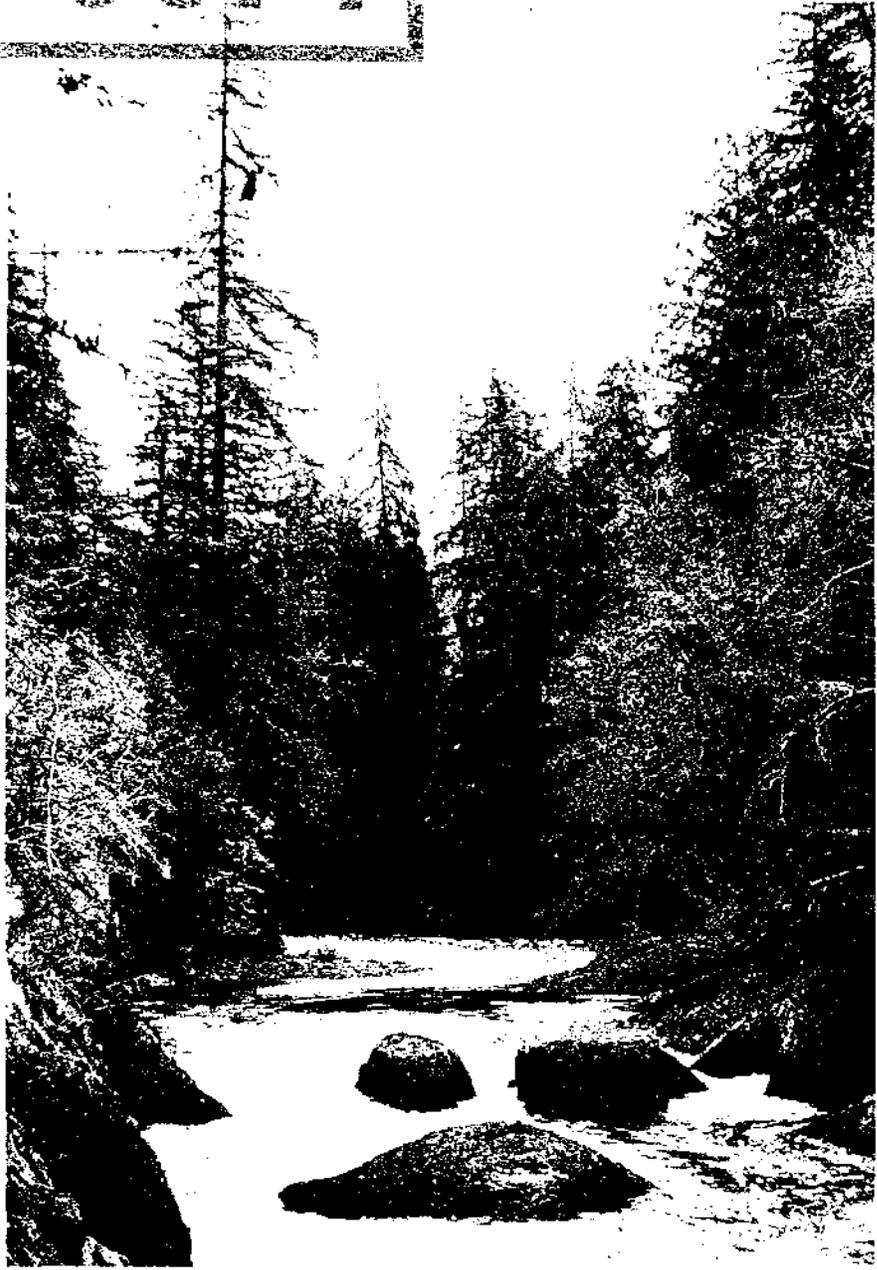


Kate's Copy  
LOAN COPY

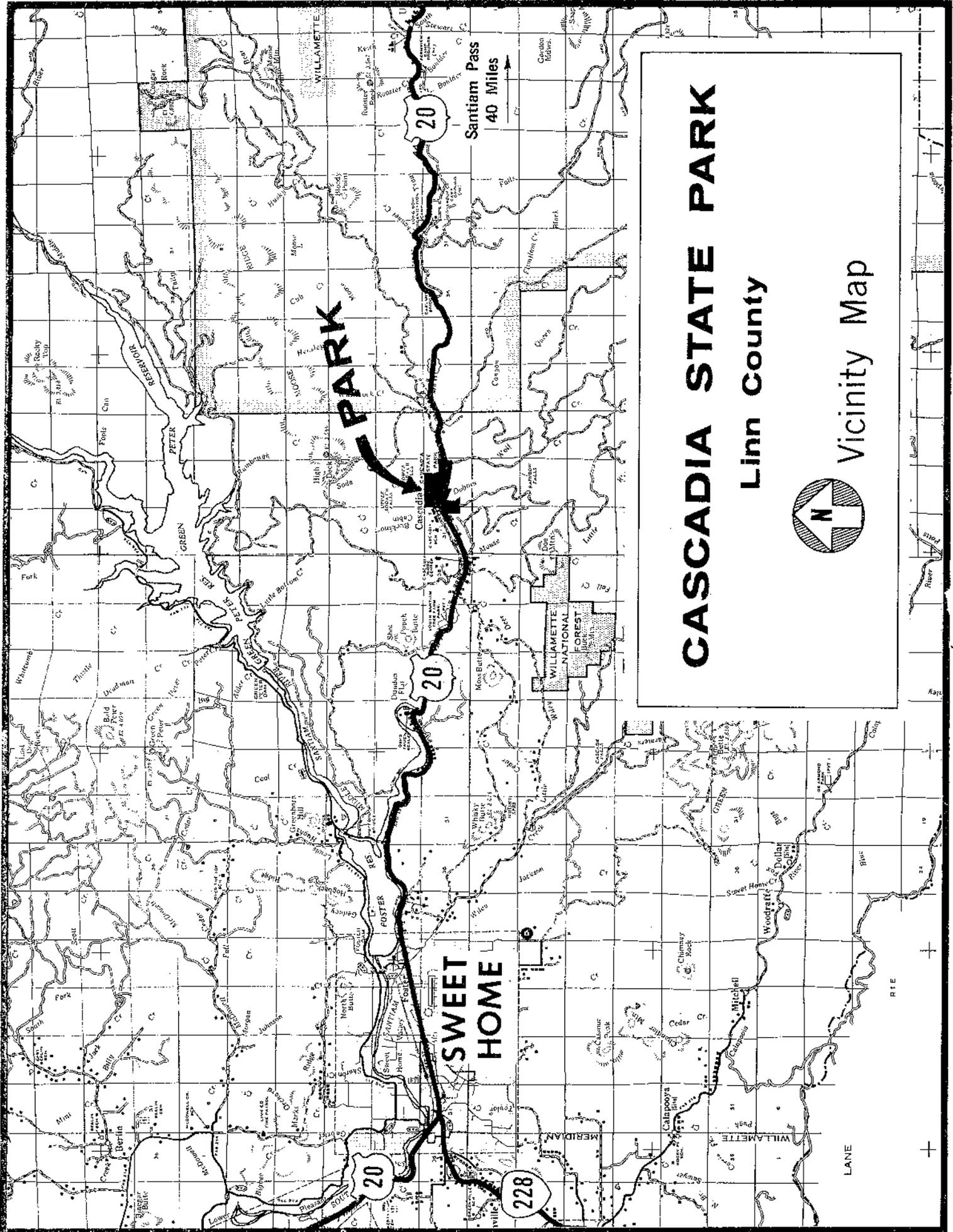
# MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

FILE COPY

RETURN TO  
PARKS DESIGN,  
ENGINEERING UNIT

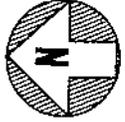


## CASCADIA STATE PARK



# CASCADIA STATE PARK

Linn County



Vicinity Map

# MASTER PLAN CONTENTS

## PARK PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

## PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS

- Citizen and Agency Comments
- Project Impacts
- Other Nearby Parks
- Areas of Concern
- Areas of Concern Map
- Important Park Management Goals

## SITE EVALUATION

- Protection Needs.....Vegetation  
Wildlife  
Scenic  
Historic
- Development Restrictions.....Topography  
Soils and Drainage  
Access and Utilities  
Critical Problems
- Composite.....Protection Needs and  
Development Restrictions
- Recreation Use Potentials.....Public Use Preferences  
Recreation Activities

## LAND USE PROPOSALS

- Land Use Map
- Land Use Proposals
- Compatible Land Uses

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- Master Development Plan
- Proposed Developments
- Attendance Estimate
- Development Priorities and  
Estimated Costs

# *INTRODUCTION*

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance information to Parks personnel, administrators, and the general public regarding the major resource attractions and recreation development opportunities which are available at the park site.

The site evaluations, land use proposals, and development plan presented here have been developed by the professional staff of the State Parks and Recreation Branch after extensive contacts with other public resource agencies and individuals. The proposals indicate the resource attractions most vital to protect and the sites where developments present the fewest conflicts with site considerations.

The master plan is intended to have flexibility and should be continuously revised as new information dictates. Recommendations from individuals and groups are solicited which may provide for public interest improvements in the over-all plan.

November 1974

# *PARK PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION*

## PURPOSE OF THE PARK

Cascadia State Park provides day-use and camping opportunities along a highly scenic stretch of the South Santiam River. The park is extremely popular with residents of nearby Willamette Valley communities who use the park extensively for family and group visits.

## THE SITE

Cascadia State Park is located on the South Santiam Highway (U.S. 20), about 14 miles east of Sweet Home in Linn County. The South Santiam River and the highway parallel each other as they bisect the park property. Presently, all park developments are located north of the highway on the river's north shore.

This 258-acre site is heavily forested except for approximately 25 acres of meadow land on the north bank of the river.

Douglas fir is the site's principal tree species.

## BASIC ATTRACTIONS

Natural attractions of this riverside park are numerous. Towering fir trees that shelter much of the site provide attractive settings for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits, including camping and picnicking.

The famous Cascadia Mineral Springs that has lured visitors for nearly a century is still a major park attraction.

More than a mile of South Santiam River shoreline provides park visitors with ample opportunities to view the river's scenic gorge with its water-sculptured rock formations and bordering vegetation.

Before the advent of the automobile, Cascadia was a major stop along the



Cascadia Mineral Springs. Water from these springs has been a primary attraction for nearly a century.

### Basic Attractions (Cont.)

Willamette Valley-Cascade Mountain Wagon Road. This historic road brought visitors from throughout the Willamette Valley to the Cascadia area where they could enjoy the out-of-doors and partake of the "medicinal" mineral water that popularized the site. A spur of the old wagon road is still visible within the park.

### RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The park's ideal combination of attractive vegetation, open meadows, and water interests make it a favorite site for outdoor recreation.

The most popular activity at Cascadia is group and family picnicking. Other activities enjoyed include camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, nature study, drinking the bubbly mineral water, and spontaneous play in the open meadow areas.

Interpretation of the area's historical elements (i.e. Mineral Springs, Guisendorfer Hotel, wagon road, Indian Cave) would greatly enhance this field of interest.

### DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Vertical cliffs skirting much of the South Santiam Gorge and steep slopes along the park's northern boundary are major terrain-associated development problems. Wet soil conditions along the toe of the park's south-facing slope is another important development consideration that may influence the location of septic drain fields as well as surface structures.

Water is obtained from a spring located beyond the park's northern boundary, where it is diverted to a 1,000-gallon storage tank within the park. Electricity is readily available within the park, and sewage is handled by a drain field system. Roads and trails provide convenient access to most sections of the park.



A section of the old 19th Century wagon road can still be detected at this location in the east side day use area.

