u>
Bedal	White Chuck R.	II+	Log jams & sweepers
White Chuck R.	Clear Creek	IV	Large boulders
Clear Creek	Darrington	II+	Rocks
Darrington	Suiattle R.	I-II	Log jams & narrow passages
Suiattle R.	Sauk R. Park	I-II+	
Sauk R. Park	Skagit R.	I+	Log jams near Skagit R.

Suiattle River - Normal Season May 1 to August 31 - Not suitable for canoes or small rafts.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Difficulty Scale</u>	<u>Hazards</u>
Sulphur Cr.	Buck Cr.	IV	Log Jams
Buck Cr.	Boundary Bridge	III	Log jams
Boundary Br.	Big Creek	III	Log jams & tight corners
Big Creek	Dearinger Park	IV	Overhanging brush
Dearinger Park	Sauk River	III	Log jams & sweepers

Cascade River - Normal season May 1 to June 15.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Difficulty Scale</u>	<u>Hazards</u>
Mineral Park	Marble Creek	III	Sweepers, Log jams
Marble Creek	Cascade Island Park	V	Sweepers, drops, jams
Cascade Island Park	Skagit River	II-III	Sweepers, jams

Land Use

In addition to their white water attractions, the Scenic Rivers corridors provide a prime area for other forms of outdoor recreation. The areas provide hunting for deer, and upland game, as well as for waterfowl and other game birds. Many hunters use camping sites within the Scenic River corridors for a base camp. All three rivers support numerous species of game fish for sport fishermen. Hiking and backpacking have become very popular activities on trails that start from roads and trailhead sites along the Scenic Rivers.

Trails

Trails are an important recreational resource within the Scenic River segment. Thirteen trails have their trailheads along these rivers. These trails are used by fishermen, hunters, berry pickers, horse users, hikers and backpackers. These are mainly feeder trails from the river bottom to the high country. Trailheads for the most part, are located well away from view of the rivers. The only developed trailhead is at the end of the Suiattle Road. The remaining trailheads are either a part of a campground, a wide spot in the road, or an old logging landing.

Trails exist along the south bank of the Sauk River from a point one mile inside the National Forest boundary above Darrington, and from near the junction of the White Chuck and Sauk Rivers. The first follows a portion of the old mine access route between Darrington and Monte Cristo while the second follows portions of a Sauk Timber Company railroad grade through Beaver Lake. These are the old Sauk and Beaver Lake trails.

Along the Suiattle, a few short stretches of trail exist leading from the corridor to destinations outside the management unit. The most notable is approximately one mile of trail along the river between the road's end and Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Trails in the Cascade drainage presently total 17.6 miles. Two of them, the Lookout Mountain Trail and Hidden Lake Peak Trail, offer the able hiker a steady upward climb to outstanding alpine views. These are heavily used. Three moderately used trails include Irene Ridge, Found Lakes, and Kindy Creek. The South Fork Cascade Trail and Spaulding Trail access the South and Middle Forks of the Cascade River.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed recreation is one of the fastest growing forms of outdoor recreation in the United States. Many pleasure excursions into the Forest result in pulling off the road or river at appealing locations to set up impromptu campsites. Compared to other recreational opportunities to the public, relatively little information has been generated concerning dispersed recreation. Many resource managers believe that dispersed camping is an activity which can have significant physical and biological impacts on the natural environment when allowed outside of developed areas. Additional social impacts may arise, as well, when camping occurs on small parcels of public land adjacent to private property. Recreationists may unknowingly trespass on adjacent private lands when an intermixed ownership pattern exists. Trespass in this situation often results in an increased fire danger, accumulated litter, and vandalism to private property. To alleviate some of these problems, areas may be designated as "access only" or "day-use only".

Approximately 42 percent of the Scenic River's shoreline is private property. This situation will contribute to the problem of managing dispersed camping opportunities. During the Memorial Day through Labor Day vacation period and during fall hunting season, the use of dispersed sites on the National Forest for camping is a common practice. Little is known about the extent of dispersed camping on private lands or the amount generated by boating use. Both are assumed to be light at the present time.

Many recreationists take advantage of driving the various paved and gravel roads that parallel the three Scenic Rivers. Even though the rivers may only be occasionally visible from the roads, the general river corridor landscape is readily visible. Many travelers derive satisfaction from viewing these landscapes.

Although use figures for pleasure-driving are not available, it is likely that this use comprises a considerable portion of total outdoor recreation for the Scenic Rivers. "Driving for Pleasure" was rated as the third most popular outdoor recreation activity in America, according to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's report on national outdoor recreation use and trends.

Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure which, in terms of land use, is a passive, non-consumptive recreational activity which has little or no adverse impact on other activities. Other activities, if detrimental to the natural environment could, however, have an impact on the satisfactions gained from sightseeing and thus result in a decrease of use.

Providing the road systems do not become overcrowded and barring a severe fuel shortage, this activity has potential for considerable increase in visitor use. Pull-offs and parking are a major limitation for sightseers wishing to leave their autos to view float boaters, fishermen, wildlife, or the enchanting scenery. The existing high price of fuel makes such routes as the Mountain Loop Highway an attractive alternative to making the longer, more gas consumptive, trip over the North Cascade Highway.

Developed Camping Sites

The existing recreational development along the three Scenic Rivers is surprisingly low. There are 16 campgrounds on National Forest lands with a total persons-at-one-time (PAOT) capacity of 1,140. There are also 4 State and County campgrounds with a PAOT capacity of 265 people. For the most part, development of recreation facilities has been an orderly response to demand. There are no commercial, developed campgrounds in the Scenic segments of the classified rivers. Campground capacities and experience level are listed on Table 11.

Table 11

Campground capacities and experience levels for the Scenic River
segments of the Skagit W&SR.

<u>Campground</u>	<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>Capacity PAOT</u>	<u>Approximate Experience Level</u>
Cascade River			
Mineral Park	22	110	3
Marble Creek	28	140	3
Cascade Island			3
camp units	15	75	
picnic units	4	20	
group picnic	<u>4</u>	<u>20</u>	
Subtotals	73	365	
Sauk River			
White Deer	2	10	2
Tyee Pool	2	10	2
Old Trail	1	5	2
Twin Peaks	4	20	2
South Fork	8	40	3
Chockwich	12	60	3
Bedal	18	90	3
Sloan Creek	7	35	2
White Chuck	12	60	2
Clear Creek	14	70	3
Bachman Cr.	6	30	3
Sauk River Park	<u>25</u>	<u>125</u>	3
Subtotals	111	555	
Suiattle River			
Suiattle			
Picnic Area	3	15	-
Sulphur Creek	28	140	2
Downey Creek	12	60	2
Buck Creek	55	275	3
Dearinger			
camp units	12	60	
picnic units	<u>10</u>	<u>50</u>	
Subtotals	120	600	
TOTAL	<u><u>304</u></u>	<u><u>1,520</u></u>	

These facilities are normally full to overflowing on weekends during the summer season. Use during weekdays is usually light to moderate. Most of the campgrounds serve as destinations and bases from which other activities, such as hiking, berry picking or stream fishing occur. Many of the Forest Service facilities are sub-standard due to heavy use, their age, and insufficient maintenance funding.

The December, 1980, flood changed the character and size of several campgrounds. Many of the river front sites were damaged or completely destroyed. Approximately 12 camp units will never be reconstructed at their previous sites.

Several of the Forest Service campgrounds lack adequate screening from the river. Most of these campgrounds were constructed with units which were sited on the edge of the water with little or no screening.

Luckily, there are still a great number of potential recreation sites along the Scenic Rivers. One site of exceptional value outside of the National Forest boundary is located at the confluence of the Suiattle and Sauk rivers. This site, located on private land, has the potential for a boat launch and take-out site serving both the Sauk and Suiattle rivers. It also has ample room for a major camping and picnic site facility. Additional sites within the National Forest are available for future development as demand increases or for replacement of poorly situated existing sites. (See Figure 4 for location of existing, proposed, and potential sites.)

Assumptions

Water Use

1. There are distinct summer and winter use periods
summer season: April 1 through September 30
winter season: October 1 through March 31
2. Resource conflicts exist on some river segments. These conflicts occur primarily during the summer season. However, there are also some winter conflicts:
 - a. Human impact on eagles (winter)
 - b. Human impact on fish (spring through fall)
 - c. Potential over use (summer)
3. Concern for fish and eagle values will increase.
4. Any curtailing of winter eagle viewing or fishing on the Skagit will encourage more use of the Sauk and Suiattle rivers, thus creating another potential conflict (or spreading an existing conflict into new areas).
5. Almost all the water surface use occurs during the day time.

6. Regardless of references used, water-related recreation, in general, and river recreation, specifically, will see major increases in demand during the next ten years. The Pacific Northwest River Basin's Commission, in looking at uses of water resources for the years 1970-2000, projects a 148 percent increase in boating. While only a portion of the total participation in this activity occurs on rivers, there is no reason to believe that the rate of increased use on rivers will not also be as high.
7. As increase in use occurs from floating and fishing, recreation conflicts will occur between user groups. Also, conflicts between river users and private landowners in the lower segment of the rivers will increase with increased use.

Trails

8. Trail opportunities for day hikes along the Scenic Rivers will be sought by the public. This demand will continue to increase as use increases.
9. Trails are important components of the recreational experience along the Scenic Rivers.
10. Trailhead facilities are inadequate.
11. Trail access to and along Scenic Rivers is inadequate.
12. Funding for trail construction and maintenance will continue to be in short supply.
13. Trails are an excellent way to afford many people the opportunity to enjoy the rivers without actually being on the water.

Dispersed Camping

14. Dispersed camping is a legitimate use of the National Forest.
15. Dispersed use sites are limited along the three Scenic Rivers.
16. Dispersed camping within the National Forest will increase.
17. A system to monitor dispersed use (both day and overnight use) will be needed in order to manage and protect the Scenic River resource.
18. Dispersed recreation use peaks on weekends and holidays.
19. Day use is far more prevalent than overnight use.
20. The majority of dispersed use is repeat use.
21. Weather plays an important role in dispersed use.

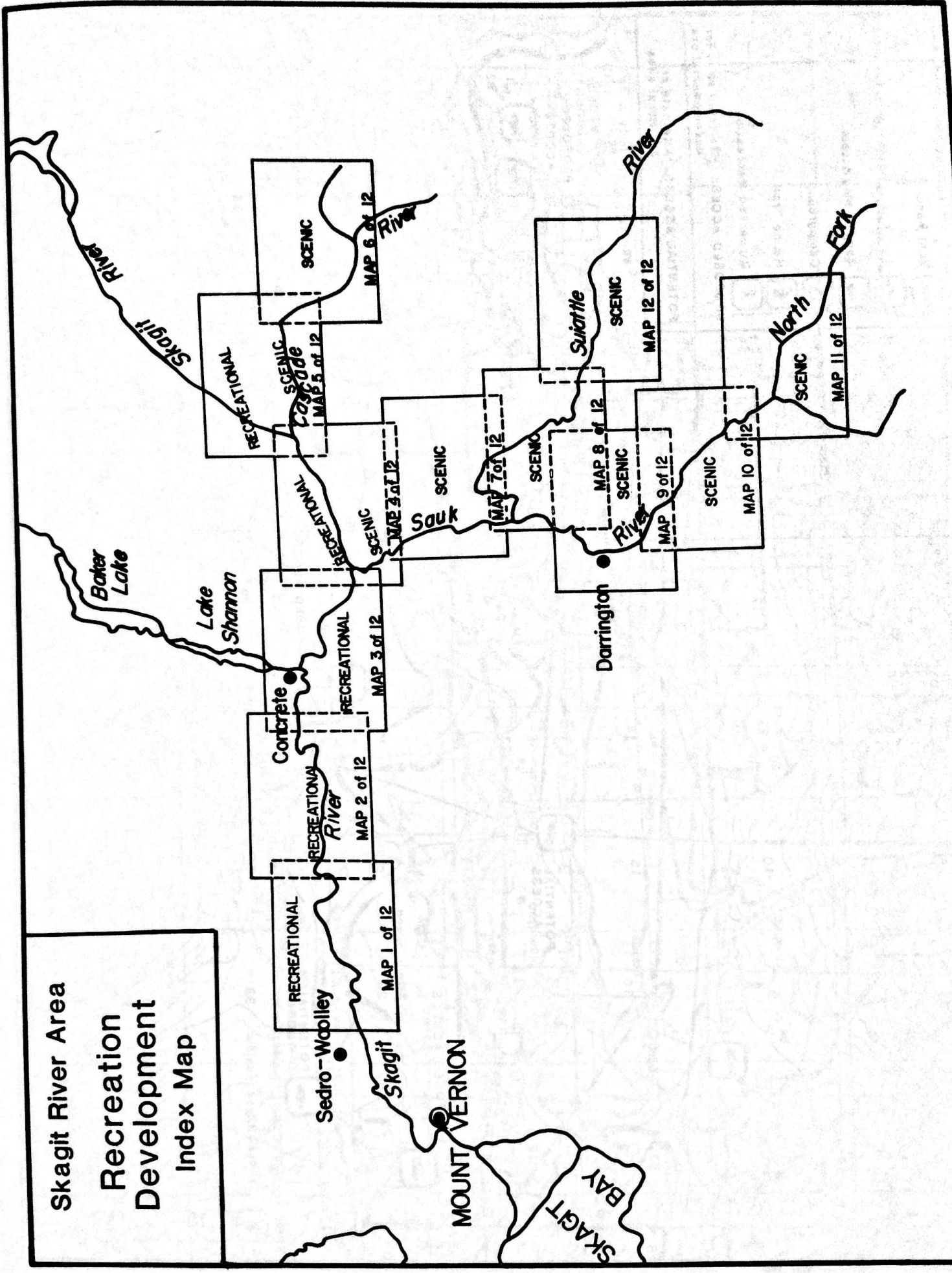
22. Dispersed recreationist participate in a wide array of activities including camping, fishing, hunting, boating, rafting, biking, motorbiking, berry picking, and driving for pleasure.
23. Dispersed recreation can be managed to reduce impacts.

Developed Camping





24. Many of the existing sites fall short of meeting Scenic River criteria for screening and setback from the river.
25. The loss of one unit on the Cascade, two units on the Suiattle and nine units on the Sauk from the 1980 floods will result in a lack of capacity to meet existing demands on peak days. This converts to a loss of 60 PAOT or about 4% percent of the total existing PAOT.
26. A variety of factors, such as: potential reconstruction and paving of the Mountain Loop Highway on the Sauk River, publicity about Wild and Scenic River classification, increase in population and the need to escape the city for short periods, will result in a demand for additional developed sites in the near future.
27. Funds for site development, site reconstruction and maintenance will be in short supply.
28. To comply with the intent of visual management and 1982 Inter-agency guidelines along the Scenic Rivers, many Forest Service campgrounds would need to be either removed or modified. Without relocation or reconstruction, it is estimated that the potential loss of campground units, by river, would be:

River	Units	PAOT	Percent of Total existing
Cascade	17	85	23
Suiattle	2	10	2
Sauk	37	185	33
Total	56	280	18

