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NEW BAKER LAKE TO BE CENTER OF LARGE RECREATIONAL AREA

During the past week water of the new Baker Dam began to raise the level of old Baker Lake, thereby starting the process in which all old familiar landmarks will soon be deep beneath the waters of a new and larger lake. The area has been logged off and cleared until there are few recognizable spots, the most notable one being the old fish hatchery grounds. Here the waters will rise over a most familiar spot for campers, and one not too much changed.

The old Bagnell camp across the lake, however, the spot looks little like it was known by so many thousands of visitors who have camped there over the years. All that remains are three of the original cabins, including the old Ruth homestead house and these will soon be demolished.

New Camps To Be Built

To take the place of the favorite camps of past years Stone & Webster is building a new one at Park Creek. There is now a road into the area, and work is going on with clearing of camp sites, etc. Three wells have been sunk and toilet facilities are being provided.

The camp will have no kitchen, but will have fifteen camp units that will include stoves, tables, etc. Extra units were added in lieu of a community kitchen.

The three wells will be of the hand pump variety. It was found unfeasible to set up a gravity water system because of distance from good running water.

Other camps are planned along the road in addition to the present forest camps at Boulder Creek and Morovitz. A small camp is now in use at upper Park Creek.

All camps on the lake side will have boat access landings. In all there will be seven or eight roads leading to the lake upon which the boat enthusiasts may get there craft to water.

In the program of setting up a recreation plan for the new Baker lake, the public camps will be of first consideration. After these are developed to fill the needs, next consideration will be given to organization camps. Last in line will be areas for private homes on government leases.

Ranger Barber stated that in his opinion it will be about a year before areas are allocated for cabins. He said that letters are already coming in applying for sites, but that nothing would be done on them this year. No sites will be on lake shore, although the plan is to have them as near the lake as possible. Boat access and other facilities will be of a public nature.

Roads Will Form Loop

Present plans are to build a forest road completely around the new lake. This will be accomplished by using the roadway on top of the new dam, a new bridge on the upper Baker river, and a system of roads on the east side of the lake.

Road surveys are now being prepared for a route that will cross the top of the dam,

go up Anderson Creek way to the vicinity of Lily Pad Lake, then cross towards Ermine Creek and down Noisy Creek to meet the upper Baker road. The road would be for logging and in addition would open the beautiful Anderson and Watson Lake meadows, which are just a short distance from Lily Pad Lake.

Other forest roads will tap the Schreiber Meadows and Mazama Park and the South Fork of the Nooksack through Wanlick Pass. The Shuksan road will cut distance to Shuksan Lake and Lake Ann for hikers on the upper Baker. Marten Lake will be made accessible on the Shular timber road now under construction in the Swift Creek area.

Whatever the havoc wrought by building the dam and clearing away virgin forests, the replacement will come in the way of a huge lake, plus all the mountain recreation. The possibilities have yet to be completely explored as the entire country is ideal for horseback trips, boating, hunting, winter sports and fishing.

Even the hot springs above the old Morovitz place took on a new appearance. The old, rotten crib has been replaced with a new cedar lining.