## ***CITIZEN AND AGENCY COMMENTS'***

State Wildlife Commission fish and wildlife experts recommended the preservation of important bandtail pigeon feeding areas within the park.

The removal of decaying stumps, fallen trees and snags should be held to a minimum, as these are important feeding and nesting sites for cavity nesting birds (e.g. Pileated Woodpecker).

---

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments gave unanimous approval to proposed construction of a new restroom facility and parking lot re-design and enlargement at the park's eastside day-use area.

---

Recreation trail experts of the State Parks Branch have recommended purchase of the scenic Soda Creek trail corridor and Lower Falls for addition to the park.

---

The State Parks Historian in concert with the State Parks Interpretive Specialist have recommended purchase or scenic easement of Cascadia Cave (Indian Cave) and its trail connection to the park.

According to these experts, attractions in the park vicinity with historical and archeological interpretive values include:

1. The Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Wagon Road
  2. Cascadia Mineral Springs
  3. Cascadia Cave (Indian Cave)
- 

The superintendent of Parks and Recreation for Linn County has endorsed proposed park improvements (restroom construction and parking re-design and lot enlargement).

The park manager at Cascadia State Park has urged the provision of rustic play equipment such as that constructed recently at Fort Stevens State Park.

---

The Regional Parks Supervisor (Park Region II) has recommended relocation of the park maintenance shed and manager's residence to the gravel dump area on the south side of Highway 20.

---

Numerous verbal and written recommendations have been received from the general public urging purchase of the Cascadia Cave and Lower Soda Falls areas for addition to Cascadia State Park.

---

An open meeting to solicit public opinion was held on Tuesday, January 21, 1975 in Sweet Home.

Approximately 40 persons were in attendance. Public and private agencies represented included:

Willamette Industries  
Timber Service Company  
U.S. Forest Service  
Linn County Parks  
Sweet Home East Linn Chamber  
of Commerce  
KFIR Radio  
Aero Radio Missions, Inc.

Meeting participants expressed nearly unanimous approval of The Preliminary Master Plan for Cascadia State Park.

## *PROJECT IMPACTS*

Camping, picnicking, and related outdoor activities are long-established uses of the Cascadia site, dating back to the late decades of the 1800's.

Apparently, few conflicts with adjoining ownerships or area interests have been experienced over the past years. The proposed improvements will not significantly alter existing use patterns or adversely effect the long-standing, good-neighbor role of the park in this region.

## ***OTHER AREA PARKS***

Public parks within a 15-mile radius of Cascadia State Park serving regional recreation needs include the following areas:

<u>Park</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Dogwood Park (BLM)	--	Off U.S. 20, 24 miles northeast of Foster	Picnicking
Fernview (FS)	--	Off U.S. 20, 11 miles east of Cascadia	Camping Picnicking Fishing Hunting Swimming
Gedney Creek Boat Landing (LC)	--	Off U.S. 20, 2 miles northeast of Foster	Boat Launching Fishing Water Sports
Lewis Creek Park (LC)	40	Off U.S. 20, 4 miles northeast of Foster	Picnicking Fishing Swimming Water Sports
Long Bow (FS)	--	Off U.S. 20, 7 miles east of Cascadia	Organization Camp By reservation only
McDowell Creek Falls Park (LC)	59	Off U.S. 20, 16 miles southeast of Lebanon	Picnicking Fishing Scenery
Sunnyside Park (LC)	70	Off U.S. 20, 5 miles northeast of Foster	Camping Picnicking
Thistle Creek Boat Ramp (LC)	10	Off U.S. 20, 14 miles northeast of Foster	Boat Launching Fishing Water Sports
Trout Creek Park (FS)	--	Off U.S. 20, 9 miles east of Cascadia	Camping Picnicking Fishing Hunting Swimming

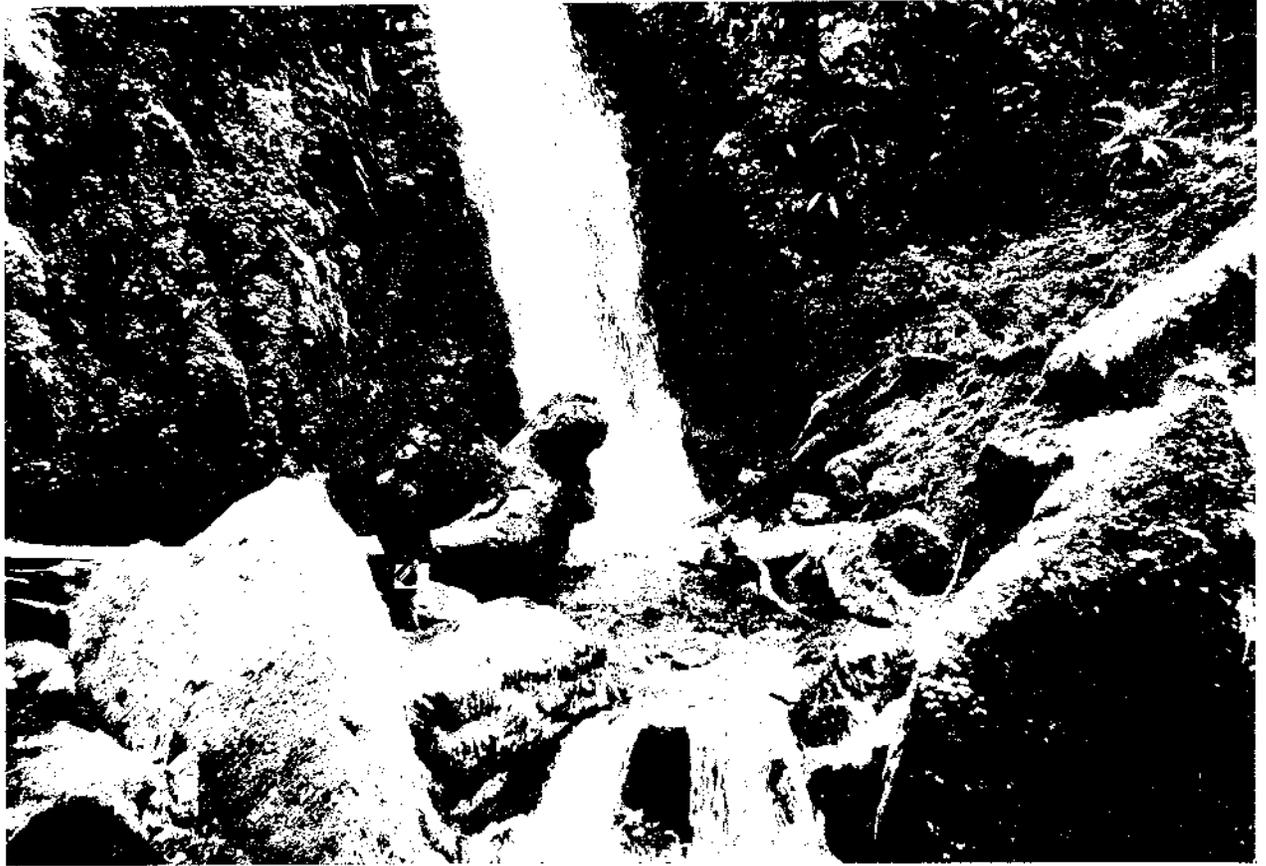
Cont.

<u>Park</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Whitcomb Creek Park (LC)	55	Off U.S. 20, 15 miles northeast of Foster	Camping Picnicking Fishing Water Sports
South Santiam Park (PC)	--	Off U.S. 20, 3 miles west of Cascadia	Picnicking Fishing

Other points of interest in the Cascadia State Park area include the South Santiam Fish Hatchery, 2 miles northwest of Foster, and Short's Covered Bridge, 1 and 1/2-miles west of Cascadia.

---

AGENCY: BLM -- Bureau of Land Management  
FS -- Forest Service  
LC -- Linn County  
PC -- Private Corporation



View at the base of spectacular Lower Soda Falls.

## *AREAS OF CONCERN*

Areas of Concern are non-park properties where adverse land use development would have significant negative impact on park values. These areas generally lie adjacent to or are within close excursion range of park boundaries.

Areas of Concern at Cascadia State Park include the following:

- I. Lower Soda Falls and Trail Corridor
- II. Cascadia Cave (Indian Cave) and Trail Corridor
- III. Cabin Creek Parcel
- IV. Dobbin Creek Parcel
- V. Short's Covered Bridge

I. Lower Soda Falls is located approximately 3/4-mile above the park's northern boundary on Soda Creek. A highly-scenic trail corridor skirting the right bank of Soda Creek provides access to the falls from the park. This beautiful 50-acre tract is scheduled for logging in the near future and is currently being surveyed for road access. Acquisition of this parcel for addition to Cascadia State Park would preserve this uniquely beautiful resource for the people of Oregon, and would greatly expand the park's scenic and recreational appeal. Preliminary negotiations for this parcel are currently underway.

II. Cascadia Cave is located near the north bank of the South Santiam River approximately 1/2-mile beyond the park's eastern boundary. The cave is well-known locally for the ancient Indian petroglyphs that distinguish its walls. Artifacts and animal remains excavated from this site date back as far



Short's Covered Bridge. Preserved and maintained by Linn County.

as 8,000 years.

This site is also threatened by clear-cut logging in the near future. To preserve this valuable resource, a protective zone encompassing the cave area should be established. A 300' wide buffer strip extending from the park's eastern boundary to the cave is also desirable to preserve this scenic approach. Purchase of subject property is apparently not an alternative at present; however, negotiations with the landowner may lead to a suitable arrangement for the protection and public enjoyment of the Cascadia Cave area.

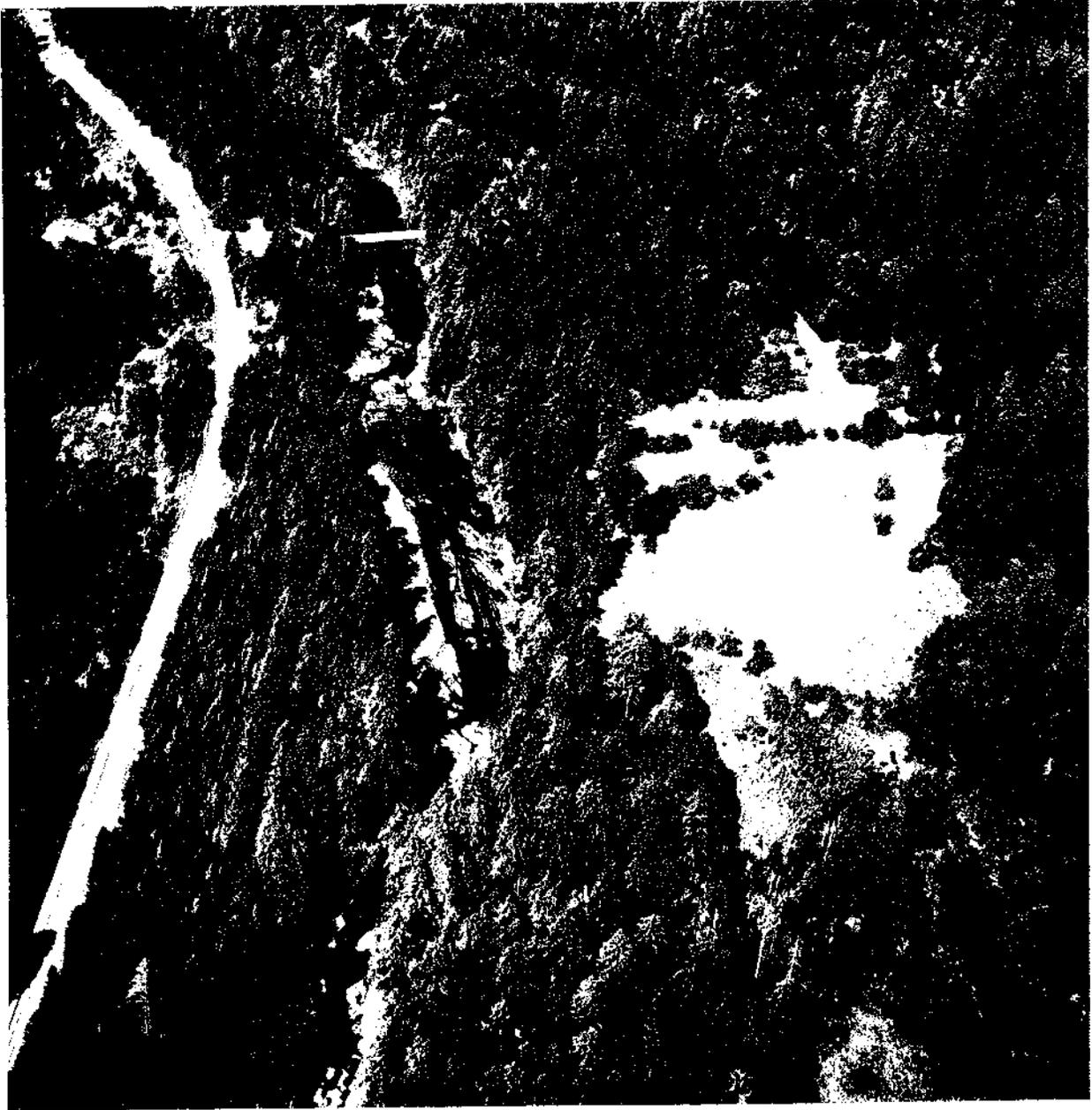
III. The Cabin Creek parcel is a 400' strip of property that encompasses the lower reaches of Cabin Creek and parallels the park's western boundary. This parcel comprises approximately 14 acres.