Skagit River Area Recreation Development Index Map

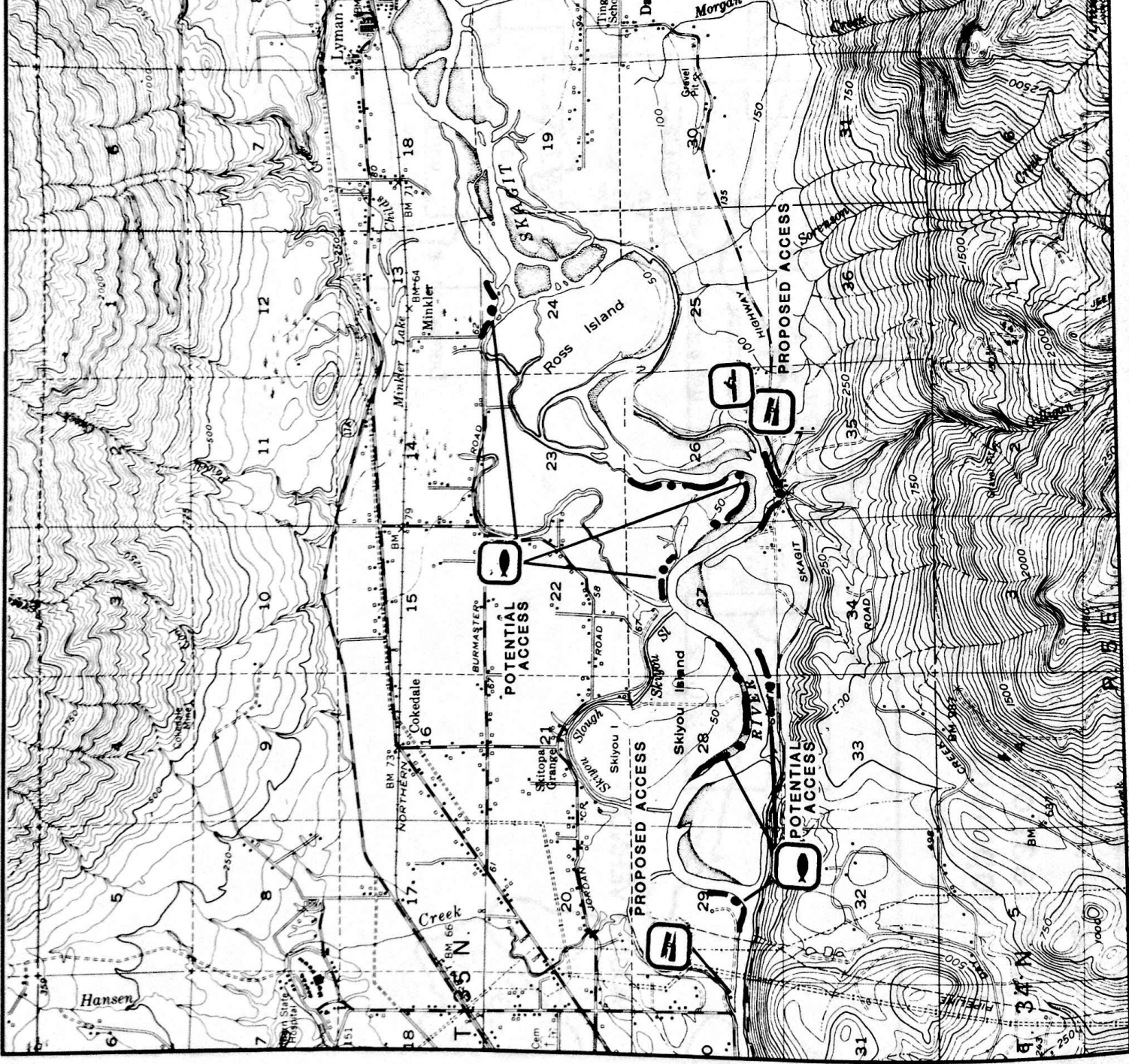


LEGEND







-  Boat Ramp
-  Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
-  Bank Fishing Access
-  Campground
-  Hiking Trail
-  Dispersed Recreation

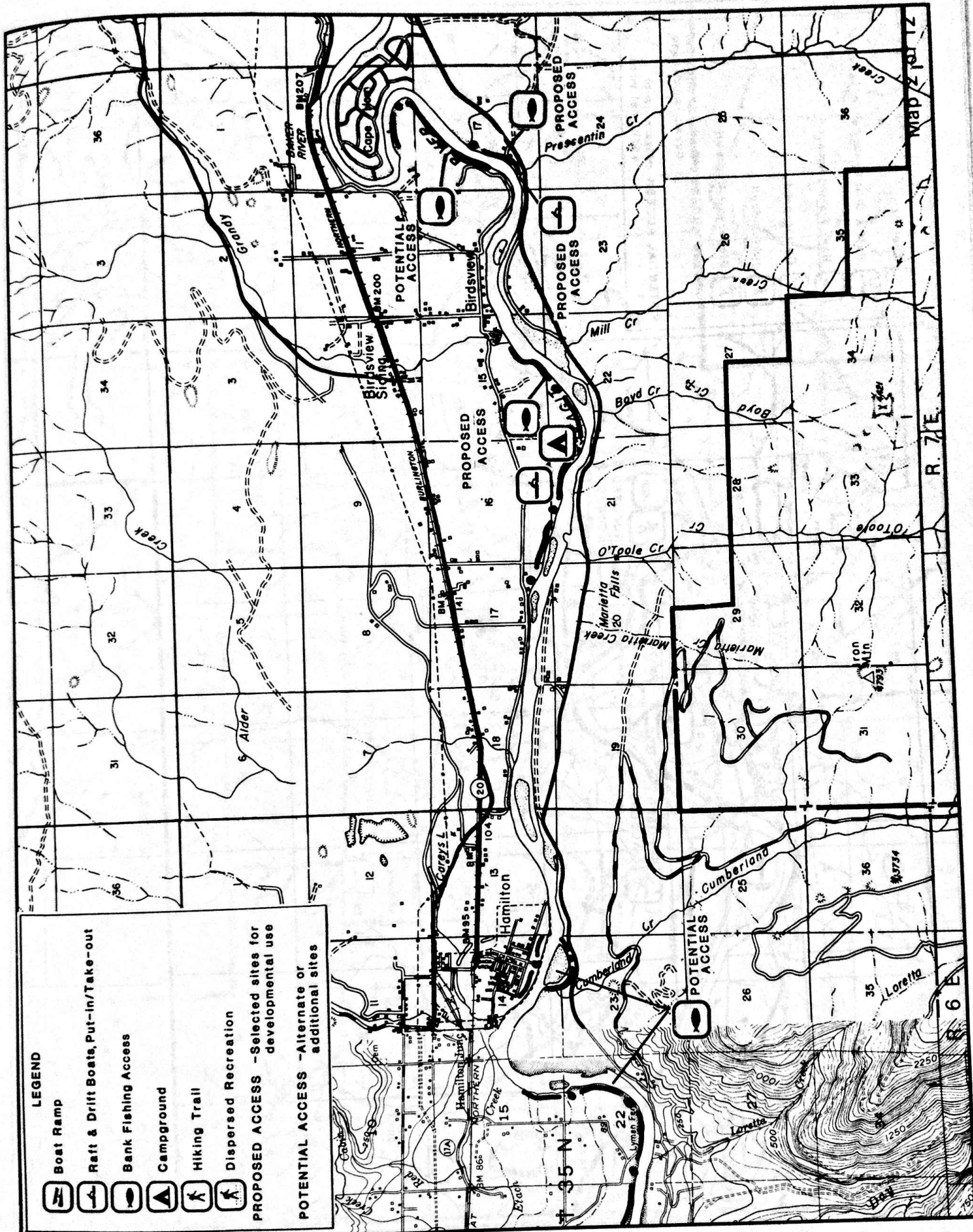
PROPOSED ACCESS - Selected sites for developmental use

POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites



LEGEND

-  Boat Ramp
-  Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
-  Bank Fishing Access
-  Campground
-  Hiking Trail
-  Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites









Map 2 1017 Z

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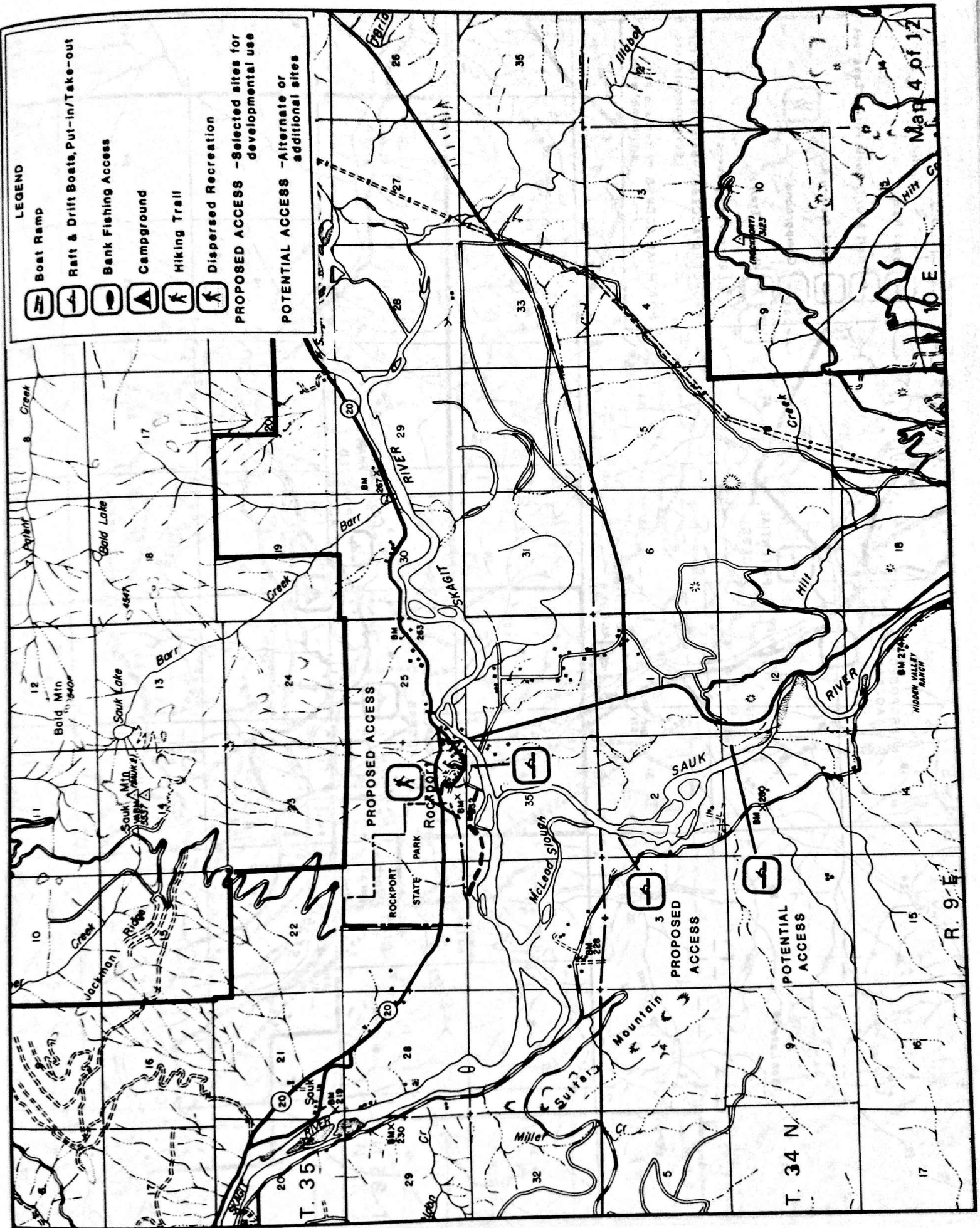
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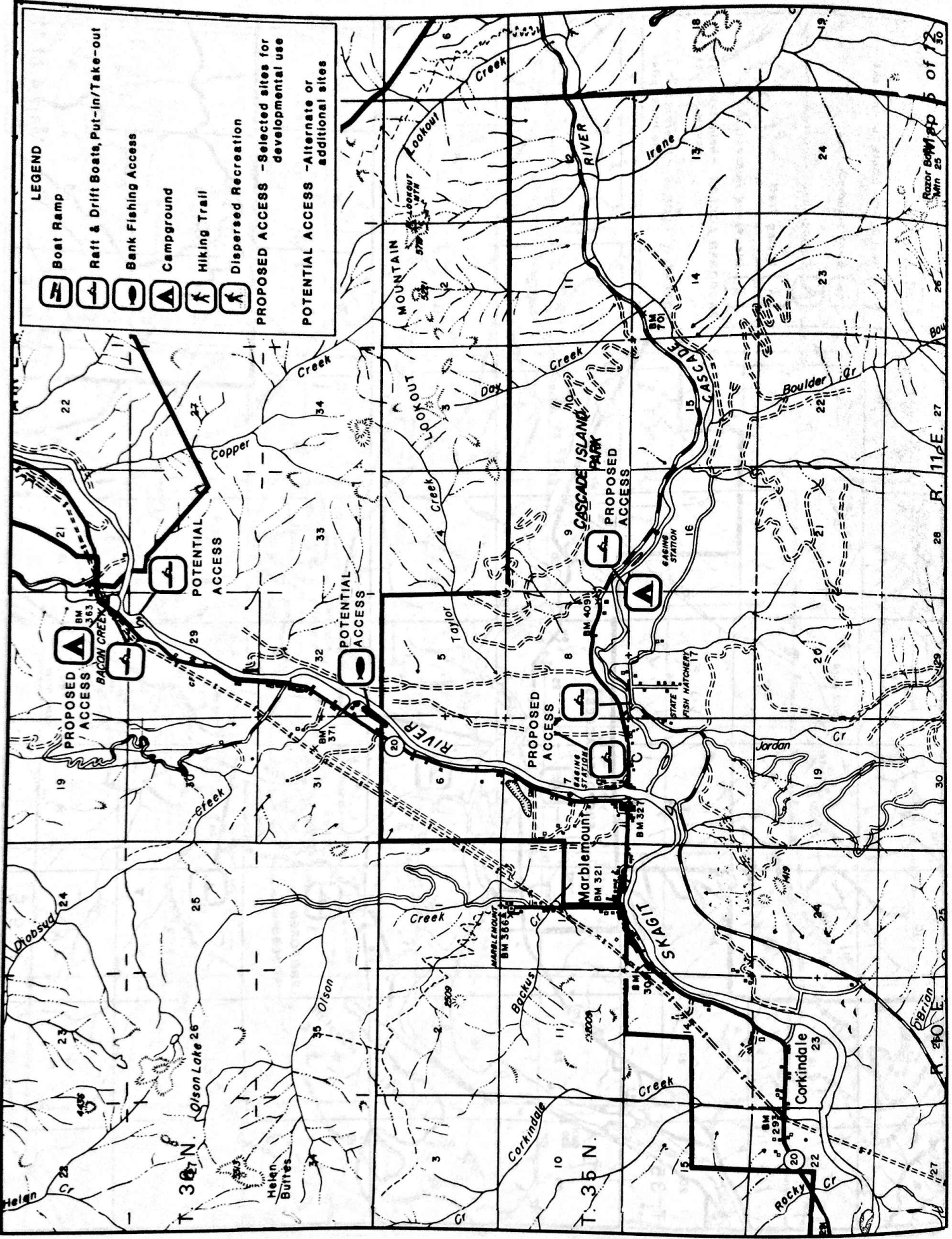
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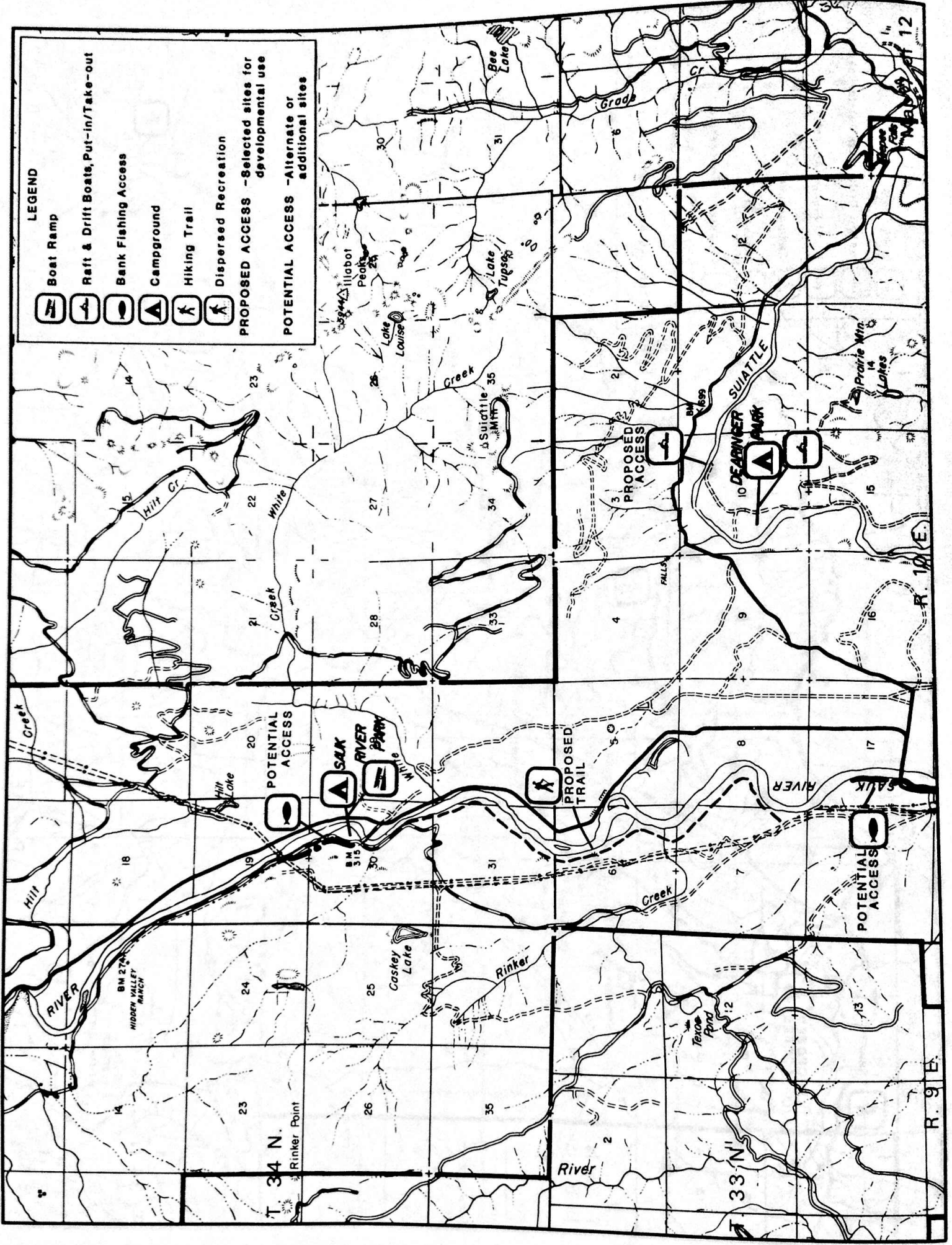


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PROPOSED ACCESS - Selected sites for developmental use

POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites

T. 34 N.
Rinker Point

T. 33 N.

R. 9 E.

R. 10 E.

Map of 12

MIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

BM 274

BM 315

TEXAS POND

BM 1699

SALK RIVER PARTY

DELINGER PARK

SUIATTLE

SUIATTLE MOUNTAIN

LAKE TUSSO

LAKE LOUISE

ILLILOBOT PEAKS

GRADY CR.

CR.

RINKER

RIVER

RIVER

SALK

CREEK

CREEK

FALLS

CREEK

CREEK

WHITE

HILL CR.

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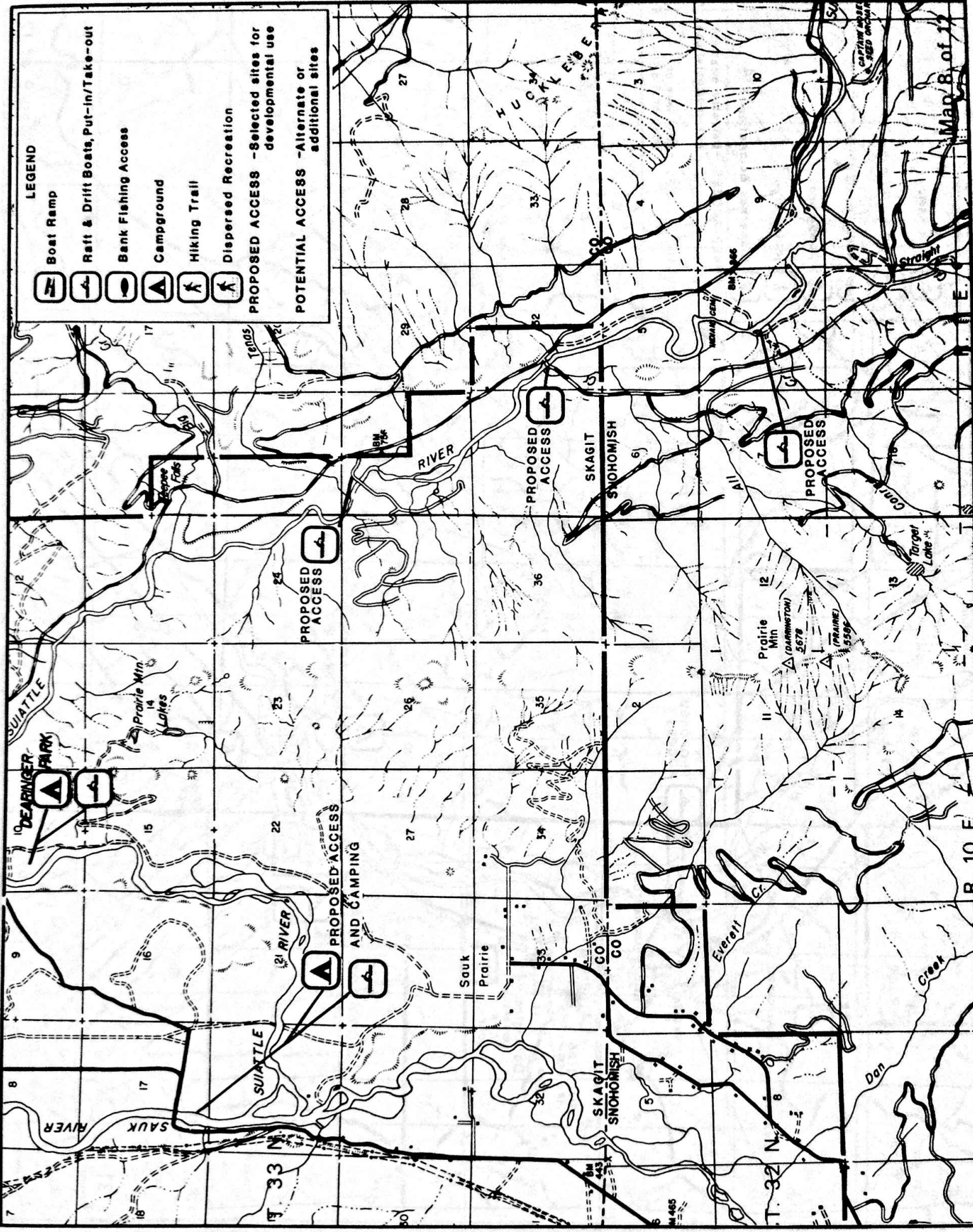
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





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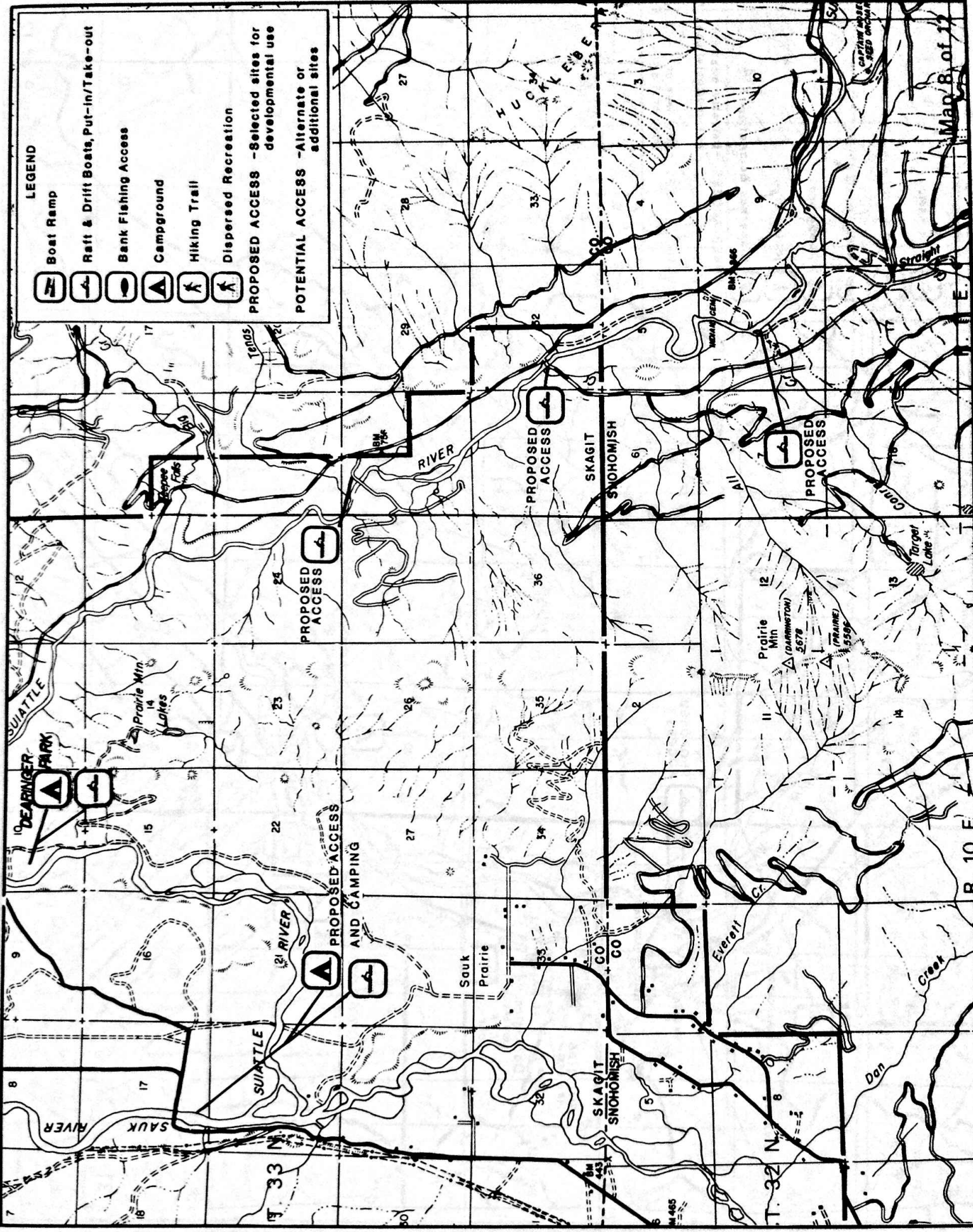
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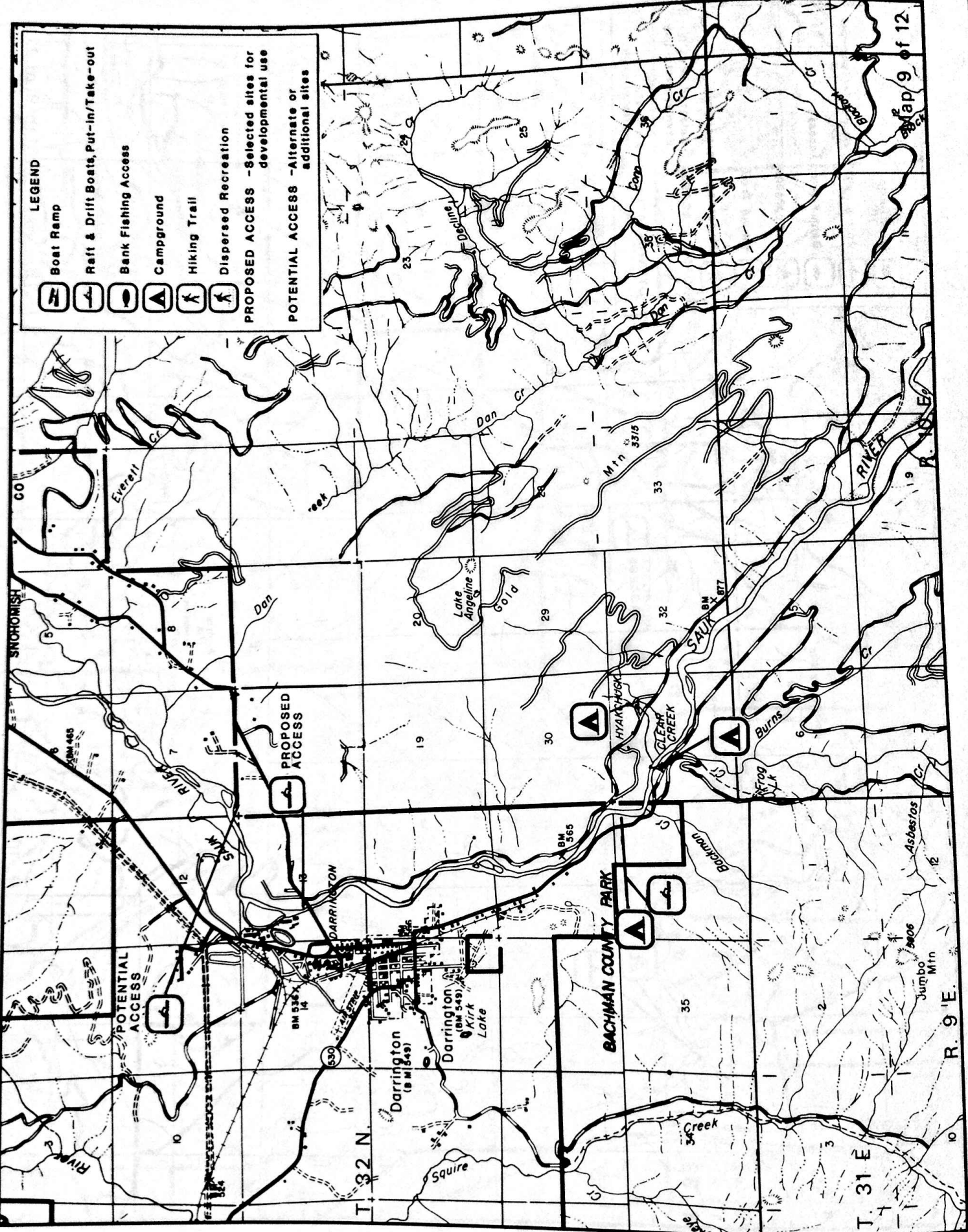
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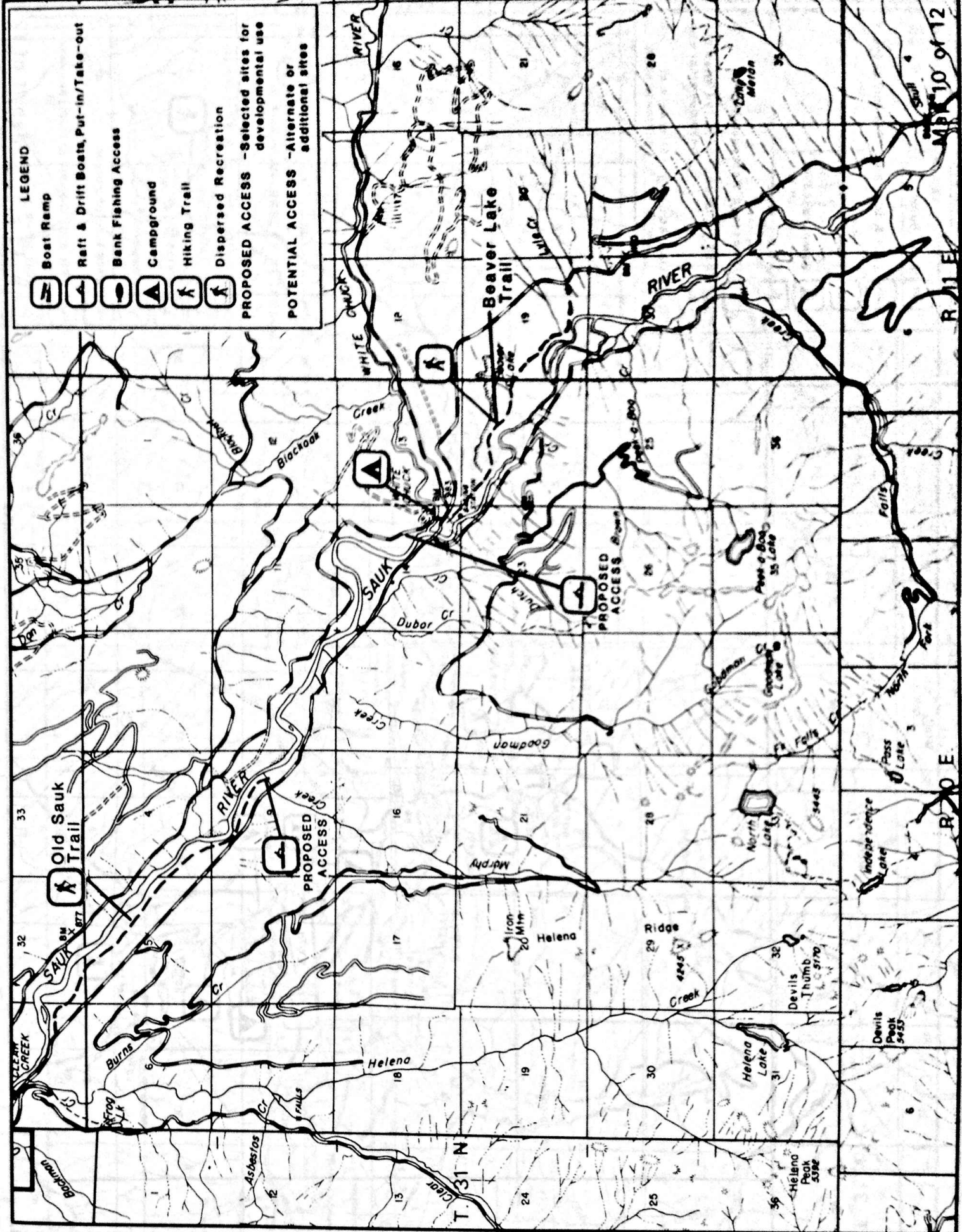