Purchase of this land would provide needed buffer and expansion space adjacent to the existing picnic and overnight camp areas. Presently, park developments along this western boundary are without sufficient buffer space and might be adversely effected by future adjacent developments.

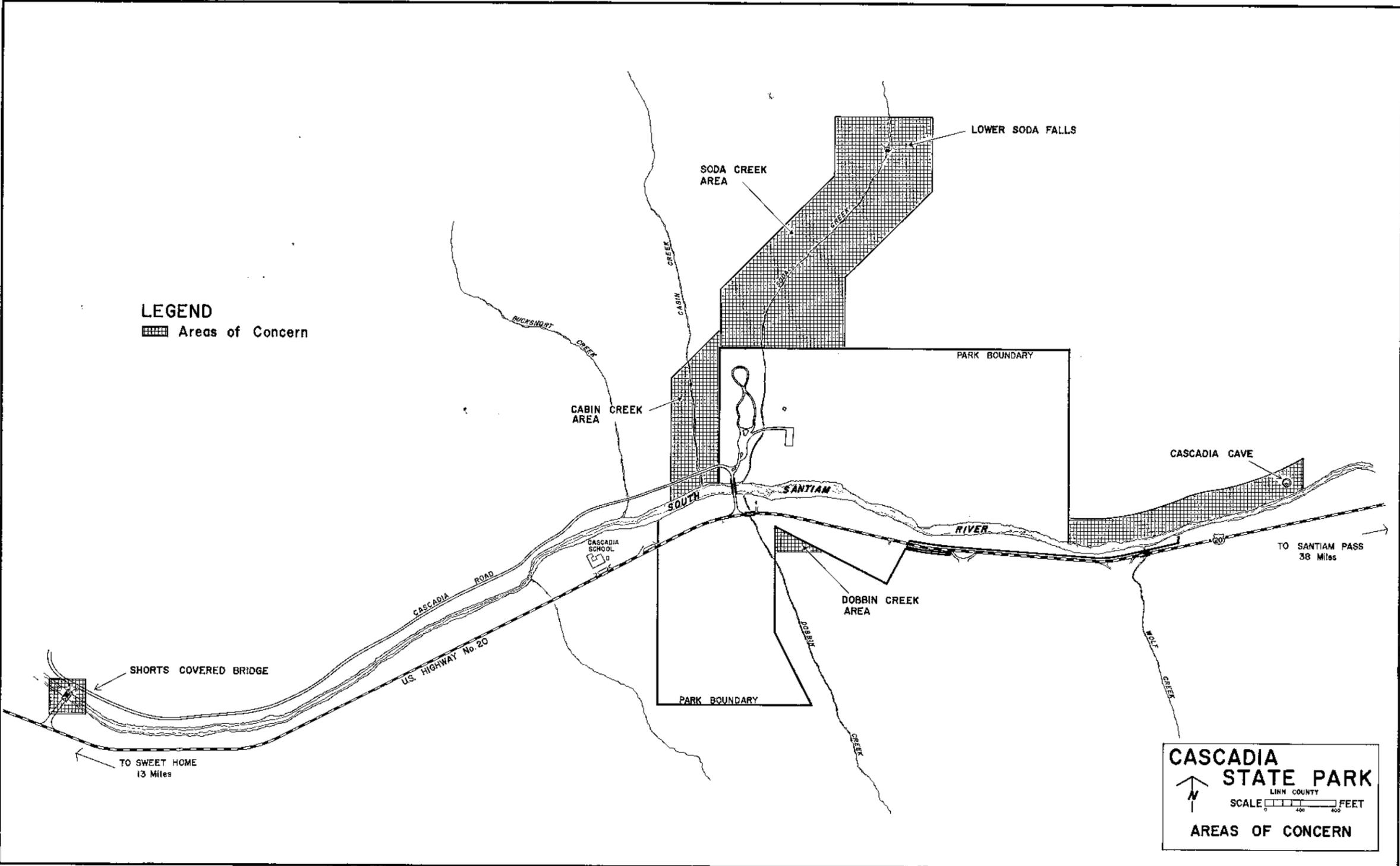
IV. The Dobbins Creek parcel is a small area located on the south side of the Santiam River. This parcel is bounded on the west and north by park properties and encompasses a small stretch of Dobbins Creek. The entire site comprises approximately one acre of land. This area is of concern because park ownership is very narrow at this location and possible private development could adversely effect the park's scenic integrity.

V. Short's Covered Bridge spans the South Santiam River at a point one and one-half miles west of the park. The bridge is owned and maintained by Linn County and is a popular attraction. This fine old structure is taking on important historical significance as bridges of its type become less common throughout the state.

*PARK PURPOSE &  
DESCRIPTION*



Aerial view looking west showing relationships between U.S. Highway 20, the South Santiam River, the park entrance bridge, and the developed north side of the park.



*PUBLIC INTEREST*

*CONSIDERATIONS*

## ***RECREATION USE POTENTIALS***

### ***RECREATION ACTIVITIES***

#### Picnicking

Family and organized group picnicking are the most popular activities at Cascadia State Park. The site is especially popular with Willamette Valley residents seeking respite from hot summer temperatures in the park's cool, tree-shaded picnic grounds. On popular summer weekends and holidays, intensive group use of picnic sites and overflow parking at designated locations is the rule.

Proposed day-use area improvements include the replacement of an obsolete restroom building, the addition of several large picnic shelters, and the re-design and enlargement of an existing paved parking lot. These projects will help the park to accommodate more adequately existing, as well as future, public use needs.

A small, primitive hike-in picnic area is proposed for development along the South Santiam River trail 1/2-mile east of Soda Creek. This site will provide trail users with an added destination interest.

#### Historical Interpretation

Factors suitable for historical interpretation at Cascadia State Park include the Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Wagon Road, Cascadia Mineral Springs, and the Guisendorfer Hotel site. Interpretive signing of these various historic interests within the park would enhance significantly this area of recreational interest.

Nearby areas of historical and archeological interest include Short's Covered Bridge and Cascadia Cave. Short's Covered Bridge is located one and one-half miles west of the park where it spans the South Santiam River link-



Group use of picnicking areas is common at Cascadia.

### Historical Interpretation (Cont.)

ing U.S. 20 with Cascadia Road. This fine old bridge is a favorite attraction in the area and is gaining additional importance as structures of its kind dwindle in numbers.

Cascadia Cave is located on private property just beyond the park's east boundary, and is known for the ancient Indian petroglyphs that distinguish its walls. The site is easily accessed from the park by trail and is visited frequently by park users.

### Camping

Overnight camping is a primary attraction of the Santiam River region. Numerous Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, county, and private campgrounds are located within 20 miles of Cascadia State Park.

At Cascadia there are presently 23 unimproved campsites. These units receive moderate seasonal pressures. Because of space limitations and the availability of overnight facilities in the general park region, enlargement of existing camp facilities at the park is not proposed. However, a small, primitive hike-in camp is considered for development near the South Santiam River trail for those recreationists seeking a more primitive camping experience.

### Nature Study

Cascadia State Park provides ample opportunities for studying regional flora and fauna. The park has been utilized frequently in the past as an outdoor laboratory for college students.

Of special interest is the effect of varying topography and soil and drainage conditions on vegetation types and compositions within the park. The steep southern slope, the flat river terrace, and the several creek drainages provide a variety of soil and growing conditions favorable to a wide spectrum of vegetation types.



Paths to walk and the natural environment to enjoy.

### Nature Study (Cont.)

For bird-watching enthusiasts, there are numerous cavity nesting species inhabiting the park's many snags and rotting stumps. The Pileated woodpecker is one of the more colorful varieties. The Bandtail pigeon visits the park in large numbers during the late summer and early fall to feed on the fruits of wild cherry and cascara.

The marsh/meadow area skirting the toe of the park's south slope is an important habitat for deer, furbearers, reptiles, and amphibians.

A privately owned section of Soda Creek Canyon which lies above the park's overnight camp, contains perhaps the most extensive combination of nature study interests in the park vicinity. This highly scenic area attracts large numbers of persons annually who seek to view Lower Soda Falls and enjoy an area of relatively undisturbed character.

### Trails

A system of trails is needed throughout the park to fulfill hiking, nature study, sight seeing, and geologic and historical interpretation interests. These trails will be designed to give the visitor a variety of recreation experiences and access to key areas of the park.

Soda Creek trail is a well-trod route paralleling Soda Creek and leading from the park's northern boundary to the foot of scenic Lower Soda Falls. The falls and most of the 3/4-mile trail is located on private property. The trail corridor (approximately 50 acres), inclusive of Lower Soda Falls, is recommended for addition to Cascadia State Park.

The South Santiam River trail is the park's most popular trail route. This trail guides hikers along the river's north bank from the east day-use area to Cascade Cave and beyond. Groves of old-growth Douglas fir, lush riverbank vegetation, views of the water-sculptured river gorge, and Cascadia Cave are some of the major attractions along this 1-1/4-mile trail.



Fishing the clear waters of the South Santiam River.

### Trails (Cont.)

A trail providing access to the park's heavily timbered northern boundary is proposed. This route will begin near Soda Creek and traverse easterly to the White Oak Natural Area where it will switch back down to the Santiam River trail. The trail will be intersected at approximately the mid-point by a trail leading up from the hike-in camp situated below near the river. This network will provide several trail route alternatives for hiking enthusiasts. Attractions along the north side trail include giant trees, lush understory vegetation, and interesting geologic formations.

### Fishing

Angling is a popular park activity. Deep, rocky pools east of the park bridge receive the heaviest fishing pressures. The Oregon State Wildlife Commission releases legal-size hatchling trout both above and below the park on an annual basis to enhance fishing productivity. Fish native to these waters include at least three species of trout, modest runs of Chinook and Silver salmon, steelhead, and other forms usually classed as "trash fish."