LEGEND

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-  Bank Fishing Access
-  Campground
-  Hiking Trail
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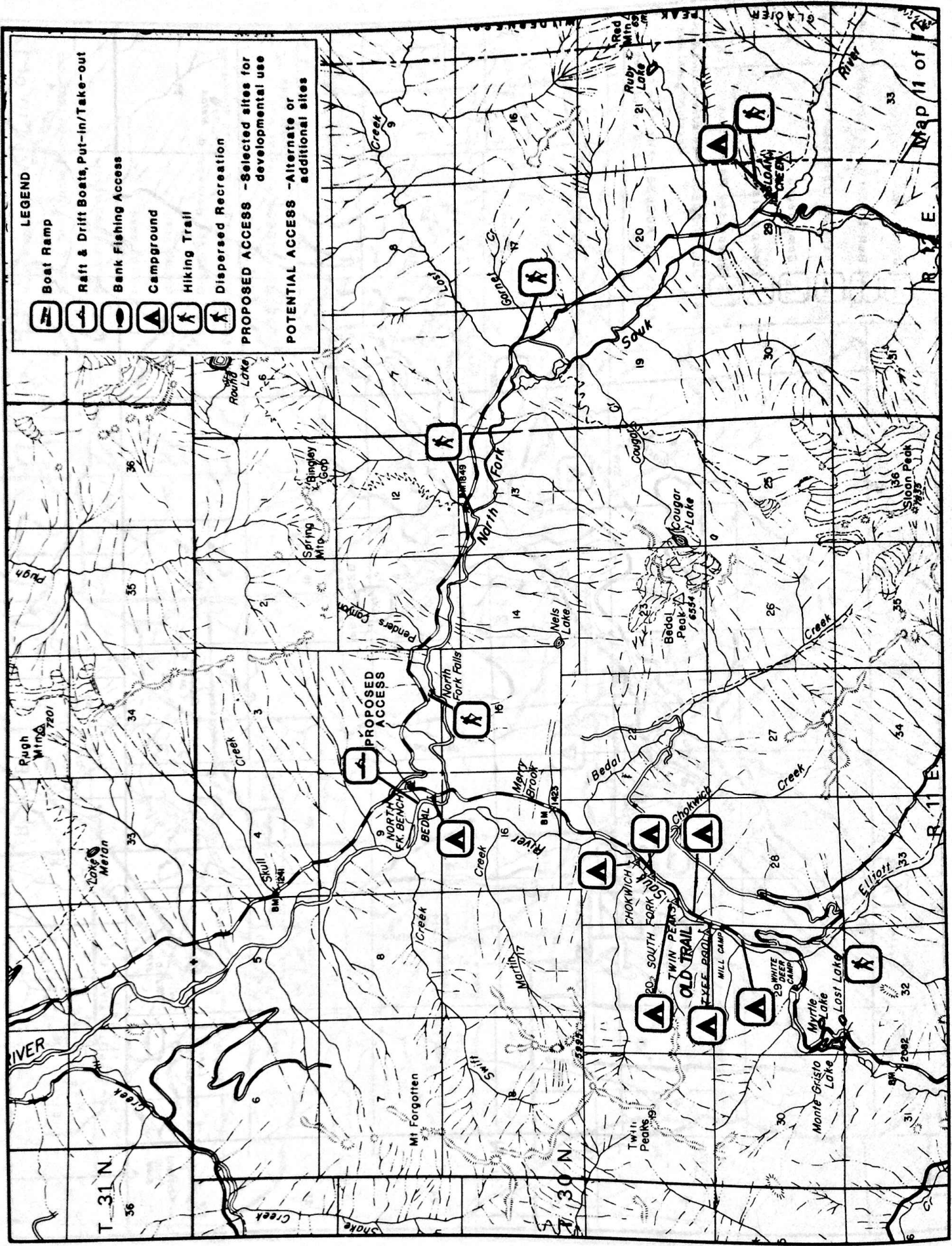


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LEGEND

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Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out

Bank Fishing Access

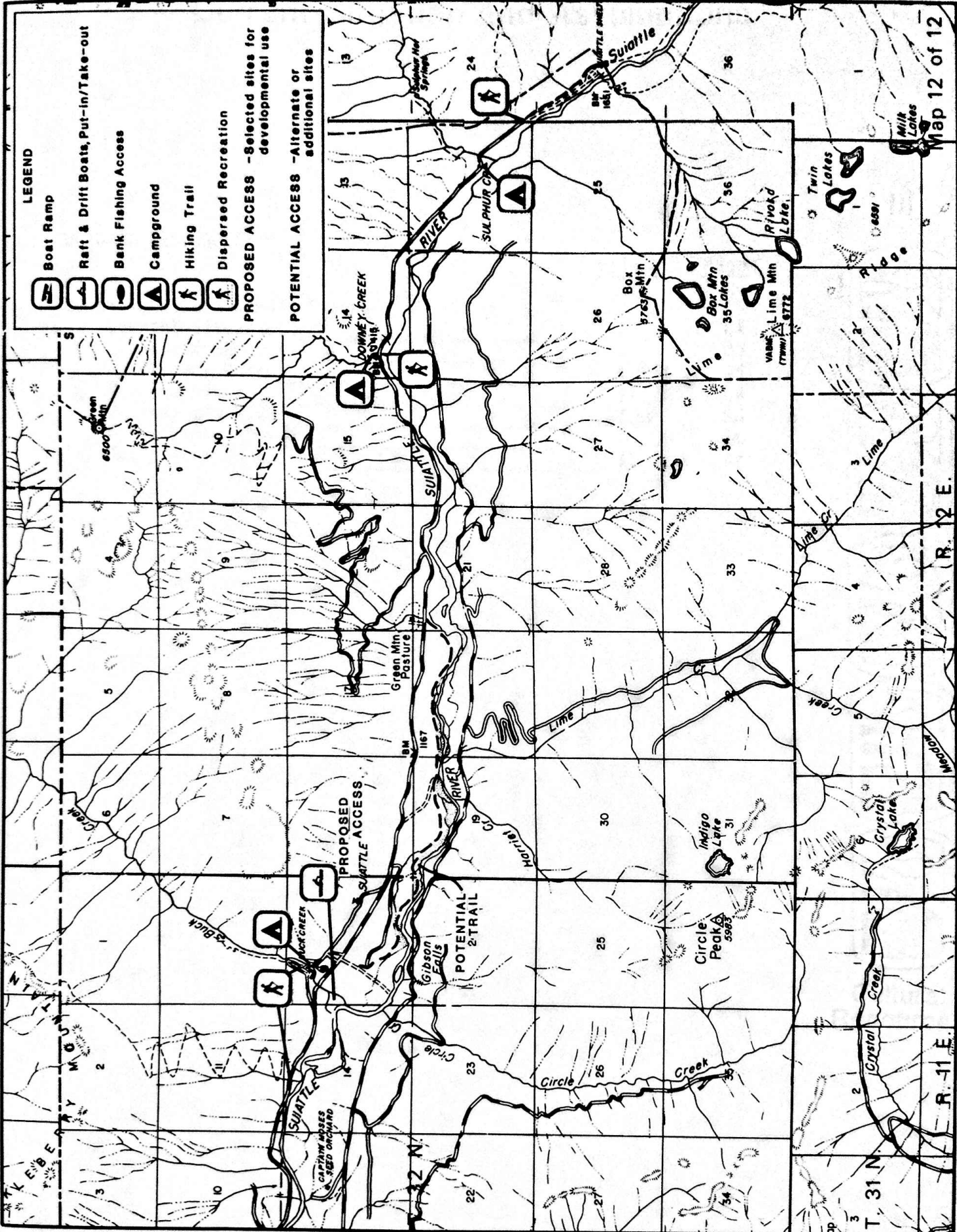
Campground

Hiking Trail









Dispersed Recreation

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POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites



LEGEND

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-  **PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
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RECREATION

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 The Forest will develop strategies, initiate interim procedures and request Pacific Northwest Research Station to determine recreation demands, user conflict resolution, resource capabilities, and proper levels of use and management. (Reference Vol I - page 40; Vol II - page 47, R&S-10; page 59, R&S-3) In the event PNW cannot do these studies, the Forest will do the project.
- R&S-2 In order to provide adequate resource protection, ongoing monitoring will be necessary to establish resource degradation thresholds so that use can be positively managed within those thresholds. It is imperative that this monitoring system provide both social and biological data on which rational, defensible management decisions can be based. Surface use of the water must be monitored in terms of user days commercial and user days non-commercial; by types of activity and by segments identified in Visitor Management, Vol II, Page 46.
- R&S-3 Favor significant wildlife/fisheries habitat over recreation developments where conflicts occur.
- R&S-4 Off-road vehicle use will not be encouraged within the Skagit W&SR corridor.
- R&S-5 Permit commercial services to serve the public needs commensurate with meeting the intent of the act, this plan and with maintaining fish, scenic and wildlife values.
- R&S-6 Outside of the National Forest, campers will be directed to state, county, or other developed sites.
- R&S-7 Provide recreation opportunities and a forest environment that is based on a natural or near natural setting throughout the river management zone. Use Recreation Experience Levels, as modified by this plan, as a guideline for recreation management and development within the river corridor. (Figure 3 and Tables 6 and 7)
- R&S-8 Boat access sites will need to be developed or upgraded to provide suitable facilities for raft launching and takeout. Basic facilities should consist, as a minimum, of:
- a. Beach of at least 25 feet in length.
 - b. Parking for a minimum of 10 cars and if needed, 2 buses. Parking area to be screened with vegetation or land form mounding, from the view of river users (on the water at mid-channel).

- c. An all-season trail ten feet wide between parking and the boat launch.
- d. Basic sanitation facilities adjacent to parking areas, out of the 25-year floodplain, and screened from the view of river users.

- R&S-9 Access, easements, and sites will be provided with adequate visual and audio buffers to reduce conflicts between public use and adjacent private lands.
- R&S-10 When provided, developed river float campsites will generally consist of back-country toilets located in upland areas adjacent to the campsite, access trail to the toilet, and standardized campsite identification sign. Toilets will be screened by vegetation or topography from the river and from the campsites but adequately signed for easy location. Sites will be located where impacts on wildlife is minimized. Campsites will not be located within view of main road, administrative sites, or within 100 yards of any private lands (where possible). (See Appendix K - Volume 1)
- R&S-11 Put in and take out will be encouraged and directed to designated sites. Landings will be promoted at designated sites and designated gravel bars.
- R&S-12 Conflicts of use between commercial and public use such as fisherman, kayakers, and canoeists will be reduced by regulating commercial use. To reduce conflict such techniques as limiting the time of use by outfitters to those less likely used by other groups will be considered.
- R&S-13 Log jams should be considered a natural hazard to be encountered by floaters. They will not be removed solely to facilitate floaters (See R&S-3, page 15). However, individual sweeper logs may be removed if they present an extreme hazard to boaters.
- R-14 The Recreation River segment of the Skagit W&SR corridor will be managed with emphasis on day use.
- R-15 Dispersed recreation use should be facilitated within limits of R&S-3 above, in the lower stretch of the Skagit W&SR (west of Lyman). Such use should be from boat access only. To accomplish this, public right of use to islands and bars between Cape Horn on the Skagit and Ross Island will need to be obtained. Developments on the Skagit River Islands should be no greater than level #2 of Table 7. Wildlife values and other values will be considered prior to any development. See R&S-3, page 17.

R-16 Priorities for put-in and take-out facility development will be:
(See boat ramp and raft sites in Figure 4.)

1. Vicinity of Bacon Creek - Coordination with National Park Service on location, design and cost will be necessary. Land acquisition may be necessary.
2. Vicinity of Birdsvew, north side of river - Land acquisition is necessary. Cooperative development with Skagit County should be encouraged.
3. Vicinity of Marblemount, east side of river - Utilize County right-of-way under bridge. Coordination with Skagit County is necessary. Land acquisition will be necessary.
4. East of Sedro Woolley, north side of river - Land acquisition is necessary.
5. Mouth of Baker River; east side of Baker River - Land acquisition may be necessary.

R-17 River access for fishing and day use - Priorities for acquisition and development.

These sites should consist of parking facilities for at least ten cars, and all season trail between parking area and river. Access along the river will not involve a constructed trail. Sanitation facilities will be provided only above 25-year floodplain. (See proposed sites Figure 4.)

1. Vicinity of Birdsvew, north side of river - Land acquisition or easements will be necessary.

Cooperative development with Skagit County should be encouraged. Overnight capabilities for river users should be developed in this vicinity.

2. Walking easement between County Park at Rockport and Rockport State Park via old Burlington Northern right-of-way.
3. Old State Hatchery site at Birdsvew - Riverbank easement west for two miles.
4. Lyman Ferry Landing, north bank - Bank access for one mile upstream.
5. Pressentin Creek Game Department launch site - Riverbank access east to mouth of Finney Creek. May require enlargement of present launch site (cooperative acquisition with Game Department encouraged).

6. Dalles Bridge - Off-road parking and access to bank on northwest side of bridge.
 7. Cedar grove - Walking easement along bank upstream for two miles.
 8. Dutchman Hole - South side of river opposite Thunderbird Lane development.
 9. Larsen Bar.
 10. Gilligan Creek - Bank access to the west for 1/2 mile.
 11. Faber Ferry Crossing - South side of river.
 12. Additional sites as warranted (see Figure 4.)
- R-18 Public overnight facilities should be concentrated at:
- Rockport State Park
 - Skagit County Park at Rockport
 - In the vicinity of Birdsvie
- R-19 The Forest Service should encourage the State and County to develop a bicycle trail up the Skagit Valley, using shoulders of public roads and other public right-of-ways. Such a trail would be within the Skagit W&SR corridor or be as close to the corridor as existing public roads will allow.
- S-20 To protect anadromous fish spawning sites on the Sauk, limit and monitor use of the section of river from Forks to the mouth of the White Chuck during the last week in August and the first three weeks of September. Limitations on the number of boats and boating techniques that reduce disturbance to spawning gravels (such as reducing the number of paddles used) will be required when necessary. In the event of low water flow during April 1 through June 30, spawning disturbance and redd trampling will need to be prevented.
- S-21 On National Forest lands (within the National Forest boundary) use of roaded dispersed sites will be allowed, as long as river values are not degraded.
- S-22 River Access:
- a. River access for fishing and day use will be provided on all three rivers. Sites, both within and outside of the National Forest will be inventoried and prioritized. Where necessary for critical sites, public access will be acquired. When visitor demand warrants it (and in accordance to priority), facilities will be designed and developed for the sites. See R&S-1, 2, 3, page 17 for resource constraints to recreation development and use.

- b. Within resource constraints, necessary lands will be acquired for put-in/take-out sites, including space for parking and toilet facilities, in the vicinity of the locations listed in Table 12.
- c. Mineral Park, Marble Creek and Irene Creek Bridge launch sites should be developed only if field investigation reveals that the segment of river between these three sites is suitable for boat use.
- d. Additional sites will be considered and determinations made on a case-by-case basis.
- e. All existing launch facilities should be brought to the standards outlined under R&S-8, page 17. Cooperative agreements will be made with Washington State Department of Game to accomplish this as necessary.

Table 12.

Existing (to be maintained) and Proposed
Put-in/Take-out Sites Along the Scenic Rivers.

<u>River Priority</u>	<u>Site Priority</u>	<u>Sauk River</u>	<u>Status</u>
	4	Bedal Campground	proposed
	2	Site of the new Sauk Bridge	proposed
	7	Murphy Creek	proposed
	6	Bachman Creek County Park	existing
I	5	Darrington	proposed
	1	Sauk River Park	existing (flood damaged)
	3	Near Skagit River (McCleod Slough) or Hilt Creek	proposed
		<u>Cascade River</u>	
	1	Cascade Island Park	existing
	5	Fish Hatchery Bridge	proposed
III	3	Mineral Park (See S-22-C)	proposed
	2	Marble Creek Campground(See S-22-C)	proposed
	4	Irene Creek Bridge (See S-22-C)	proposed
		<u>Suiattle River</u>	
	*4	Buck Creek	proposed
	5	Conrad Creek	proposed
	1	Boundary Bridge (All Creek)	proposed
II	6	Tenas Creek	proposed
	3	Mile Post 5	proposed
	2	Confluence of Suiattle and Sauk	proposed

* A potential conflict exists between the proposed put-in at Buck Creek and a proposed egg-taking station by the Department of Fisheries. Coordination will be needed. (R&S-3 Page 17)

S-23 Trails:

Existing trailheads will be scheduled for needed design improvements and reconstruction. New trails will be constructed to improve access, use, and compliment recreation opportunities as appropriate. Trail and trailhead construction and reconstruction will be consistent with Recreation Experience Levels for the segment of the river being utilized. Trailhead facilities will be designed and constructed or reconstructed to be either not visible or not recognizable by viewers from the river. Trail priorities should be:

1. The Forest Service will maintain the two existing trails along the Sauk (the old Sauk Trail and the Beaver Lake Trail).
2. Trailhead parking facilities will be designed and constructed to serve the Old Sauk and Beaver Lake trails.
3. Explore the possibility of constructing a 10-mile foot trail on the north bank of the Cascade River, beginning at the existing trailhead near the Glacier Peak Wilderness and continuing downstream to Marble Creek campground.
4. Encourage the State DNR to consider developing river side trail opportunities from their campground along the south bank of the Suiattle.
5. The Forest Service will explore the potential of trail location along terrace edges following the north bank of the Suiattle between Buck Creek and Green Mountain Pasture.
6. The Forest Service will seek a cooperative agreement with the County and State to locate and develop a pedestrian trail along the west side of the Sauk River (a 5 to 6 mile trail proposed on the west bank of the river between the Suiattle bridge downstream to Government Bridge).