# LAND USE PROPOSALS

<u>LAND USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>% OF PARK</u>
<u>Primary Resources</u>		
Scenic Protection Zones	45	
Buffer Zones	3	
Historic Areas	<u>2</u>	
	50	19
<u>Secondary Resources</u>		
Forested Areas	130	
Meadow Areas	25	
Highway Corridor Parcels	<u>26</u>	
	181	71
<u>Major Developments</u>		
Day-use Areas	13	
Overnight Camp	9	
Service Areas and Manager's Residence	<u>2</u>	
	24	9
<u>Minor Developments</u>		
Hike-in Picnic Area	1	
Hike-in Camp	<u>2</u>	
	3	1
TOTAL	258	100

# COMPATIBLE LAND USES

<u>Land Use Category</u>	<u>Primary Land Use Values and Functions</u>	<u>Compatible Recreation Activities &amp; Developments</u>
<b>PRIMARY RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>	Vital park attractions, outstanding scenic features, major fish and wildlife habitats, historic and archaeological sites, unique ecological areas to be retained as natural park attractions for public inspiration, enjoyment, and scientific values.	Foot trail access, simple interpretive devices, viewing structures, passive water activities, limited recreation uses which have little impact on land sources.
<b>SECONDARY RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>	Secondary park attractions, watershed control, stabilization control, open space and buffer zones, general scenic control valuable for protection of water and vegetative resources, and area aesthetics; or as secondary park interests.	Bicycle, horse, and foot trails, minor roads, underground utilities, water features, and landscape enhancements which have minor effect upon the landscape management goals. These lands also provide for future land use flexibility.
<b>MAJOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	Major vehicle access roads and parking, vehicular campgrounds, service areas, marinas, intensive use areas, play areas, or extensive man-made alterations to develop facilities for active recreation and full recreational utilization of park high density use areas.	Paved road systems and parking areas, intensive camp and picnic facilities, swimming facilities, utilities, beach improvements, play areas, major building areas which may have heavy impacts or major modification of land resources.
<b>MINOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	Limited use pedestrian, picnic, and day use sites, hike-in camps, and minor boating facilities for low density or passive recreation activities oriented to natural resource areas.	Bicycle, horse, and foot trails, primitive camping, dispersed picnic facilities, boat landing docks, etc., which have low to moderate impact on the resource.

# *PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS*

There are five major developments proposed at Cascadia State Park. The following information is intended to explain the reasoning behind these proposals.

The five major developments include the following:

- I. Restroom replacement (east-side day-use area)
- II. Parking lot re-design and enlargement (east-side day-use area)
- III. Park manager's residence re-location
- IV. Park service yard re-location
- V. Construction of two large picnic shelters (east-side day-use area)

## I. Restroom replacement

A modern toilet building (Type 8) is proposed for the east-side day-use area. This facility will replace the old, deteriorated structure that now has become inadequate to serve public needs.

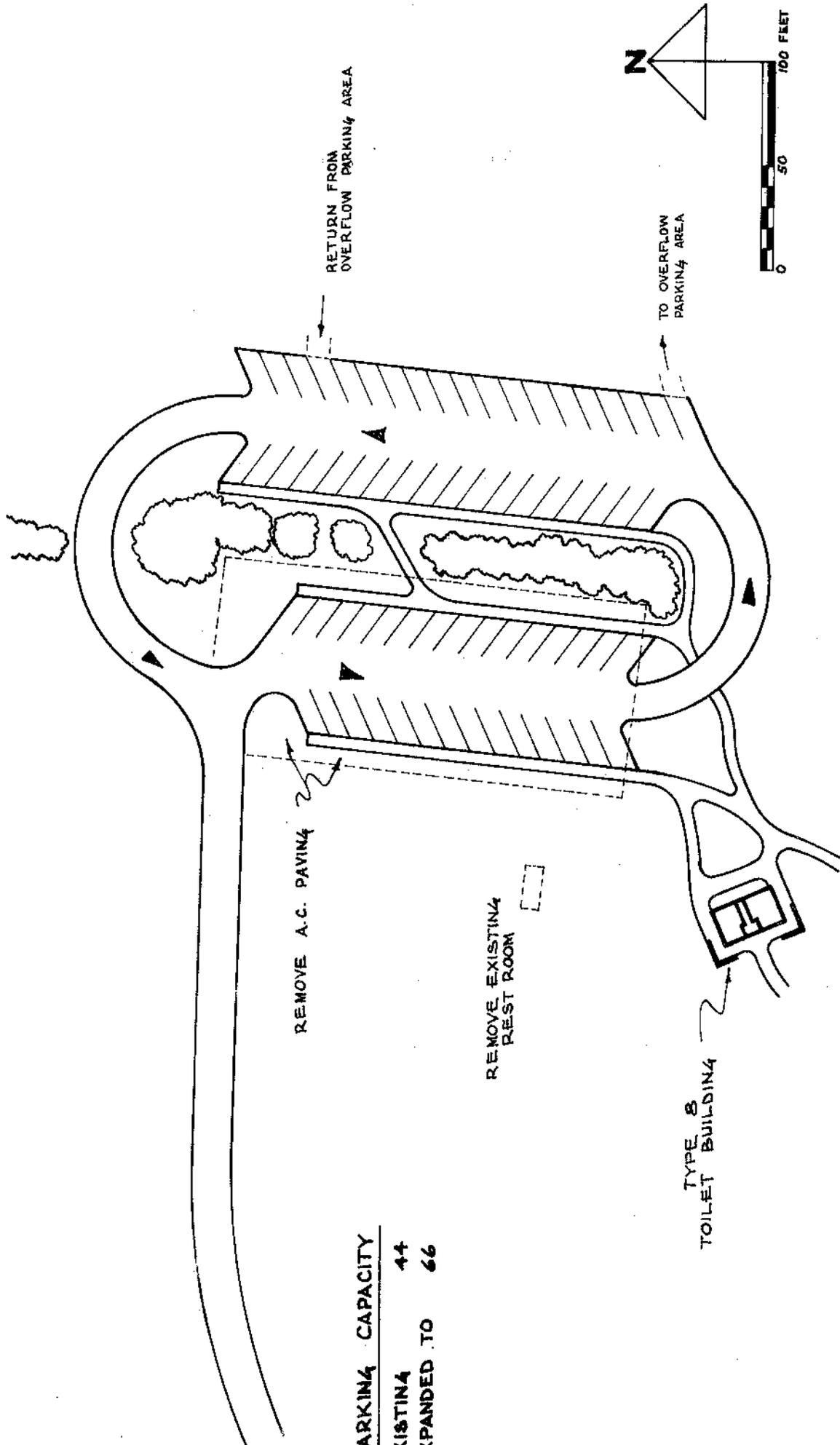
The new and larger building will be sited at a centralized location several yards south of the present structure, where it will be more convenient and adequate to serve the increased numbers of people using the park.

(See diagram on next page.)

## II. Parking lot re-design and enlargement

The proposed parking lot will improve traffic circulation, increase paved parking capacity by one-third, and add a landscaped island for shade trees.

The new arrangement will also provide separate entry and exit points



<u>PARKING CAPACITY</u>	
EXISTING	44
EXPANDED TO	66

# CASCADIA STATE PARK

DAY USE AREA DEVELOPMENT  
PARKING REVISION & EXPANSION  
CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET BUILDING

LINN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 1974

for overflow parking in the adjacent meadow area. This feature will improve traffic control during times of heavy peak use. (See diagram on opposite page.)

### III. Manager's residence re-location

This proposal calls for the removal of the trailer residence to the vicinity of the service yard site on the south side of Highway 20, east of the present location. (See Master Development Plan.)

Dense vegetation at the new site will also shield the residence from public view and minimize traffic noise from the nearby highway.

### IV. Service yard re-location

Removal of the present service yard to the gravel stockpile area (see Master Development Plan) will satisfy the following objectives.

1. will remove the service area from public view
2. will provide more space for service yard operations
3. will free the present site for public day-use area activities
4. will enhance service yard security by removing facilities and equipment to an area away from concentrated public use and near the park manager's residence

### V. Construction of two large picnic shelters

The proposed picnic shelters are intended to better serve group use of the east-side day-use area.

These structures will be situated to equalize picnic use pressures and minimize crowding during peak use periods.

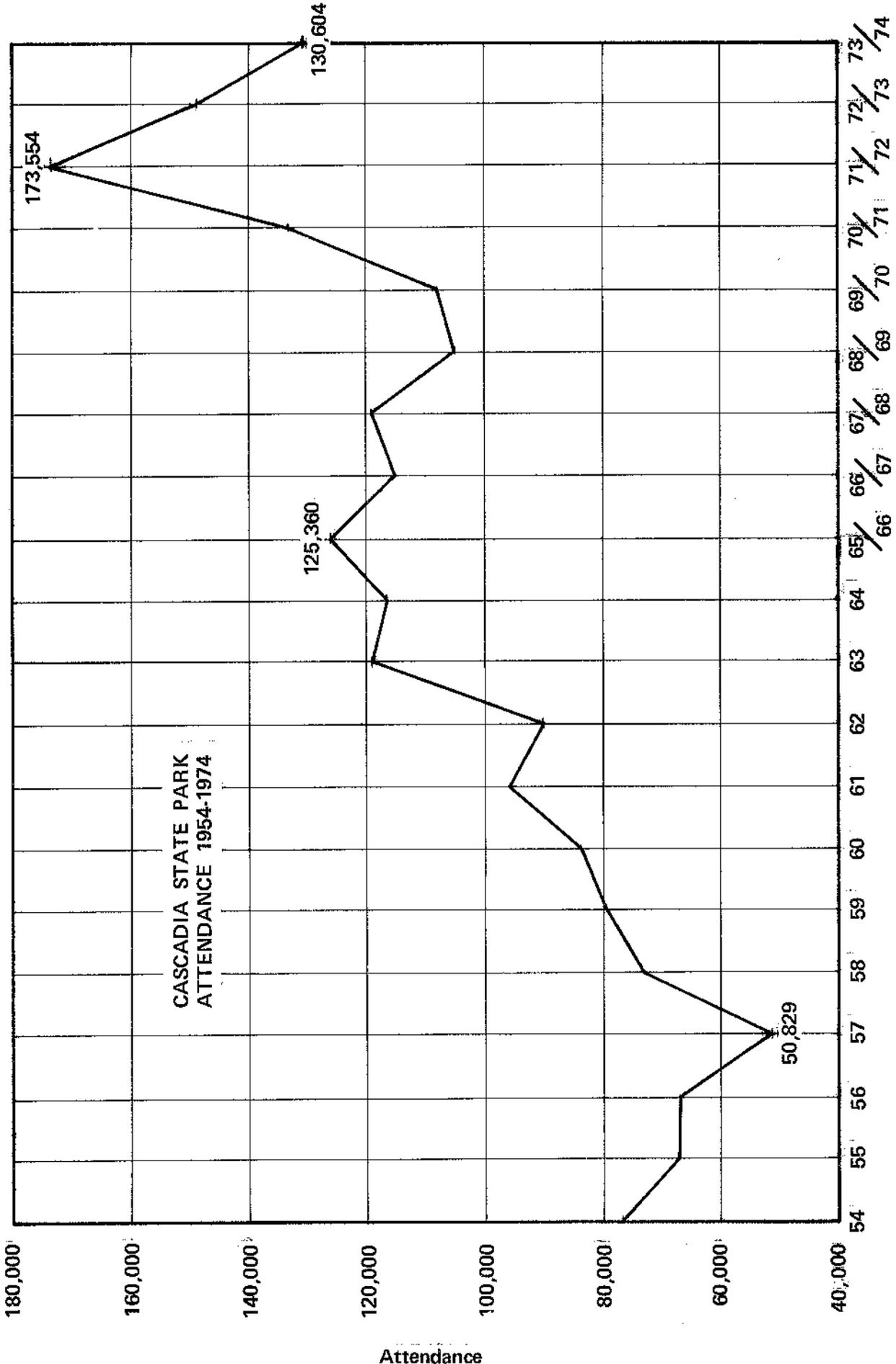
## *PROJECTED ATTENDANCE*

Day use attendance at Cascadia State Park has been on a generally upward gradient for the past 20 years (see attendance graph). Since 1954, the lowest attendance year was 1957, when 50,829 visitations were recorded. The highest attendance tally came during the 1971-72 year when 173,554 persons were counted. Average yearly attendance for the past 10 years (1964-1974) is 126,969 day visitors.