S-24 Campground Development:

- a. Overnight camping for commercial float trips will be at designated sites only. These sites will be designated in the outfitter/guide permits.
- b. Dispersed developed sites for pull offs, parking, viewing and picnicing will need to be studied and developed for pleasure driving use.
- c. Floater overnight camping will be directed to designated sites. These sites may or may not be developed.
- d. Design and construct or reconstruct developments to maintain a pleasing view from the river (mid-channel) and retain harmony with W&SR values. Recreation facilities will be: (1) located outside the immediate foreground, (2) complimentary to the view from the river, and (3) designed with the benefit of a detailed site analysis to determine site capability and suitability. (See Table 7.)

- e. The long-range plan will be to remove existing developments which do not meet, nor can be upgraded to meet item (d). Generally, replacement units will be constructed prior to the removal of existing units to help reduce the impact on, and displacement of established users. Replacement units will be located within the same drainage and, when possible, within the same area as the displaced sites.
- f. Existing sites will be rehabilitated to meet standards for full service level. ^{1/} Where feasible, additional vegetative screening will be established to help screen campgrounds from the river view. Maintenance and administration will be scheduled to retain these sites at full service level.

^{1/} Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Publication ED & T 9009, Cleaning Recreation Sites Publication, July 1980; Equipment Development Center, San Dimas, California 91773.

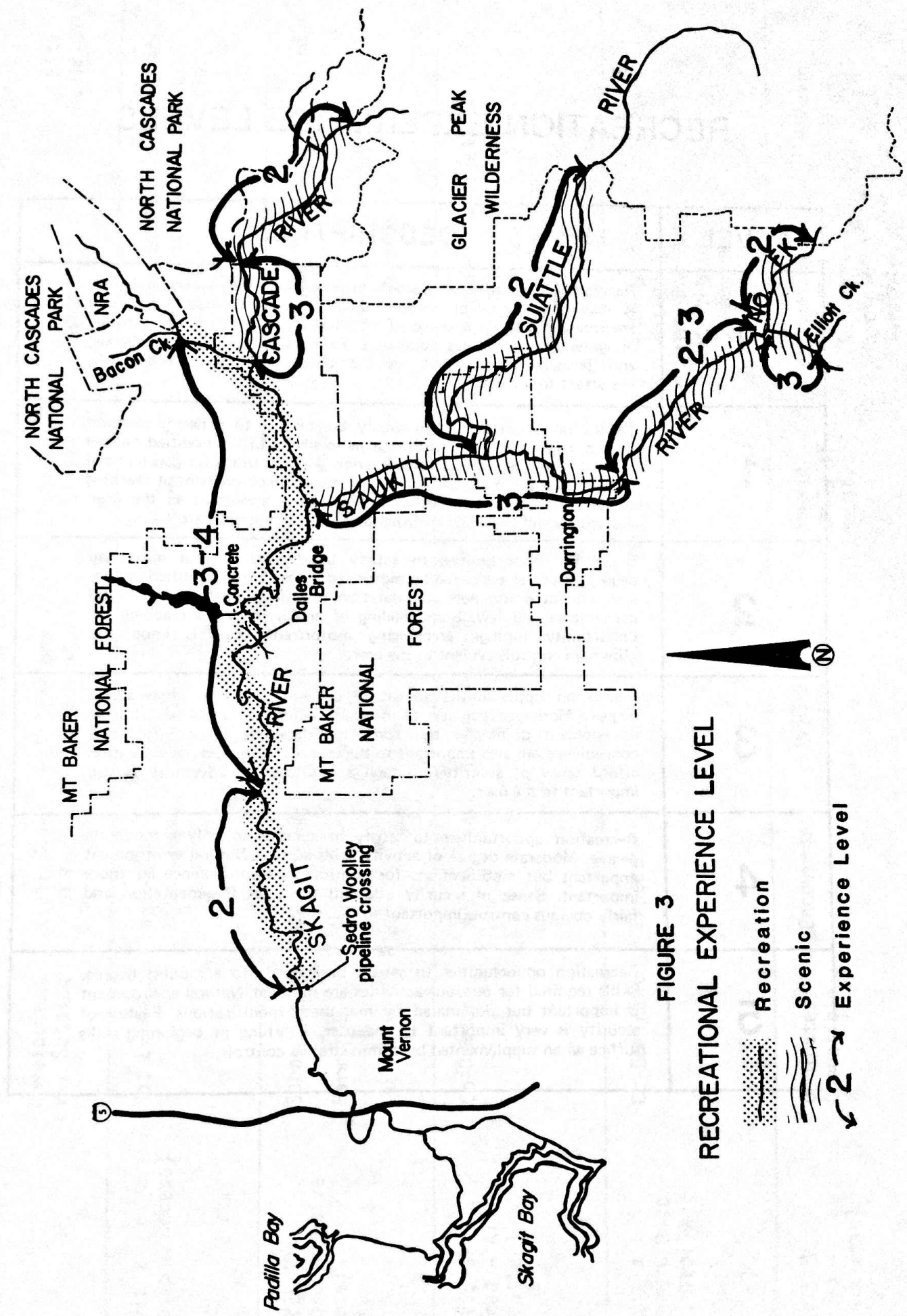


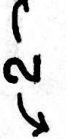


FIGURE 3
RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE LEVEL

-  Recreation
-  Scenic
-  Experience Level

RECREATION EXPERIENCE LEVELS

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
PRIMITIVE	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to the maximum degree. A maximum degree of outdoor skills required. Unmodified natural environment and an absence of man-made developments and comfort or convenience facilities dominates. Feelings of adventure, challenge, and physical achievement, in the absence of obvious controls, important to the user.
1	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to a near maximum degree. High degree of outdoor skills involved. Little modified natural environment is dominant consideration. Modifications for comfort and convenience are minimal. Feeling of physical achievement at reaching opportunities without mechanized access is important to the user. Adventure and challenge afforded through minimum controls.
2	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to near maximum degree except as tempered by motorized access. Little modified natural environment is dominate consideration. Modifications for comfort and convenience are few. Some feeling of achievement for reaching the opportunity through challenging motorized access is important. Minimum controls evident to the user.
3	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to an intermediate degree. Moderate degrees of outdoor skills are involved. Natural environment dominates but some modifications for comfort and convenience are also important to the user. Controls and regimentation afford sense of security although some taste of adventure is still important to the user.
4	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to only a moderate degree. Moderate degree of activity skills suffice. Natural environment important but modifications for comfort and convenience are more important. Sense of security afforded the user. Regimentation and fairly obvious controls important to the user.
5	Recreation opportunities to satisfy basic-needs to a modest degree. Skills required for outdoor activities are minimal. Natural environment is important but dominated by man-made modifications. Feeling of security is very important to the user. Learning or beginning skills suffice when supplemented by administrative controls.

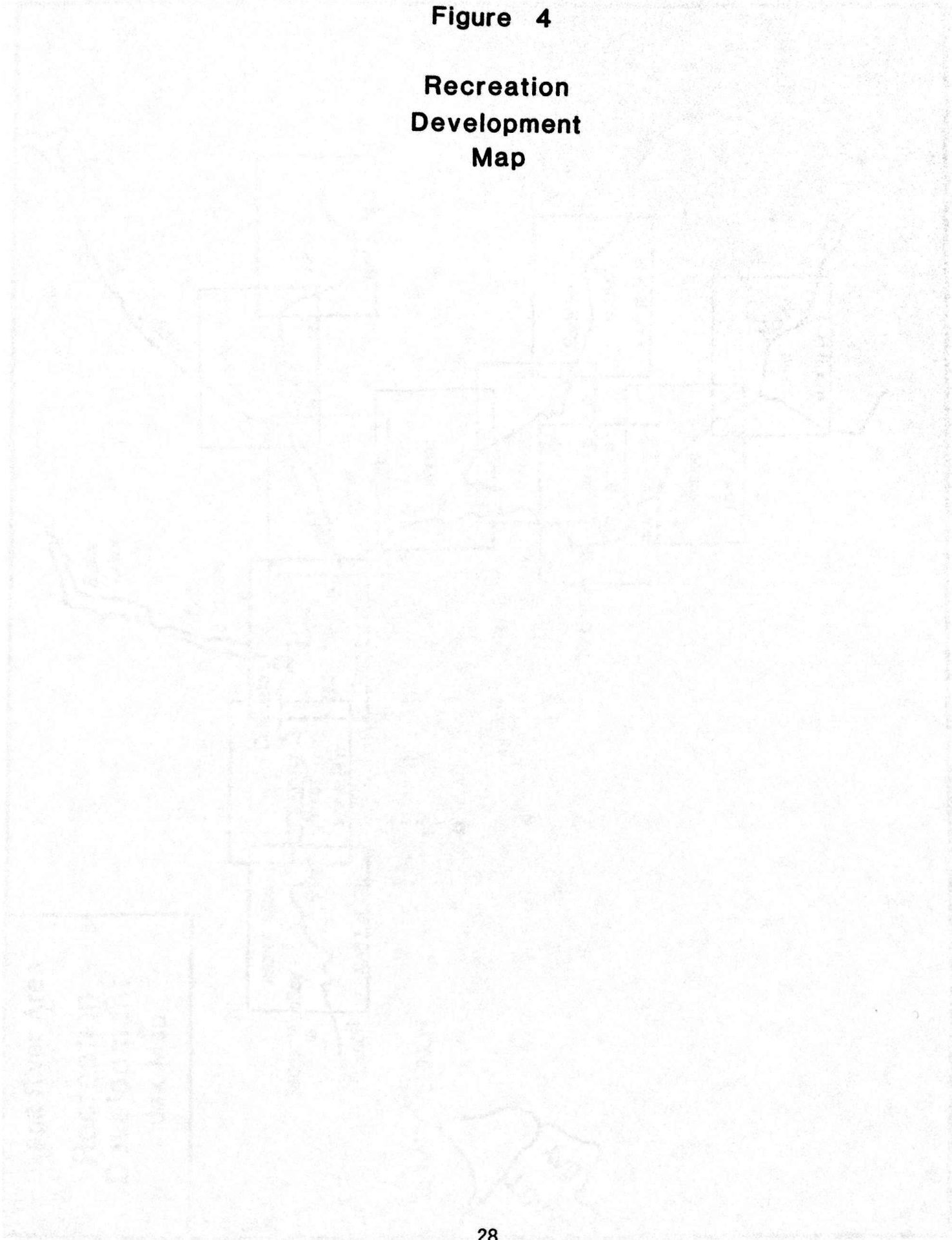
TABLE 7

Skagit Wild & Scenic River Criteria for Evaluation of Recreational Facilities by Development Levels

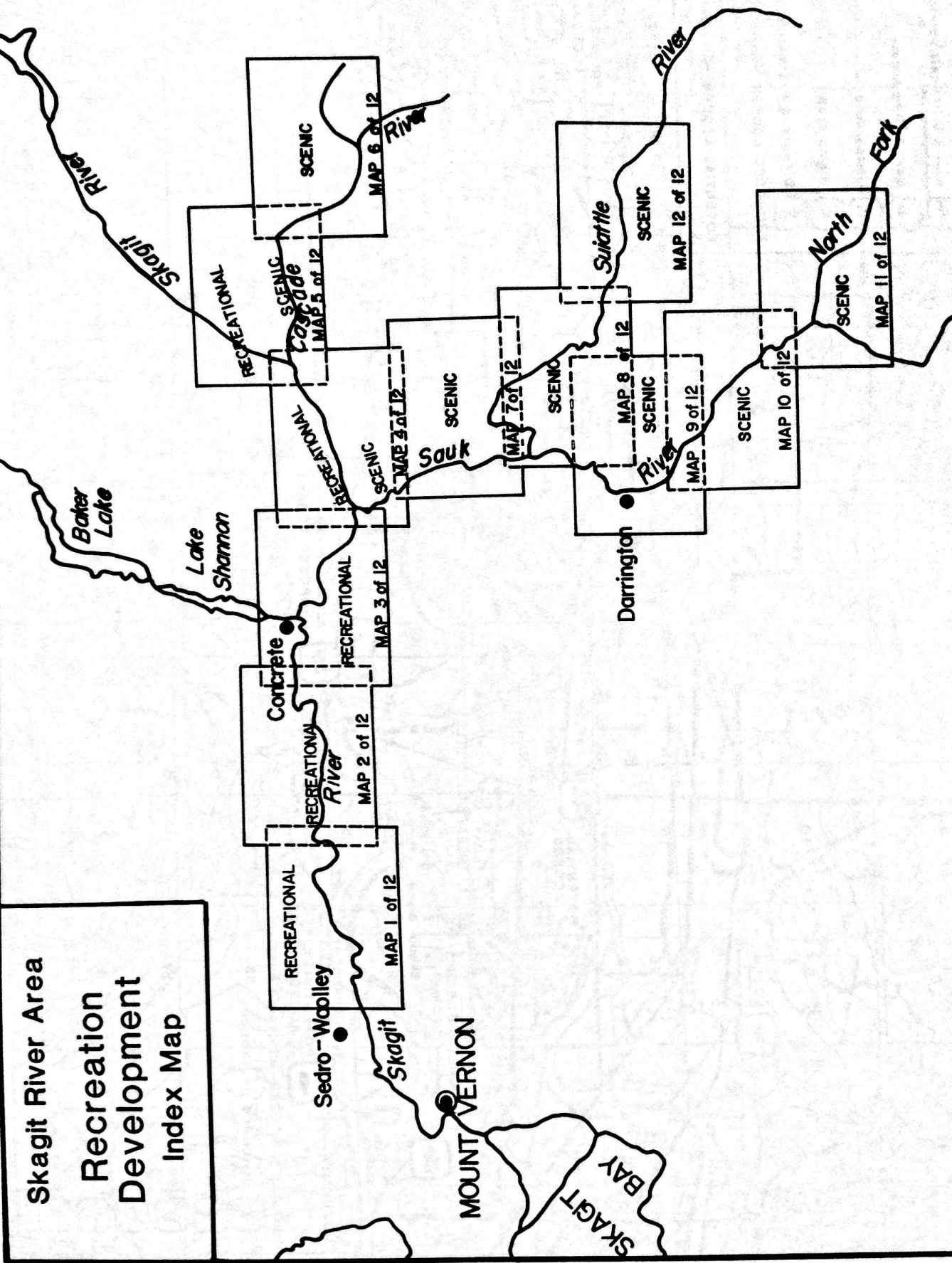
	Development vs. Setting	Sight/Sound of man	Color/Form Line/ Texture	Architectural Style	Materials	Site Modification
LEVEL 1 (No Road Access)	Not Evident	Seldom/ Discouraged	Repeats Native	Not Recognizable	-Native to Site -No Dimensional Material -No Synthetics	Minimum Not Evident
LEVEL 2 (Road - Native Mats)	Subordinate and Harmonious	Occasional	Repeats Natural	Fully Subordinate	-Natural Materials Dominate -Dimensional Material Accepted -No Synthetics	Limited
LEVEL 3 (Road - A11 Weather)	Co-Dominant	Acceptable	Harmonious	Co-Dominant	-Dimension Material Expected -Synthetics Accepted/ Subordinate	Moderate
LEVEL 4 (Road w/Dust Control)	Co-Dominant	Expected	Co-Dominant	May Dominate	-Dimensional Materials May Dominate -Synthetics Co-Dominate	Heavy
LEVEL 5 (Road - Synthetic)	Dominates/ Compatible	Encouraged	Dominate/ Compatible	Featured (Family of Shapes)	-Dimensional Material Dominate -Synthetics May Dominate	Heavy

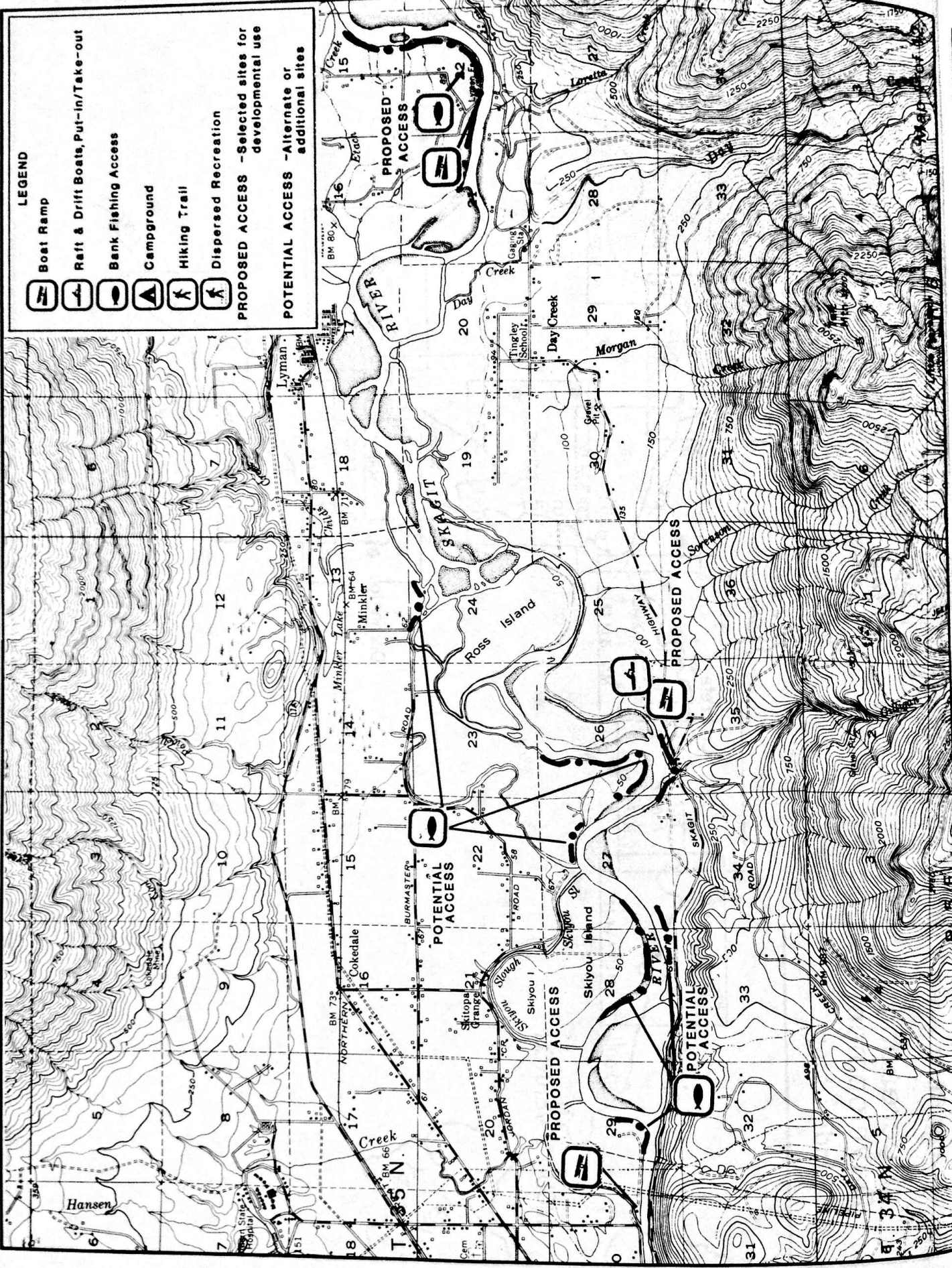
Figure 4

**Recreation
Development
Map**









Skagit River Area Recreation Development Index Map





LEGEND

-  Boat Ramp
 -  Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
 -  Bank Fishing Access
 -  Campground
 -  Hiking Trail
 -  Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites

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BM 73

BM 79

BM 80

BM 81

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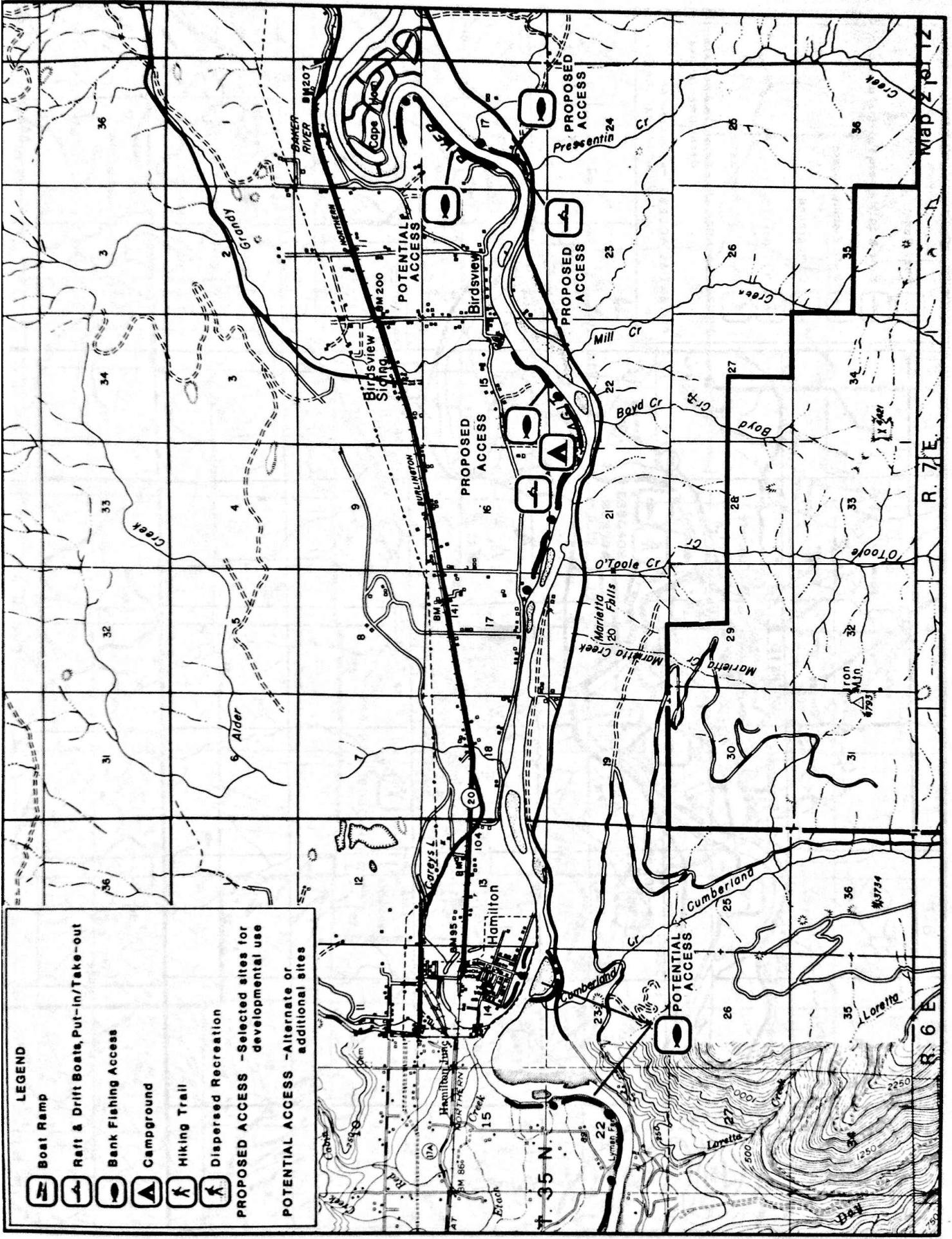
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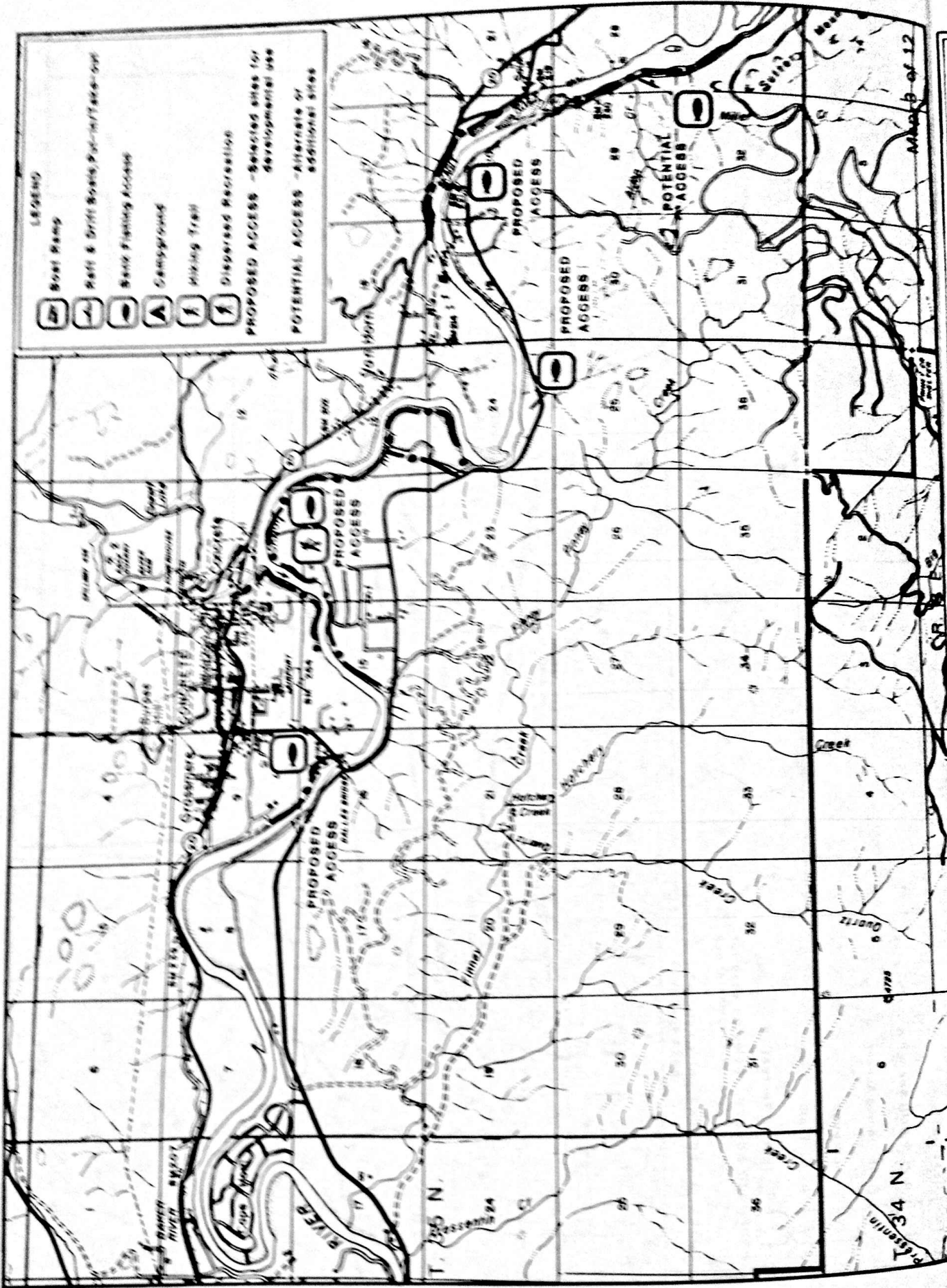
LEGEND

-  Boat Ramp
-  Rift & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
-  Bank Fishing Access
-  Campground
-  Hiking Trail
-  Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites

Map 21012

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R. 6 E.









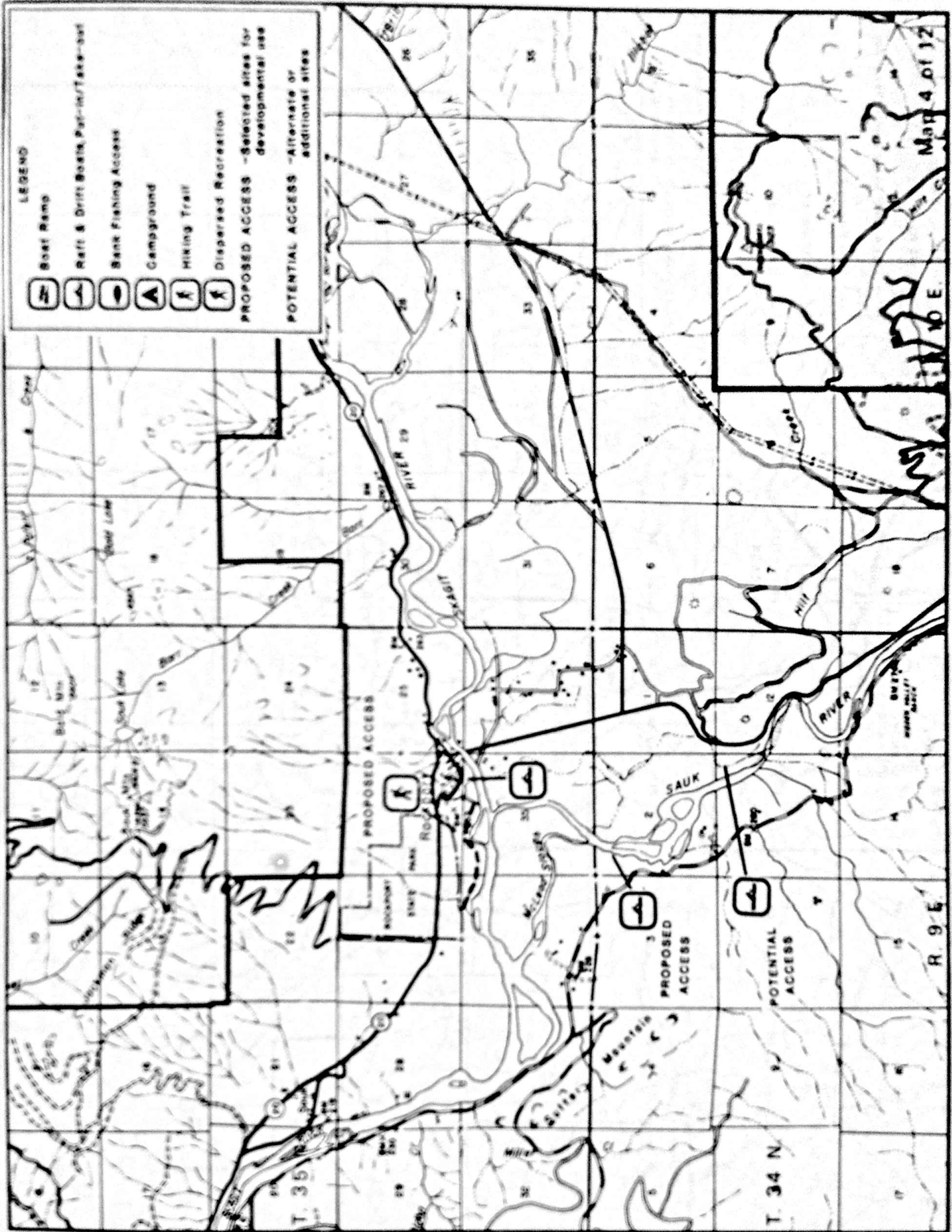
LEGEND







- Boat Ramp
- Raft & Drift Boats Put-in/Take-out
- Bank Fishing Access
- Campground
- Hiking Trail
- Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternates of additional sites