Based upon the attractions of proposed park improvements and additions, and the established growth trend, the following attendance is anticipated for 1990.

### By Recreation Activity

<u>Recreation Activity</u>	<u>Use Intensity</u>	<u>Recreation Units</u>	<u>Annual Users Per Unit</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Use</u>
Picnicking	Intensive	80	2,000	160,000
	Average	40	500	20,000
	Dispersed	10	100	1,000
Sightseeing	Dispersed	6 stalls	2,000	12,000
*Camping	Average	26	400	10,400
	Dispersed	5	200	1,000
Hiking	Average	4 mi.	3,000	12,000
Fishing	Average	2 mi.	2,000	4,000
Swimming	Dispersed	1	1,000	<u>1,000</u>
Total Day-Use Attendance				210,000
*Total Camping Attendance				11,400



Years

## *DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES & ESTIMATED COSTS*

<u>Initial Developments</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
1. Type 8 restroom	\$ 50,000
* { 2. Parking lot re-design and enlargement	35,000
3. Re-locate manager's residence (trailer) and service yard	20,000
4. Trail improvements and erosion control	2,000
5. North boundary trail (2 miles)	10,000
6. Replace timber rail fence along river in east day-use area	6,000
<u>Second Stage Developments</u>	
1. 2 large picnic shelters	\$ 50,000
2. 2 Soda Creek trail footbridges	6,000
3. River trail hike-in picnic area 10 units and pit toilets	7,500
4. Interpretive shelter and signing	5,000
5. Soda Creek trail improvement	2,500
<u>Long Range Developments</u>	
1. River trail hike-in camp 5 units and pit toilets	4,500
2. Water tank replacement (5,000-gallon redwood tank)	3,500
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$202,000

\*BOR monies totaling \$37,500 have been designated for partial funding of the restroom replacement and parking lot improvement projects.

## **RECREATION USE POTENTIALS**

### **PUBLIC USE PREFERENCES**

#### **\* RANKING OF ACTIVITIES**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Walking          | 6. Beach Activities |
| 2. Pleasure Driving | 7. Picnicking       |
| 3. Outdoor Games    | 8. Fishing          |
| 4. Bicycling        | 9. Horse Riding     |
| 5. Swimming         | 10. Camping         |

\* Ranking of activities for State Administrative District #4 (Lincoln, Linn, and Benton Counties). Area Activity Preference Survey, Unpublished survey data: Oregon State Highway Department, 1970.



Spontaneous play activity in the east side day use area.



# ***COMPOSITE***

## ***PROTECTION NEEDS***

## ***DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS***

A composite has been made of the preceeding maps showing the location of the most important Protection Needs (vegetation, wildlife, scenic, and historic) and the most adverse Development Restrictions (topography, access, utilities, soils and drainage, and critical problems).

The shaded portion of the following composite map shows the areas which present the combined aspects of needing the greatest protection of resource values and being the least suitable for major developments.

# ***IMPORTANT PARK MANAGEMENT GOALS***

1. Work closely with local citizens and government regarding mutual park use concerns.
2. Utilize the group picnic reservation system to help prevent overcrowding of the park. Reservations should be limited to the group picnic area capacity and scheduled for non-peak periods when possible.
3. Parking should be allowed only in paved or designated overflow parking areas to prevent overcrowding and loss of recreational values.
4. Appropriate interpretation of important interests within the park (e.g. mineral springs, wagon road) should be achieved.
5. Additional opportunities for public enjoyment of the hiking, fishing, and nature study interests at the park should be encouraged.
6. The general natural character of this park should be retained as opposed to further extensive expansion of developed areas.

## ***PROTECTION NEEDS***

### ***VEGETATION***

The park's principal tree species is the Douglas fir. Giant specimens of this noble tree with diameters exceeding six feet are numerous throughout the park. Old-growth western hemlock and western redcedar are also well represented. Evergreens less common include Pacific yew, golden chinkapin, and Pacific madrona.

Deciduous trees are well established along creek and riverbanks, skirting the margins of meadows, and in forest openings where the coniferous canopy allows sunlight to penetrate. Trees in this category include: bigleaf maple; vine maple; red alder; Oregon ash; black cottonwood; cascara; Pacific dogwood; wild cherry; California hazel; and white oak. Fruits of the wild cherry and cascara are an important food source for migratory bandtail pigeons that visit the park during the summer and early fall.

A rich mixture of shrubs and herbaceous plants constitute understory flora. Popular edible varieties include: red huckleberry; salmonberry; wild rose; wild strawberry; and trailing blackberry. The marginal areas between meadows and woods are especially rich in understory plants.

In the early days, several private dwellings and the Giesendorfer Hotel occupied sites along the river terrace. During that period, several non-native plant species were introduced. Remnants of those plantings include: cherry; apple; pear; plum; horse chestnut; walnut; bamboo; and laural.

Vegetation areas requiring primary protection status at the park include the Soda Creek drainage area, the South Santiam River shoreline, the White Oak Natural Area, and the area south of the park entrance.

The Soda Creek Drainage encompasses the entire Soda Creek flow within the



Ancient Douglas Fir trees such as the one in this photo can be admired throughout the park.

park and includes the overnight camp and day use areas. Towering, century-old Douglas fir trees overlook most of the recreation use sites, and a lush combination of broadleaf trees, herbaceous plants, and shrubs grace the banks of Soda Creek.

The South Santiam River shoreline is a menagerie of plant species, hues, and compositions. Maidenhair ferns cling to the vertical gorge walls, broadleaf trees and shrubs crowd the cliff edges, and towering conifers provide a dark green backdrop. These river shoreline areas have extremely high scenic importance to the park.

The White Oak Natural Area is a small, three-acre site on the park's south slope near the eastern boundary. Scrubby white oaks clinging to steep, gravelly slopes make this a unique area within the park. Topography and plant cover here are highly reminiscent of sections of southwestern Oregon.

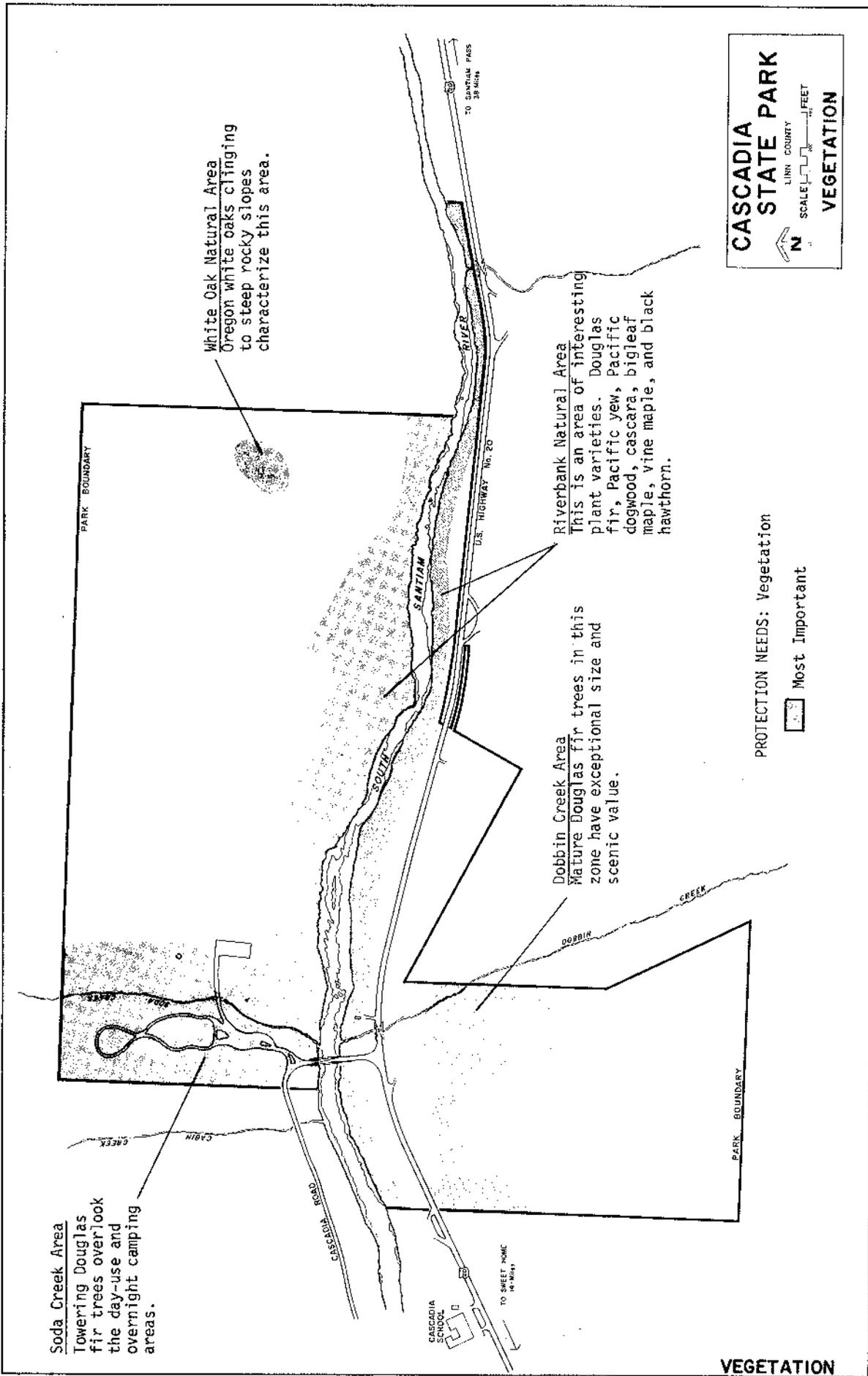
An area directly south of and opposite the park entrance contains old-growth fir trees vital to the scenic integrity of this portion of the park. This growth should be retained.

**Soda Creek Area**  
 Towering Douglas fir trees overlook the day-use and overnight camping areas.

**White Oak Natural Area**  
 Oregon white oaks clinging to steep rocky slopes characterize this area.

**Dobbin Creek Area**  
 Mature Douglas fir trees in this zone have exceptional size and scenic value.

**Riverbank Natural Area**  
 This is an area of interesting plant varieties. Douglas fir, Pacific yew, Pacific dogwood, cascara, bigleaf maple, vine maple, and black hawthorn.



**VEGETATION**

**CASCADIA STATE PARK**  
 LINN COUNTY  
 SCALE 1" = 1 MILE  
**VEGETATION**

PROTECTION NEEDS: Vegetation  
 [Shaded Box] Most Important

## ***PROTECTION NEEDS***

### ***WILDLIFE***

Specimens of most every species of animal life native to this region of the Cascade Mountains can be found in the Cascadia area.

The park's meadows, woodlands, marshes, river and stream course, and the transition zones between fill the area's many animal habitat needs.