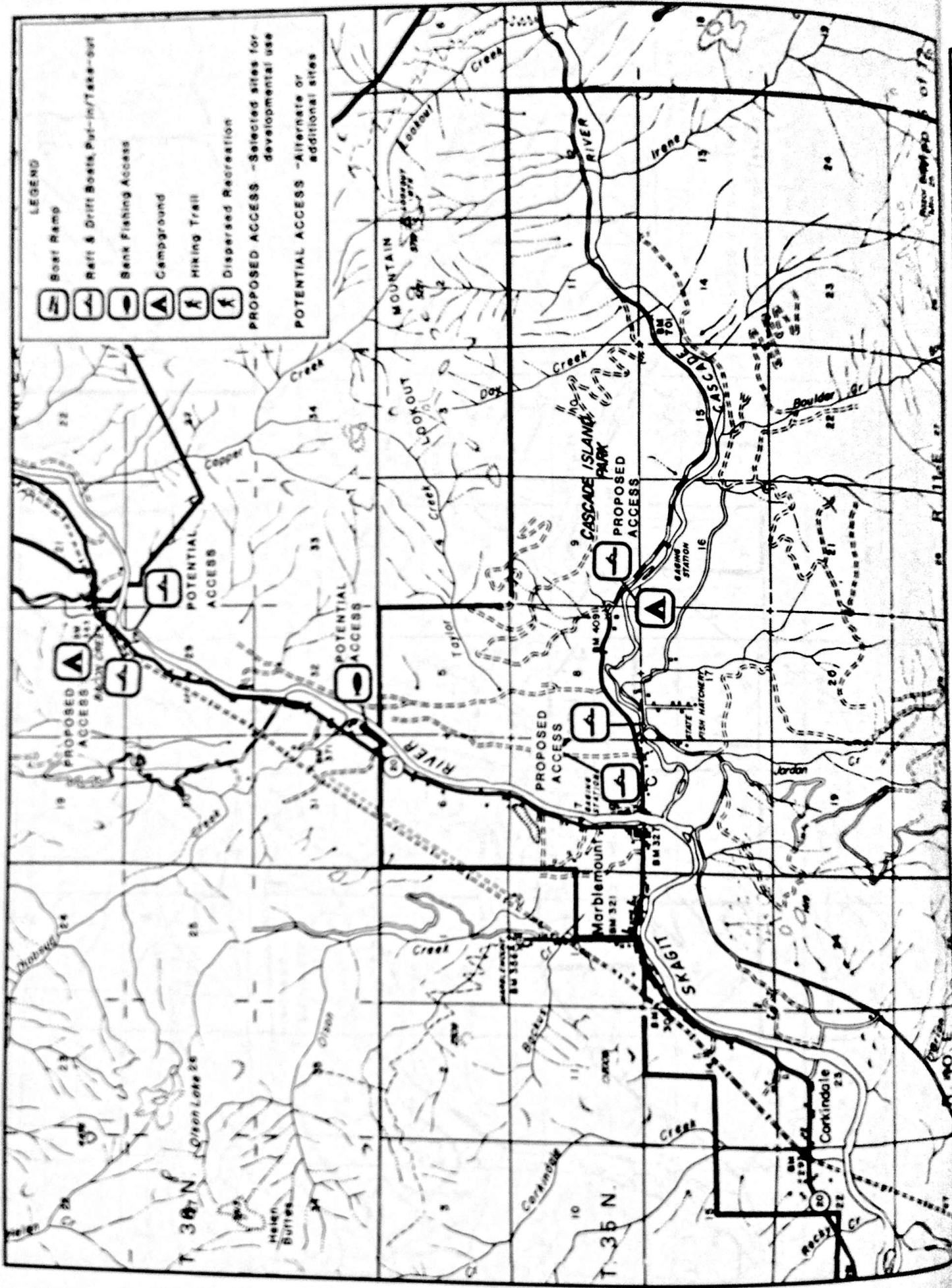
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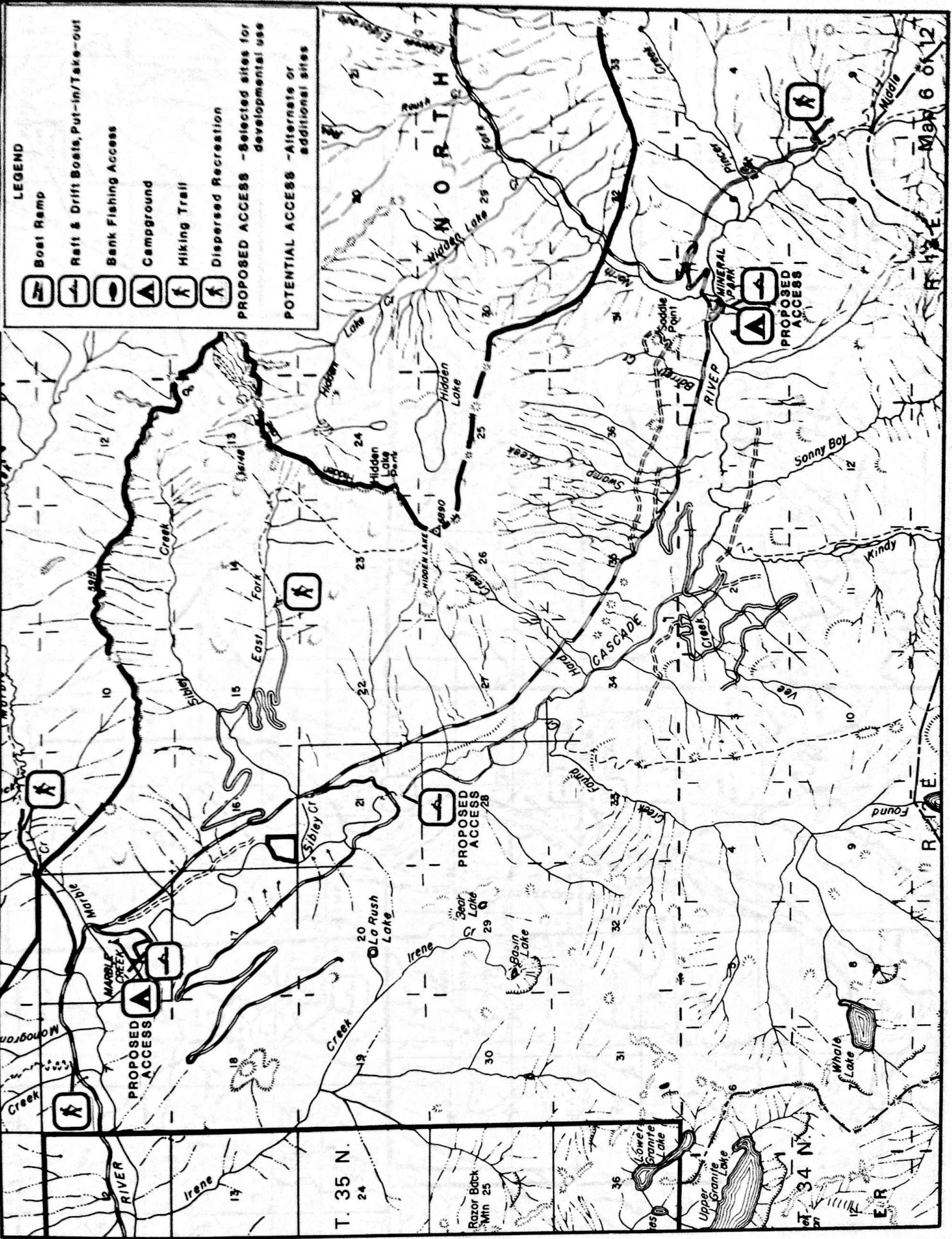
LEGEND

-  Boat Ramp
 -  Raft & Drift Boats Put-in/Take-out
 -  Bank Fishing Access
 -  Campground
 -  Hiking Trail
 -  Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites



- LEGEND**
-  Boat Ramp
 -  Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
 -  Bank Fishing Access
 -  Campground
 -  Hiking Trail
 -  Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites





- LEGEND**
- Boat Ramp
 - Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
 - Bank Fishing Access
 - Campground
 - Hiking Trail
 - Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites

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
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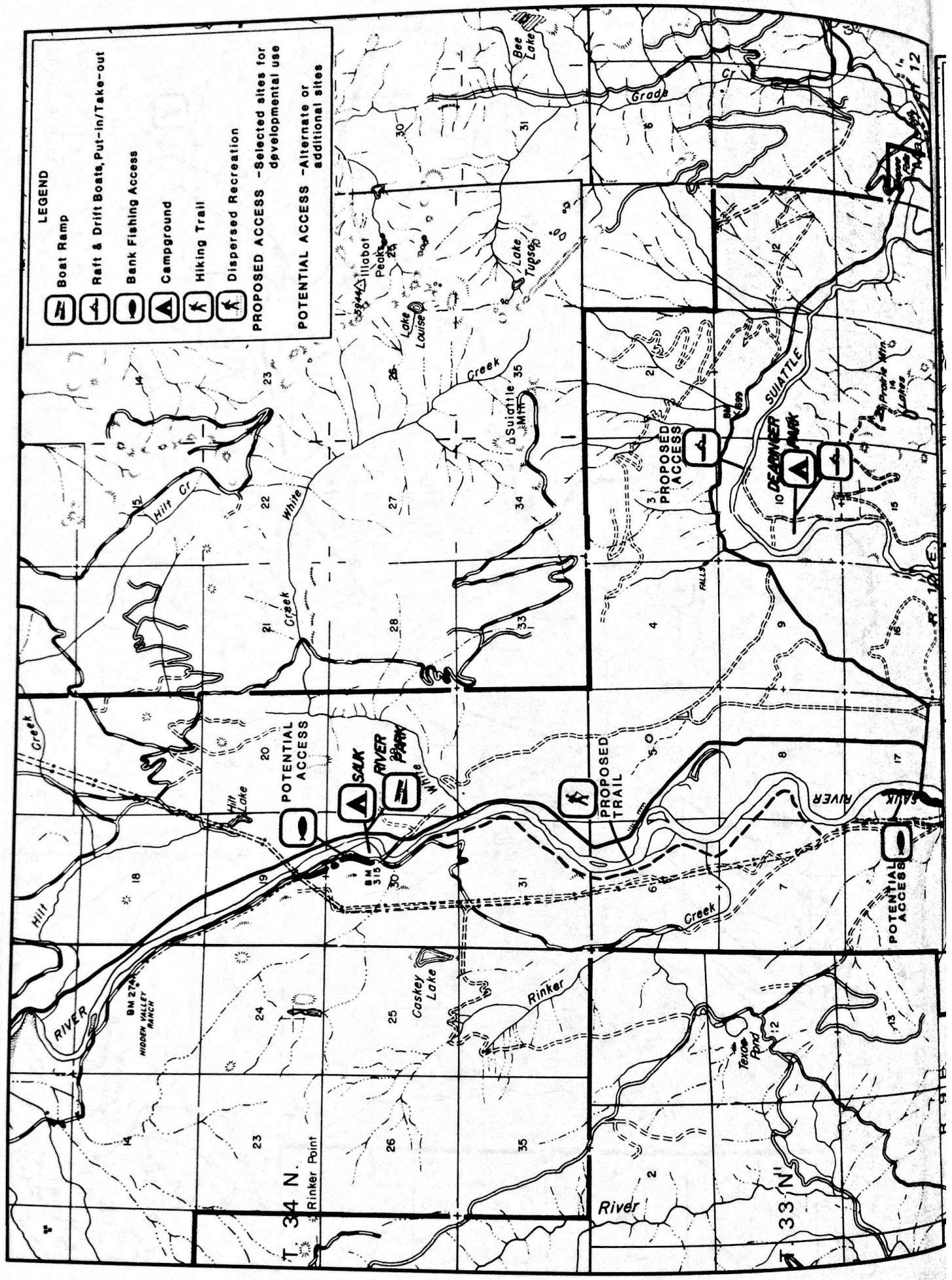
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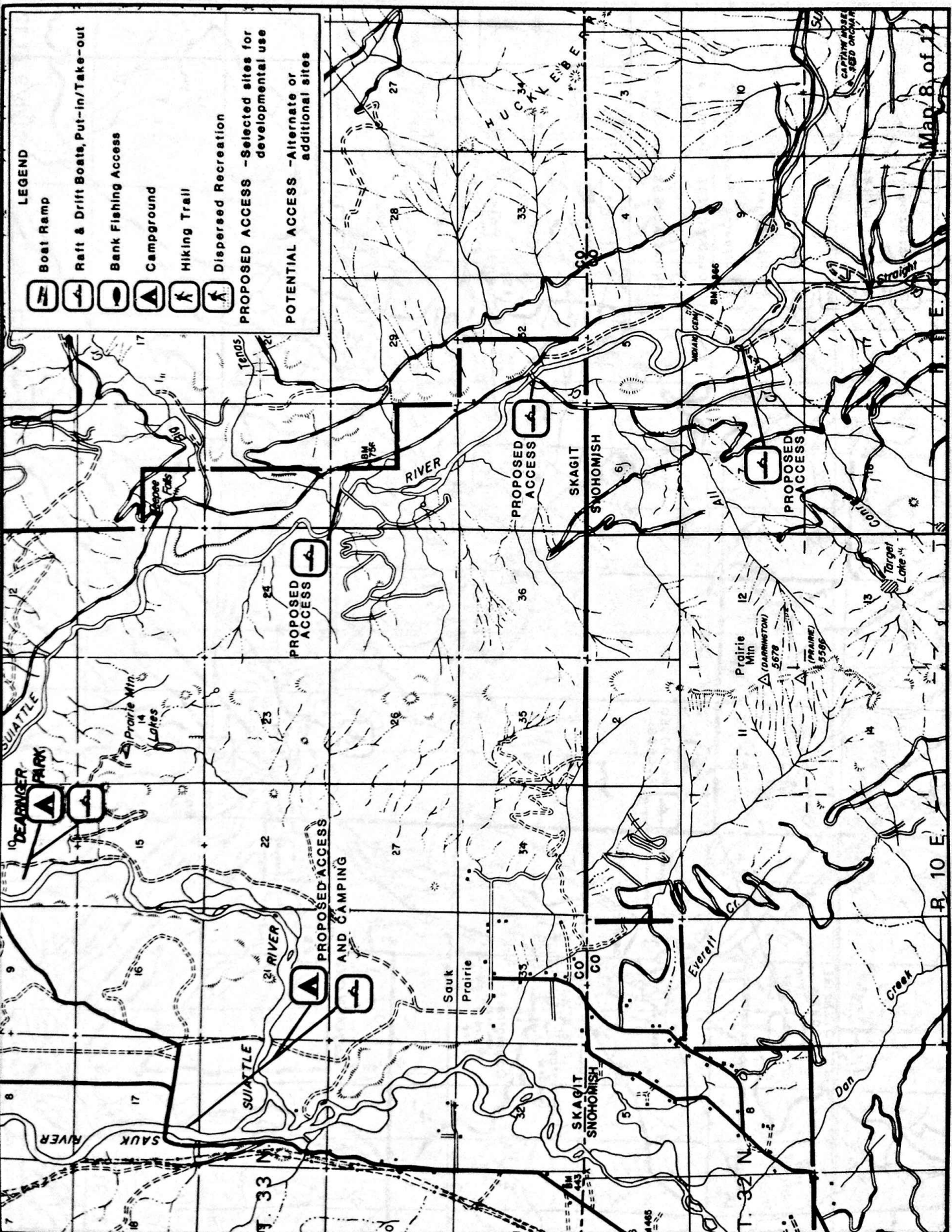
LEGEND

-  Boat Ramp
-  Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
-  Bank Fishing Access
-  Campground
-  Hiking Trail
-  Dispersed Recreation