The bandtail pigeon is a common visitor to the park during middle and late summer. This bird feeds heavily on the fruits of wild cherry and Cascara, which are common throughout the park. An area opposite the park entrance on the highway's south side is one of the park's better feeding areas.

With respect to deer populations, the park is located in a species transition zone. Both mule and blacktail deer are observed in the area; however, the blacktail is by far the most prevalent species.

The park's open meadows provide excellent habitat for a variety of small birds and mammals. Reptiles and amphibians are common in the meadow-marsh areas. Large birds of prey as well as the colorful pileated woodpecker are at home in the heavily-forested slopes.

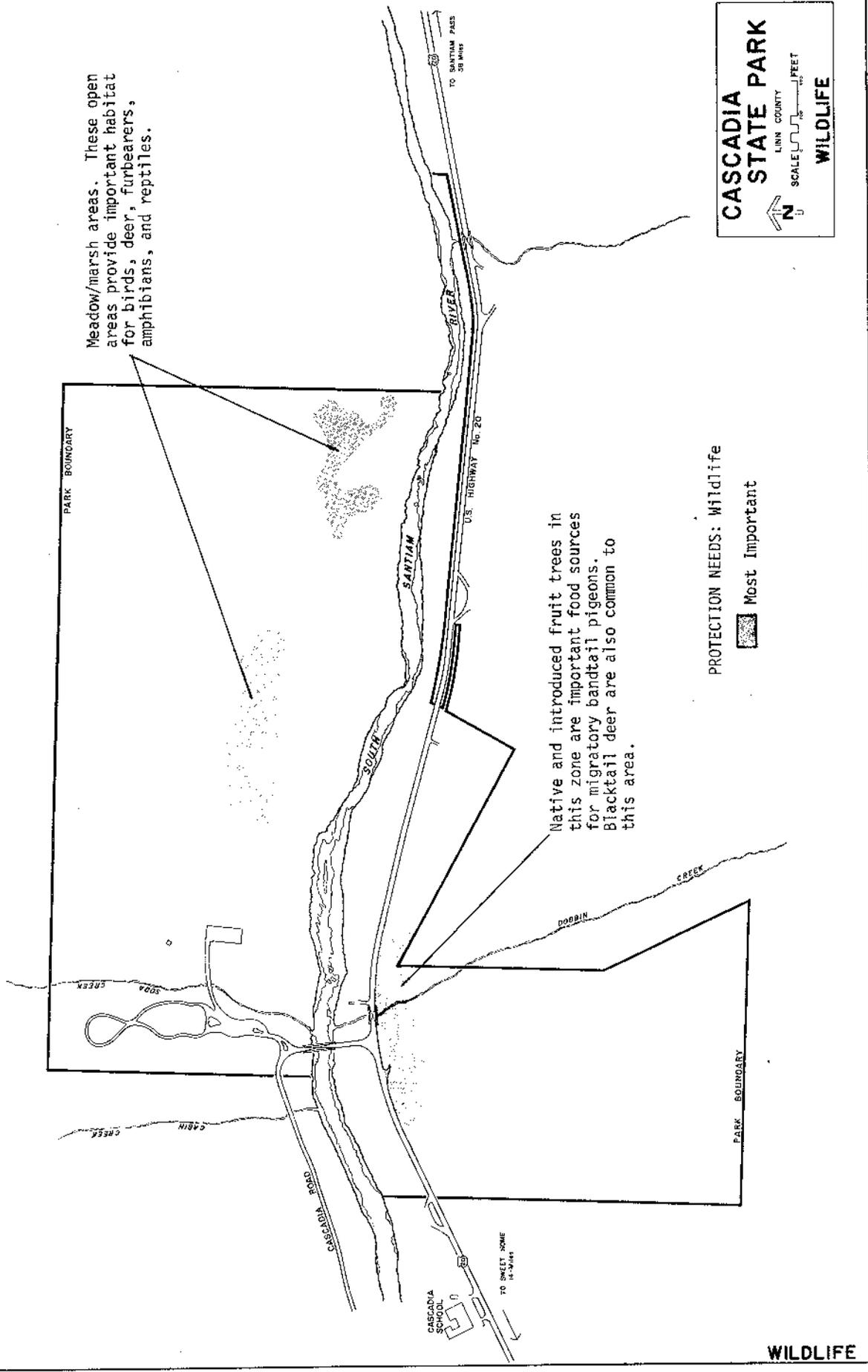
Although not often seen in this area, the Roosevelt Elk has been observed in the meadow area just east of the day-use area parking lot.

While most of the habitat zones within the park are stable, excessive sanitation logging of windfall trees would eliminate vital wildlife cover and food sources. Downed logs and dead trees are a storehouse of insects that are a vital link in the area's food chain.



The graceful blacktail deer is a resident and favorite wildlife attraction at Cascadia State Park.

Meadow/marsh areas. These open areas provide important habitat for birds, deer, furbearers, amphibians, and reptiles.



Native and introduced fruit trees in this zone are important food sources for migratory bandtaill pigeons. Blacktaill deer are also common to this area.

PROTECTION NEEDS: Wildlife  
 [Symbol] Most Important

**CASCADIA STATE PARK**  
 LINN COUNTY  
 SCALE 1/4" = 1 MILE  
 WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE

## *PROTECTION NEEDS*

### *SCENIC*

Areas of outstanding scenic values include the South Santiam River and its shoreline vegetation, the heavily-forested north slope, the overnight and day-use areas, the Soda Creek drainage, and the South Santiam River Highway corridor.

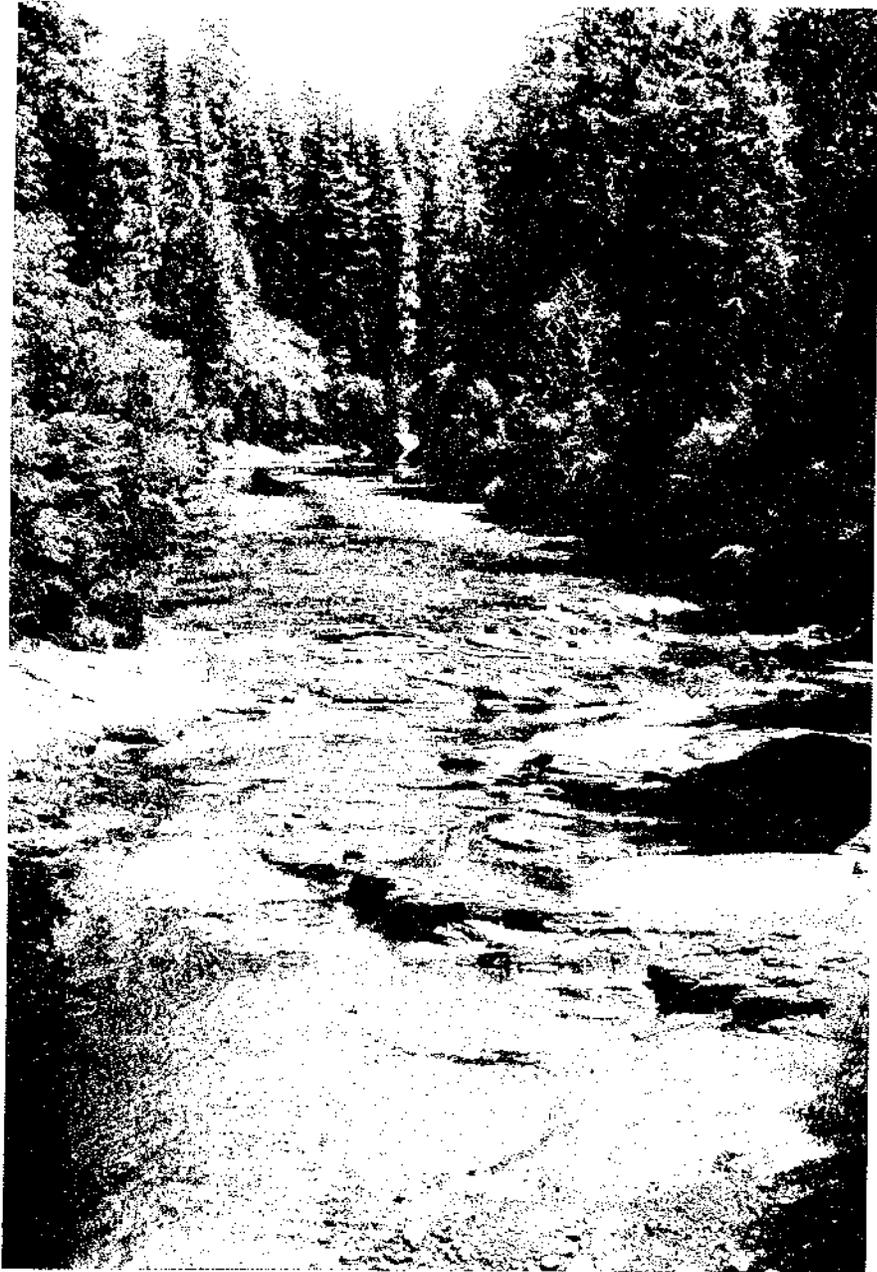
The South Santiam River and its water-sculptured gorge is one of the park's most rewarding scenic spectacles. More than a mile of shoreline trail provides park visitors with ample opportunities to view this pristine river as it winds its way through a steep-walled gorge lined with lush vegetation. The crystal-clear waters allow visitors to watch fish feeding in deep, rocky pools.

The heavily-forested north slope is highly visible from the open meadow which adjoins the eastside day-use area. This slope rises abruptly above the meadow area and boasts specimens of old-growth Douglas fir, Hemlock and cedar.

The overnight camp and day-use areas are sited among a nearly-homogeneous grove of towering fir trees that have been admired by visitors for their size and beauty for nearly a century.

A rich variety of trees and understory vegetation grace the banks of Soda Creek. This is a popular area for park visitors to escape summer heat and enjoy the famous mineral springs that percolate to the surface near the creek's left bank.

The South Santiam Highway corridor has important scenic value, as this area provides visitors with their first visual impression of the park. The heavily-wooded roadsides and north slope backdrop are highly visible to approaching and exiting motorists. Protection of this initial, visual impression is considered important to the over-all park experience.



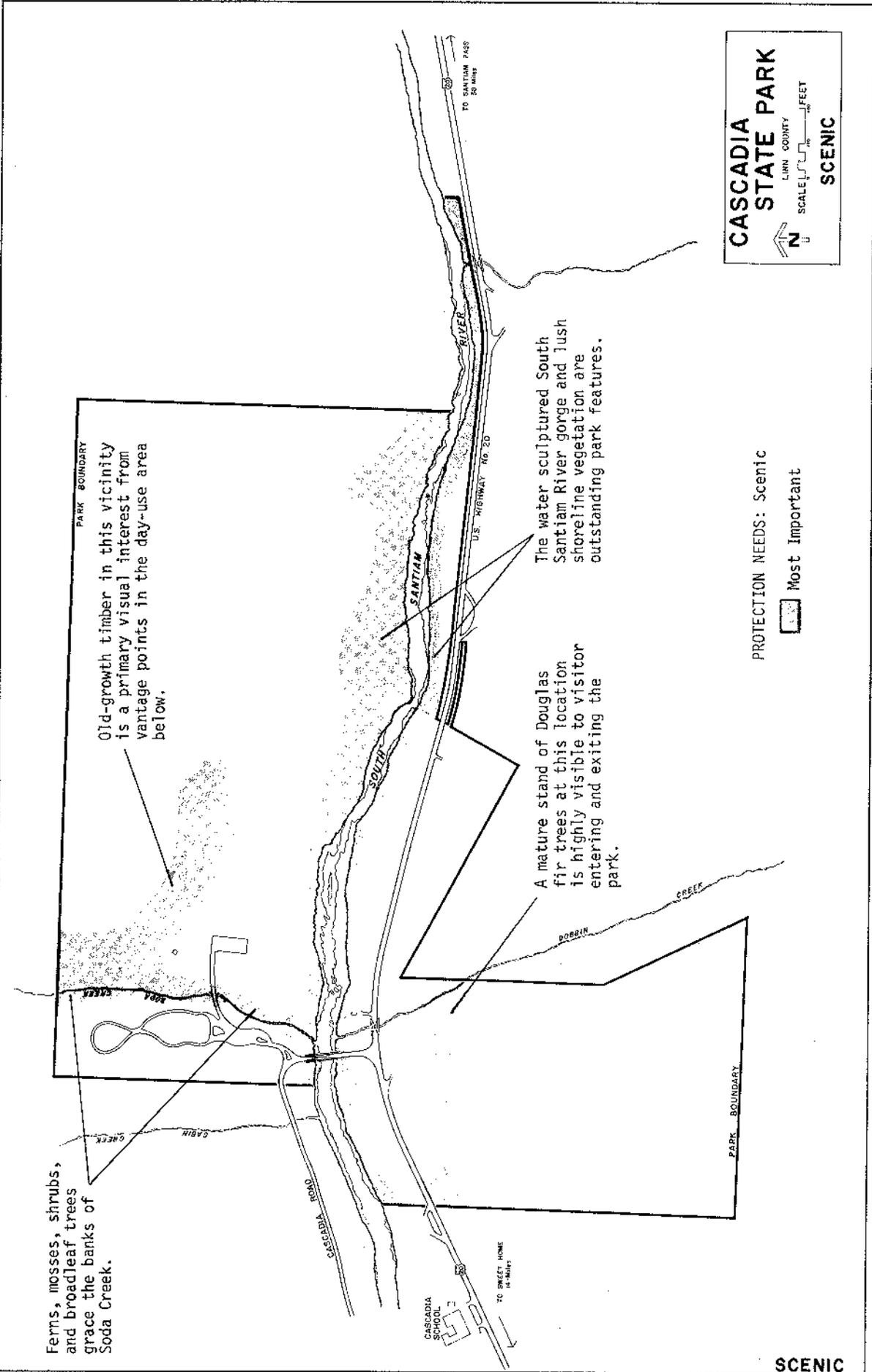
The scenic South Santiam River as viewed from the bridge at the park entrance.

Ferns, mosses, shrubs, and broadleaf trees grace the banks of Soda Creek.

Old-growth timber in this vicinity is a primary visual interest from vantage points in the day-use area below.

A mature stand of Douglas fir trees at this location is highly visible to visitor entering and exiting the park.

The water sculptured South Santiam River gorge and lush shoreline vegetation are outstanding park features.



**CASCADIA STATE PARK**  
 LINN COUNTY  
 SCALE 1" = 100 FEET  
**SCENIC**

PROTECTION NEEDS: Scenic  
 Most Important

SCENIC

## **PROTECTION NEEDS**

### **HISTORIC**

There are two areas within the park designated for historical protection: the Geisendorfer Hotel site and the Lower Soda Creek area.

The Geisendorfer Hotel, constructed in ca. 1898, was a rambling structure of 30 or more rooms and was constructed almost entirely of local hand-sawn lumber. Hotel patrons often stayed for several weeks to enjoy the mountain air and partake of the nearby "curative mineral waters." During the depressed years of the 1930's, the hotel's patronage dropped off severely, and in 1940 the hotel and grounds were sold to the State Highway Commission for development as a state park. Shortly after purchase, the aging hotel was razed.

The Lower Soda Creek Area encompasses the famous Cascadia mineral springs and a spur of the old Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Wagon Road.

Although there is some disagreement about the exact date of discovery, the mineral springs were apparently first observed by a black servant and his youthful companion in about 1880.

A section of the old wagon road that provided access to the Geisendorfer Hotel in the early days, is still plainly visible at a point near the mouth of Soda Creek.

Both of the above areas are important to the early Cascadia story, meriting appropriate protection and interpretation.

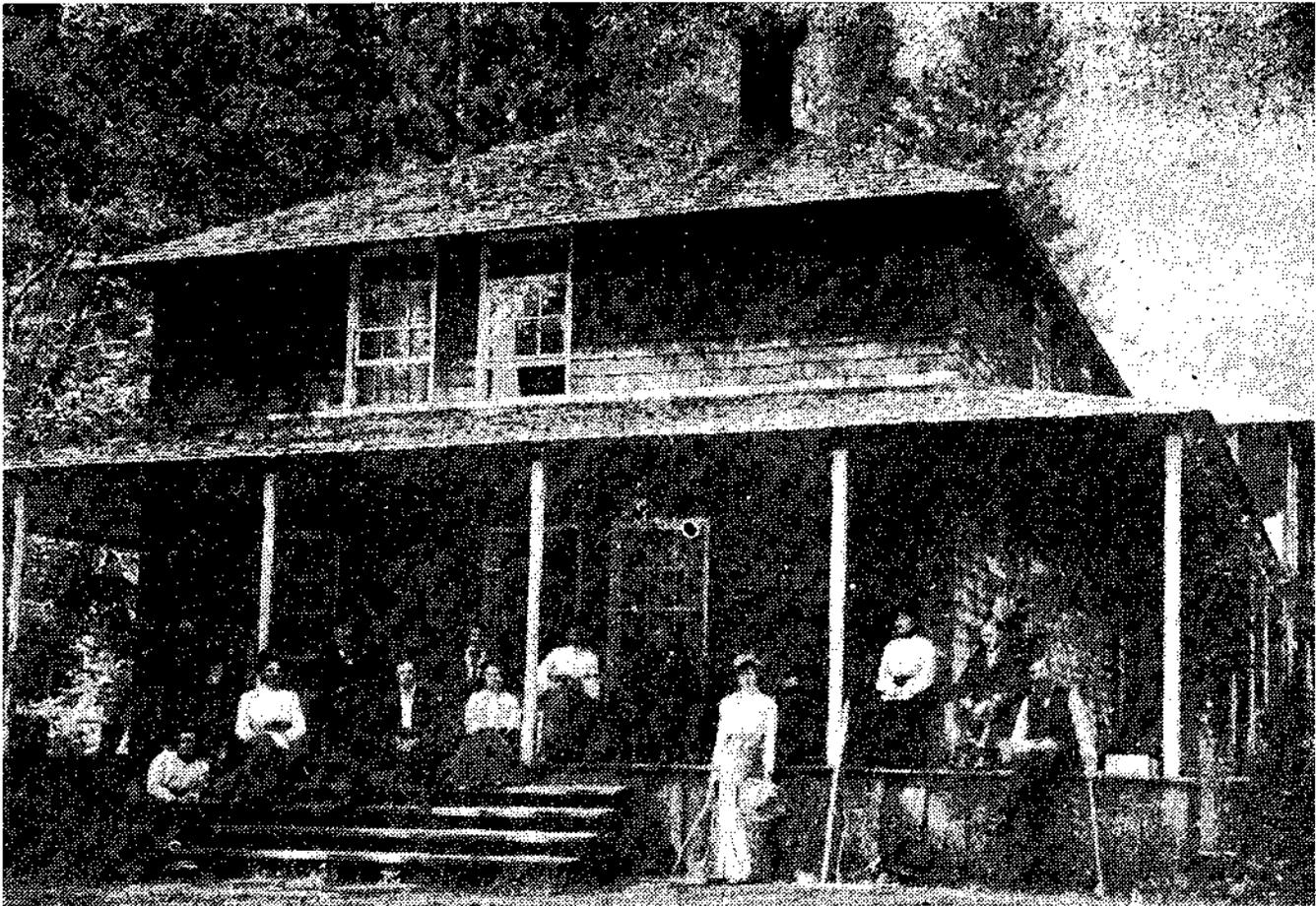
Nearby areas of historical and prehistorical interest include: Short's Covered Bridge and Cascadia Cave (Indian Cave).

Short's Covered Bridge is located 1½ miles down river from the park, where it spans the South Santiam River linking U.S. 20 with Cascadia Road.

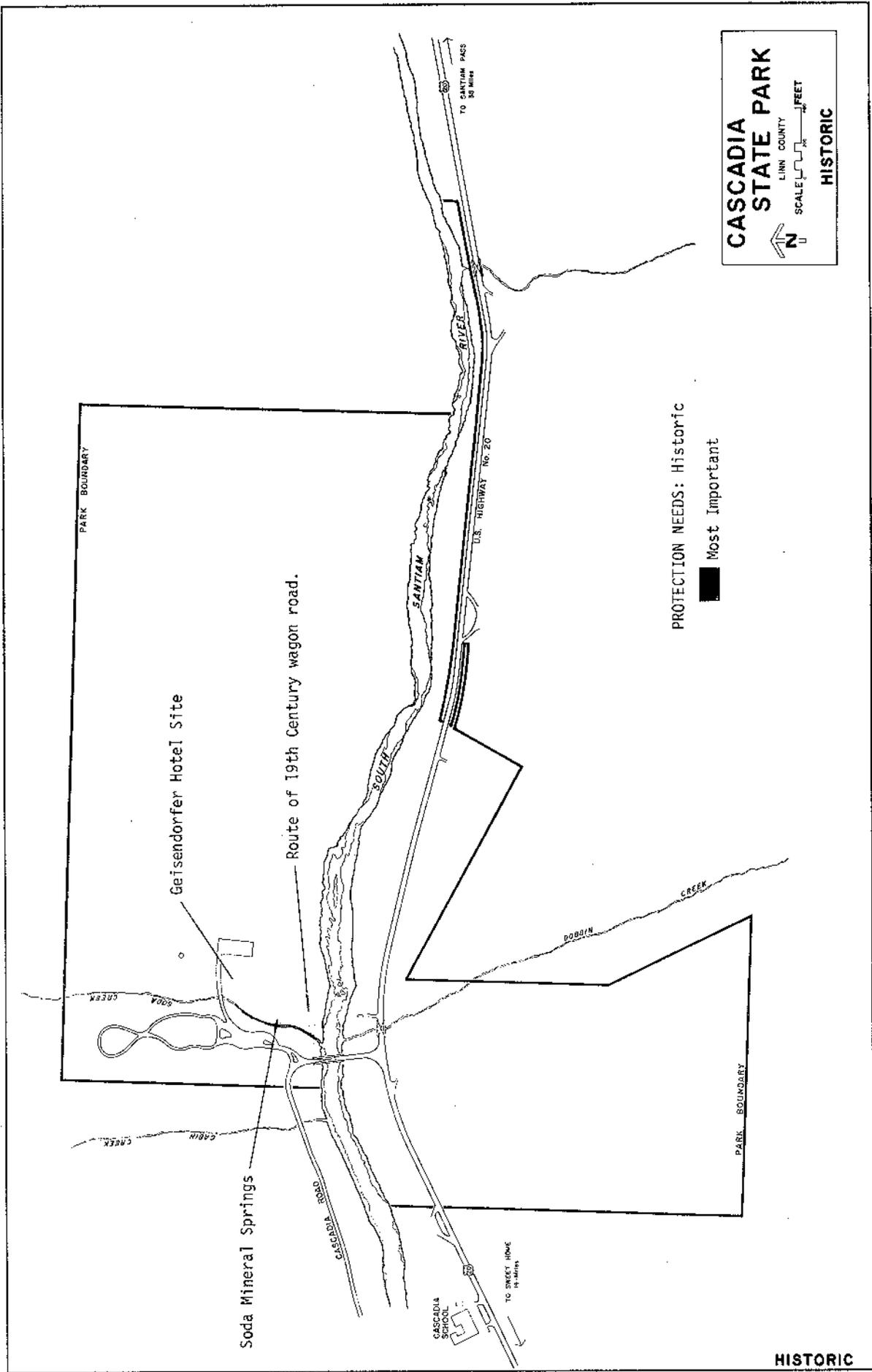
This attractive old bridge is protected and maintained by Linn County.