PROPOSED ACCESS - Selected sites for developmental use

POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites



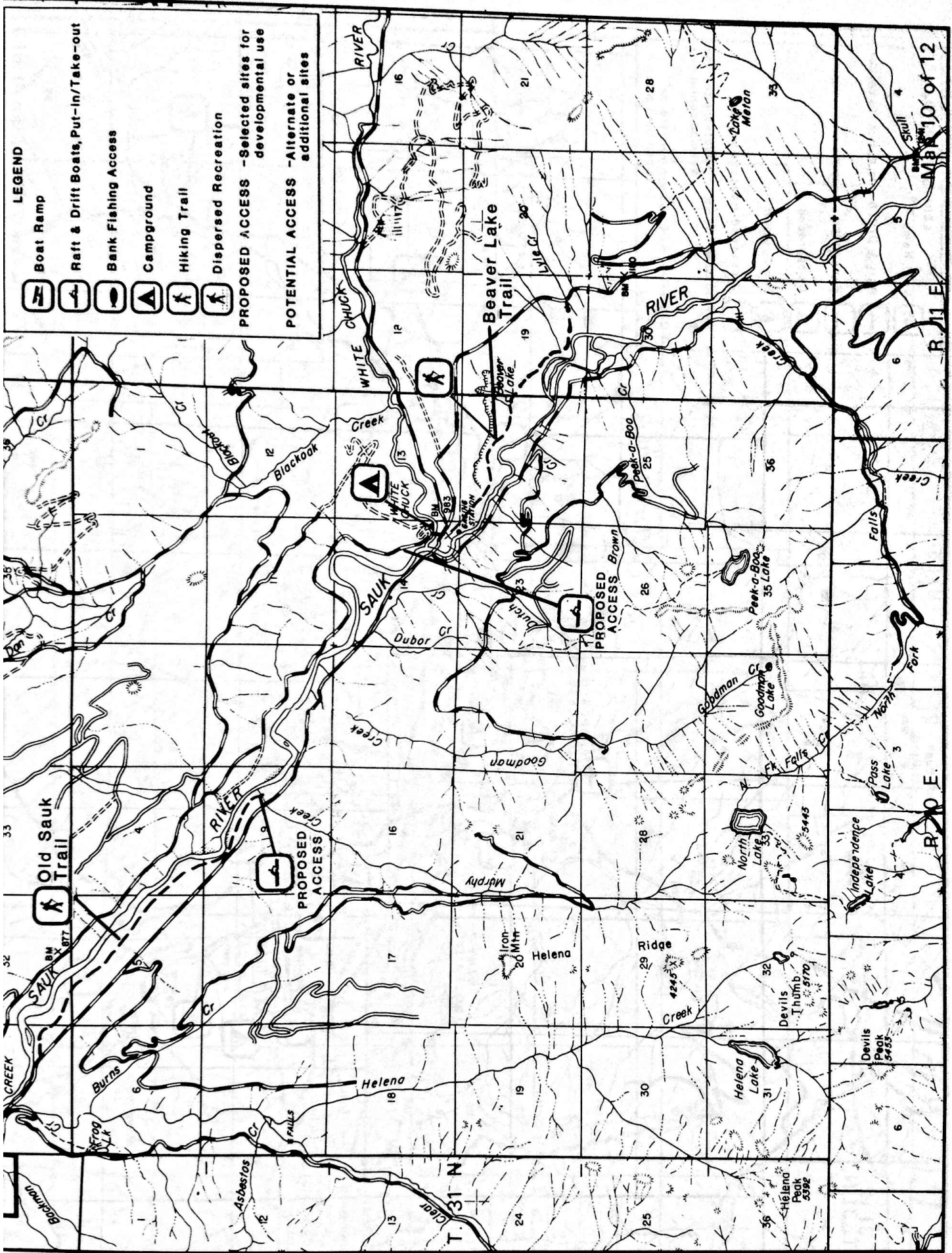


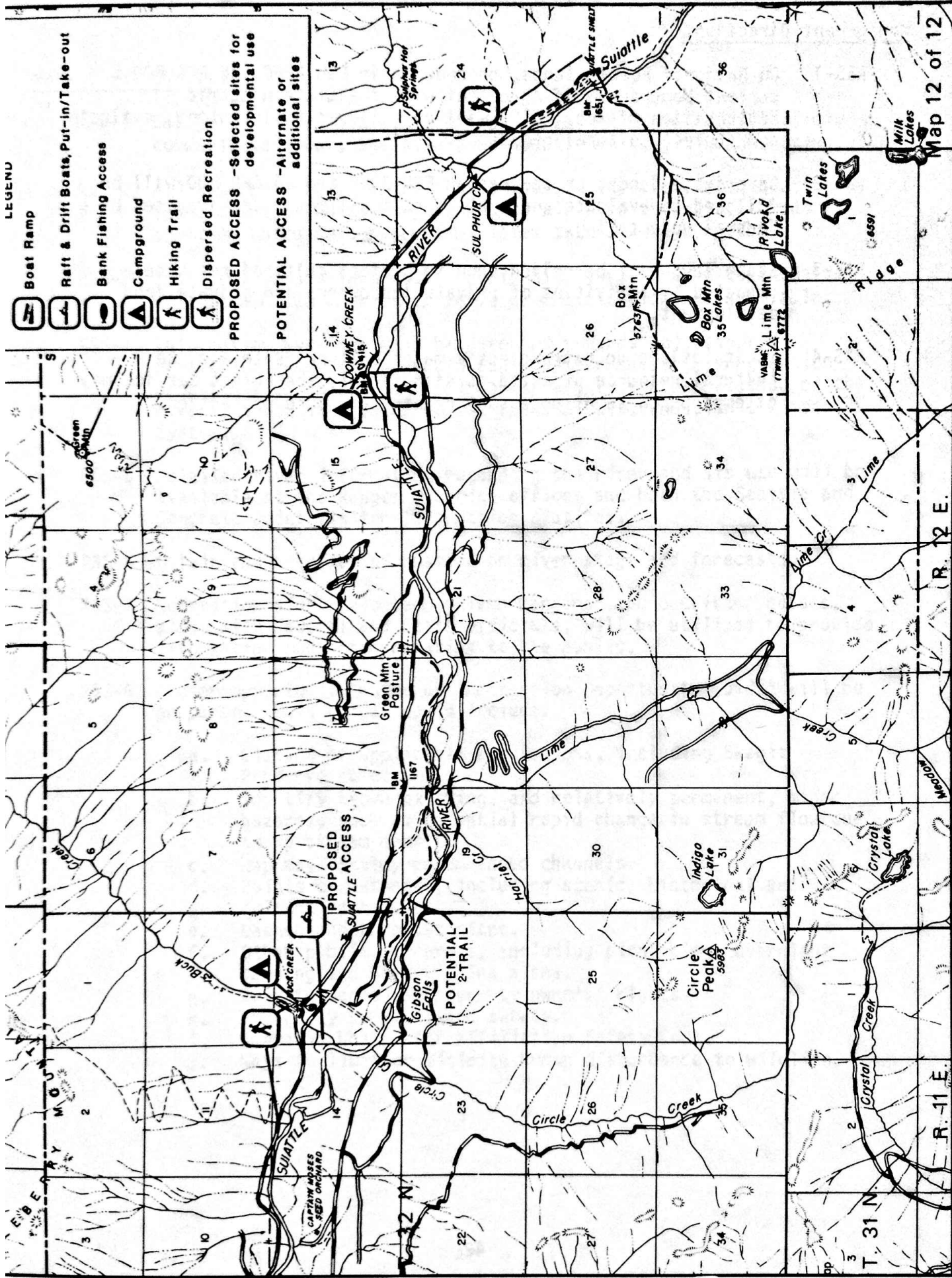
LEGEND

- Boat Ramp
- Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
- Bank Fishing Access
- Campground
- Hiking Trail
- Dispersed Recreation

PROPOSED ACCESS - Selected sites for developmental use

POTENTIAL ACCESS - Alternate or additional sites





LEGEND

- Boat Ramp
- Raft & Drift Boats, Put-in/Take-out
- Bank Fishing Access
- Campground
- Hiking Trail
- Dispersed Recreation
- PROPOSED ACCESS** - Selected sites for developmental use
- POTENTIAL ACCESS** - Alternate or additional sites

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 On National Forest lands, procedures in FSM 2360, 36 CFR 800 and current Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be followed to inventory, evaluate and protect cultural resources.
- R&S-2 On private lands, procedures in FSM 2360 and 36 CFR 800 will be followed to evaluate and protect cultural resources impacted by a Federal undertaking.
- R&S-3 State laws will be relied upon to protect cultural resources impacted by activities of private landowners and private land development.
- R&S-4 If State laws do not protect a major cultural site and the cultural resource affected is significant, the Forest Service may attempt purchase of necessary rights to insure protection.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 Design a unified mix of visitor information media to effectively communicate about, and also compliment, the Skagit W&SR setting.
- R&S-2 All interpretive material should include input and coordination of town, county, and state governments and also the various Federal agencies which have responsibilities in the W&SR corridor.
- R&S-3 Interpretive and information media highly vulnerable to vandalism will be avoided when other forms of communication are available.
- R&S-4 Information services will be directed towards (a) resource protection, and reducing bald eagle disturbance, (b) recreation opportunities and access, (c) safety and (d) interpretation of the river and how it relates to the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- R&S-5 Detailed river information regarding the river and its use will be available at the Ranger District offices and both the Seattle and Concrete Joint Visitor Information stations.
- R&S-6 Obtain and provide information on river stage and forecasts.
- R&S-7 Recreation aids, volunteer "River Rangers" and outfitter guides, along with Federal and State officials, will be utilized to provide information and interpretation to the public.
- R&S-8 A user opportunity guide or "Recreation Opportunity Guide" will be prepared. This guide should include:
- a. Listing of applicable regulations, including Skagit Preserve rules.
 - b. Identify known existing, and relatively permanent, major hazards, such as potential rapid change in stream flow due to up stream dams.
 - c. Map may display recommended channels.
 - d. Points of interest, including scenic, historical and cultural areas.
 - e. Launch and take-out sites.
 - f. Other public use areas, including picnicking, overnight camping and bank fishing sites.
 - g. Private lands and property owners' rights.
 - h. Emergency services and safety.
 - i. American Whitewater Affiliation Safety Code.
 - j. Ways to limit or minimize human disturbance to wildlife.

SIGNING

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will prepare a sign plan. Forest Service Handbook 7109, 11a and b will be used for sign standards and specifications. Coordination will be needed with all other interested agencies.
- R&S-2 Signing should be used where appropriate in advising river users of not only areas and sites managed for various public activities and uses but also the various agencies associated with each particular use area.
- R&S-3 Signing will be needed wherever practical to identify sites, access, and facilities available to the public.
- R&S-4 Signs will be used as a principle tool in reducing conflicts between private landowners and public use.
- R&S-5 Each sign proposal will be preceded by a brief analysis:
1. What is purpose or objective of the sign?
 2. Will the sign draw unwanted attention?
Examples: - interpretation of eagle habitats could lead to possible disturbance of the birds.
- signing of an archaeological site could lead to vandalism of site.
 3. Are there other signs in the vicinity?
 4. Will another sign lead to confusion?
 5. Are required signs already possessed by one of the principle agencies involved? (i.e., State, Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Soil Conservation Services, etc.).
 6. Will the sign be unusually vulnerable to vandalism?
 7. Can the objective be achieved by other means i.e., addition to map or brochure etc.
- R&S-6 Design a distinctive sign base/silhouette and logo. Identification of responsible management agencies must be a part of each major sign installation.

MOTORIZED AND MECHANICAL USE

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 Motorized boat use will be allowed to continue as currently allowed under State laws, and will be monitored. Procedures to modify this use (such as zoning portions of the rivers for non motorized use) may need to be initiated with the State upon results of monitoring and the interim and final findings of studies on resource compatibility and eagle disturbance. (Reference Vol II - page 50, R&S-5 and page 17, R&S-1)
- R-2 The stretch of river between Marblemount and Concrete will be monitored to determine whether use by both drift and motorized boats presents hazards to safety. Action will be required if a serious hazard is identified.
- S-3 Outfitter/Guide permits for commercial motorized use will not be issued on any of the Scenic Rivers.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Management Direction:

- R&S-1 Visitor management on the lands within the Skagit W&SR corridor will rely mainly upon clear, simple and strategically located signing (see Signing) and easily readable brochure and maps.
- R&S-2 All commercial river boating operations on the Skagit W&SR System will be under an outfitter/guide permit system.
- R&S-3 Outfitter/Guide permits will be issued on the basis of National Forest award procedure for Forest Service outfitter/guide permits.* A permit will be issued in response to all applications for river guide permits until 1985.
- R&S-4 The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, with the County and State governments, determine ordinances and regulations needed and applicable to private lands which will aid in controlling public use.
- R&S-5 The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, in cooperation with the State, County and local governments, determine if regulations in relation to hunting on land within the River Corridor are needed. (Ref Sec. 13a, 1968 WS&R Act.)
- R&S-6 At each designated public use and river access site, regulations pertaining to land and water use, and hazards relating to user safety on land and on water, will be available to the public.
- R&S-7 Work with the State, County, Coast Guard, and river guides associations to develop uniform safety standards for the classified rivers. Such standards to become a part of each commercial special use permit. Authorities to enforce Federal navigation laws will be retained by the Coast Guard and appropriate counties.
- R&S-8 No permit for non-commercial use be required at the present time. The future need for permits will be re-evaluated at each update of this plan using monitoring and research data.
- R&S-9 Public overnight and day use of the lands along the Skagit System will be promoted in designated areas or sites only. Such sites will be identified through clauses in appropriate Special Use Permits, by signs, and also by identification in brochures, or on maps. The Washington State Department of Game and the Nature Conservancy have prohibited beaching of water-borne craft within the Bald Eagle Natural Area.

* The National Forest award procedure for Outfitter/Guide permits at publication was in the review process. The final approved document will be used in issuing permits on the Skagit W&SR System. (FSM 2721)

R&S-10 Study the four rivers to determine recreational demand, user conflict, resource capabilities, and compatibility of use. From these studies determine optimum levels of use consistent with planned experience levels and the preservation of river values. Systems such as voluntary visitor registration or, automatic photography and actual on site surveys should be considered for use. (See Recreation, Vol II, R&S-1, page 17.)

For existing conflict resolution criteria see Vol II, Rec., R&S-2, R&S-3, pg. 17, R&S-12, pg. 18, S-20, pg. 20; Motorized use, R&S-1, pg. 45; Visitor use, R&S 11, pg. 47, R-14, pg. 48, S-18, pg. 48; Wildlife, R&S-1, R&S-5, R&S-7, pg. 50; Fisheries, R&S-3, pg. 53; Research R&S-1, pg. 59

R&S-11 Monitor all water surface use to measure actual rates of use between commercial and non-commercial use, types of activity, volume of use and resource damage. Adjust use to meet optimum levels of use determined in this plan and through R&S-10 above.

R&S-12 During the summer season no more than twenty percent of the available user days will be allotted for any one month period. (See 12-14, S-18 and S-22)

Skagit River

R-13 Initially, the Skagit River surface use should be managed as three (3) segments. Those segments will be:

- a. Bacon Creek to Rockport (upper segment).
- b. Rockport to Pressentin Creek (middle segment).
- c. Pressentin Creek to Sedro Woolley (lower segment).

R-14 With the acquisition of required public access and development of needed basic facilities, the following calculation of capacity for surface use (user day) could be acceptable, it is the optimum recreation carrying capacity for the Skagit River. *

(NOTE: The term "user day" is more appropriate than visitor day. A "user day" describes one trip on a river by one person during the period of one day.)

Summer Season (April through September):

<u>Segment</u>	<u>Commercial Use</u>	<u>User Days</u>	
		<u>Non Commercial Use (Unregulated)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Upper Skagit	2,800	5,200	8,000
Middle Skagit	2,800	5,200	8,000
Lower Skagit	1,600	3,000	4,600
Total	7,200	13,400	20,600

(Winter Season, October through March):

An arbitrary commercial use figure of 6,000 user days has been assigned to the Skagit with no more than 20 percent to be used in any one month. These figure will be adjusted to fit actual needs, as identified by research and monitoring use.

* Calculations for Carrying Capacity - Appendix I, Volume I, Page A-144.

- R-15 The Forest Service, in coordination with other concerned groups, shall annually monitor use on the river section between Marblemount and Rockport during the period of October through March. If the monitoring or other studies (See Wildlife section) identify adverse impacts upon the bald eagle associated with use, the optimum recreation carrying capacity of the river will be adjusted to accommodate eagles.
- S-16 With the acquisition of required public access and development of needed basic facilities, the following calculation of capacity for experienced white water rafters and kayakers could be acceptable, it is the optimum recreation carrying capacity for the Suiattle and Sauk rivers.

Sauk River

- S-17 Initially, the Sauk River surface use should be managed in four (4) segments. Those segments will be:
- a. Bedal Campground to the White Chuck.
 - b. White Chuck to Bachman County Park (upper segment).
 - c. Bachman County Park to the mouth of the Suiattle River (middle segment).
 - d. Mouth of the Suiattle River to the mouth of the Sauk at the Skagit River (lower segment).

As experience and additional resource information indicates, the number and length of sections may be altered.

- S-18 The optimum recreation carrying capacity for each of the above segments has been calculated at: *

Summer Season (April through September):

<u>Segment</u>	<u>Commercial Use</u>	<u>User Days</u>	
		<u>Non Commercial Use (Unregulated)</u>	<u>Total</u>
a. Bedal/White Chuck	1,840	2,760	4,600
b. White Chuck/Bachman	3,000	1,600	4,600
c. Bachman/Suiattle	2,700	4,100	6,800
d. Suiattle/Skagit	2,400	4,400	6,800
Total	9,940	12,860	22,800

Winter Season (October through March)

An arbitrary commercial use figure of 900 user days has been assigned to the Sauk River. This figure will be adjusted to fit actual needs, as identified by research and monitoring use.

- S-19 In coordination with the Washington State Departments of Fisheries and Game, annually monitor use on the Sauk river to identify impacts upon spawning and spawning beds by river users. If monitoring or research identify adverse impacts, measures will be taken to decrease these impacts.

* Calculations for Carrying Capacity - Appendix I, Volume I, page A-144.

Suiattle River

- S-20 Initially, the Suiattle River will be managed as two (2) segments:
- Above Boundary Bridge (upper segment).
 - Below Boundary Bridge (lower segment).

S-21 The optimum recreation carrying capacity for each of the two segments has been calculated at: *

Summer Season (April through September):

<u>Segment</u>	<u>Commercial Use</u>	<u>User Days</u>	
		<u>Non Commercial Use (Unregulated)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Upper Suiattle	2,300	2,300	4,600
Lower Suiattle	3,000	1,600	4,600
Total	5,300	3,900	9,200

Winter Season (October through March)

An arbitrary commercial use figure of 900 user days has been assigned to the Suiattle. This figure will be adjusted to fit actual needs, as identified by research and monitoring use.

Cascade River

- S-22 No commercial use be allowed on the Cascade River until the segment between Mineral Park and Cascade Island Campground is inventoried as to rating and carrying capacity.

* Calculations for Carrying Capacity are in Appendix I, Volume I.