Cascadia Cave (actually a rock shelter) is located about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile from the park's eastern limit on the river's north bank. Ancient Indian petroglyphs are easily seen on the cave walls.

The State Parks Branch urges the protection of Cascadia Cave and its trail approach from the park. Methods of protection might include acquisition or a scenic/recreation easement.



Geisendorfer Hotel. Photo of the early 1900's period.



**CASCADIA STATE PARK**  
 LINN COUNTY  
 SCALE 1" = 1/4" FEET  
 HISTORIC

PROTECTION NEEDS: Historic  
 ■ Most Important

HISTORIC

## ***DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS***

### ***TOPOGRAPHY***

Developed areas at Cascadia State Park are situated on a river terrace that is characterized by slopes generally in the 0 to 3 percent category. The terrace ranges from approximately 1,000 to 2,000 feet in width and is roughly halved by the South Santiam River.

River and streambanks throughout the park present steep slopes. The South Santiam River flows through a rocky gorge that in many locations is vertical, with drops of 30 to 40 feet common. Because of this river scarp, safe access routes to the river are few.

The slopes of Soda Creek exceed 10 percent in many areas and represent problems to development.

Areas north of the river terrace are generally characterized by slopes of 10 percent or greater. This area encompasses a geologic hazards zone where exposed rock cliffs and thin rocky soils are a major development restriction. Properties on the south side of the terrace area break sharply upward for several feet and then level off to a 4 to 9 percent grade.

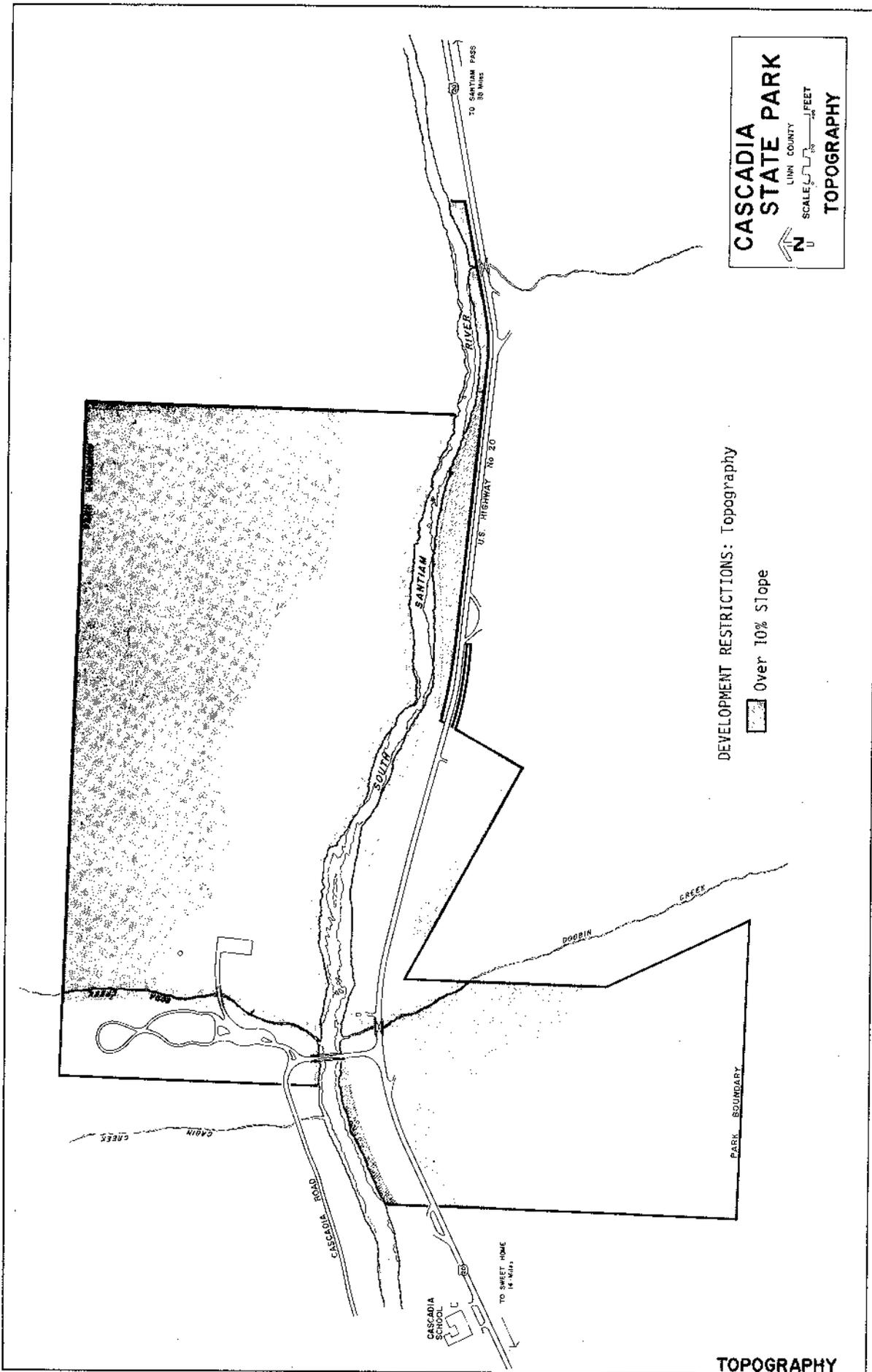


A flat river terrace and steep mountain slopes characterize Cascadia topography.

**CASCADIA  
STATE PARK**  
LINN COUNTY  
SCALE 1" = 1/4" FEET  
**TOPOGRAPHY**

DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS: Topography

Over 10% Slope



**TOPOGRAPHY**

## ***DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS***

### ***SOILS & DRAINAGE***

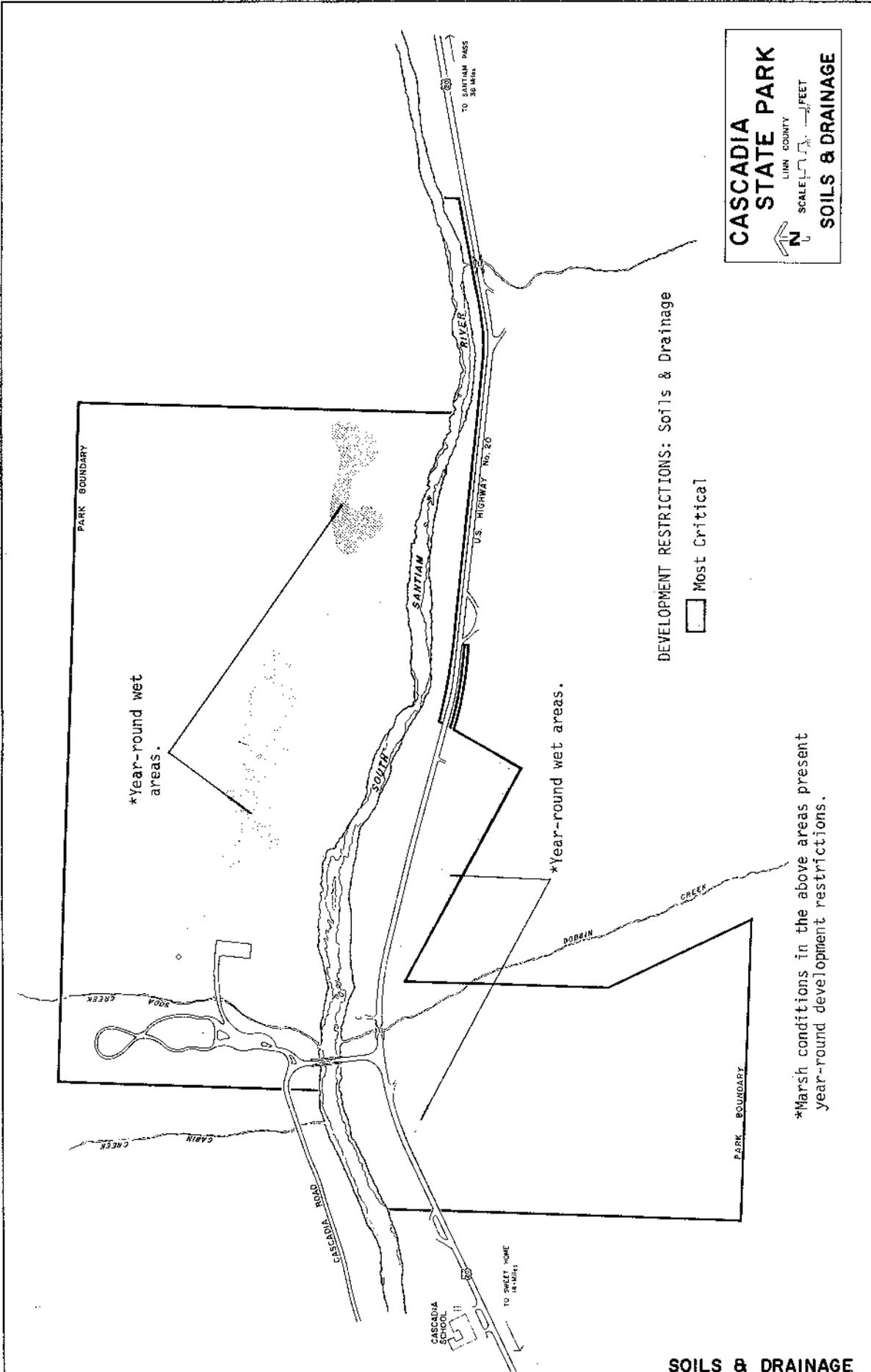
A comprehensive soils survey of the Cascadia State Park area has not been conducted by the Soil Conservation Service (S.C.S.). Available S.C.S. data is generalized and is useful only on a regional basis. According to this data, the park can be broken down into two soil associations: the Malabon-Salem (M-S) Association, and the Peavine-Honeygrove-McCully (P-H-M) Association. The M-S Association comprises the terrace properties (where all major park developments are located) that parallel the South Santiam River, while the P-H-M Association constitutes the balance of park property. The M-S Association is generally considered favorable for recreation developments, while the P-H-M Association is generally considered unfavorable.

Further inferences about the park's soil capabilities can be made by reviewing the impact of past and present park uses. It is apparent that soils in the day-use and overnight areas are resilient, having withstood several decades of recreational use without significant damage. The park's three septic/drainfield systems are working well and have a history of efficient operation. Areas exhibiting serious erosion and/or vegetation damage are minimal and could be eliminated with appropriate management.

A wet zone paralleling the toe of the park's south slope exhibits year-round marshy conditions and represents a major soil-related development restriction. Thin, gravelly soils on portions of the park's upper south slope support fragile vegetative cover that is easily disturbed. Trail routing in this area will be influenced by this factor.



Cattails and marsh grasses flourish in the wet zone that parallels the toe of the park's south slope.



## *DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS*

### *ACCESS & UTILITIES*

\*Cascadia State Park lies adjacent to the South Santiam Highway (U.S. 20) and is easily accessible from major Willamette Valley population centers. A single park entry road leads off the South Santiam Highway into the park. The park can also be approached from the river's north bank via Cascadia Road.

The N.W. Telephone Systems, Inc., provides telephone service to the park, and Pacific Power and Light provides electrical power. Bottled gas is delivered to the area by William's Energy Company.

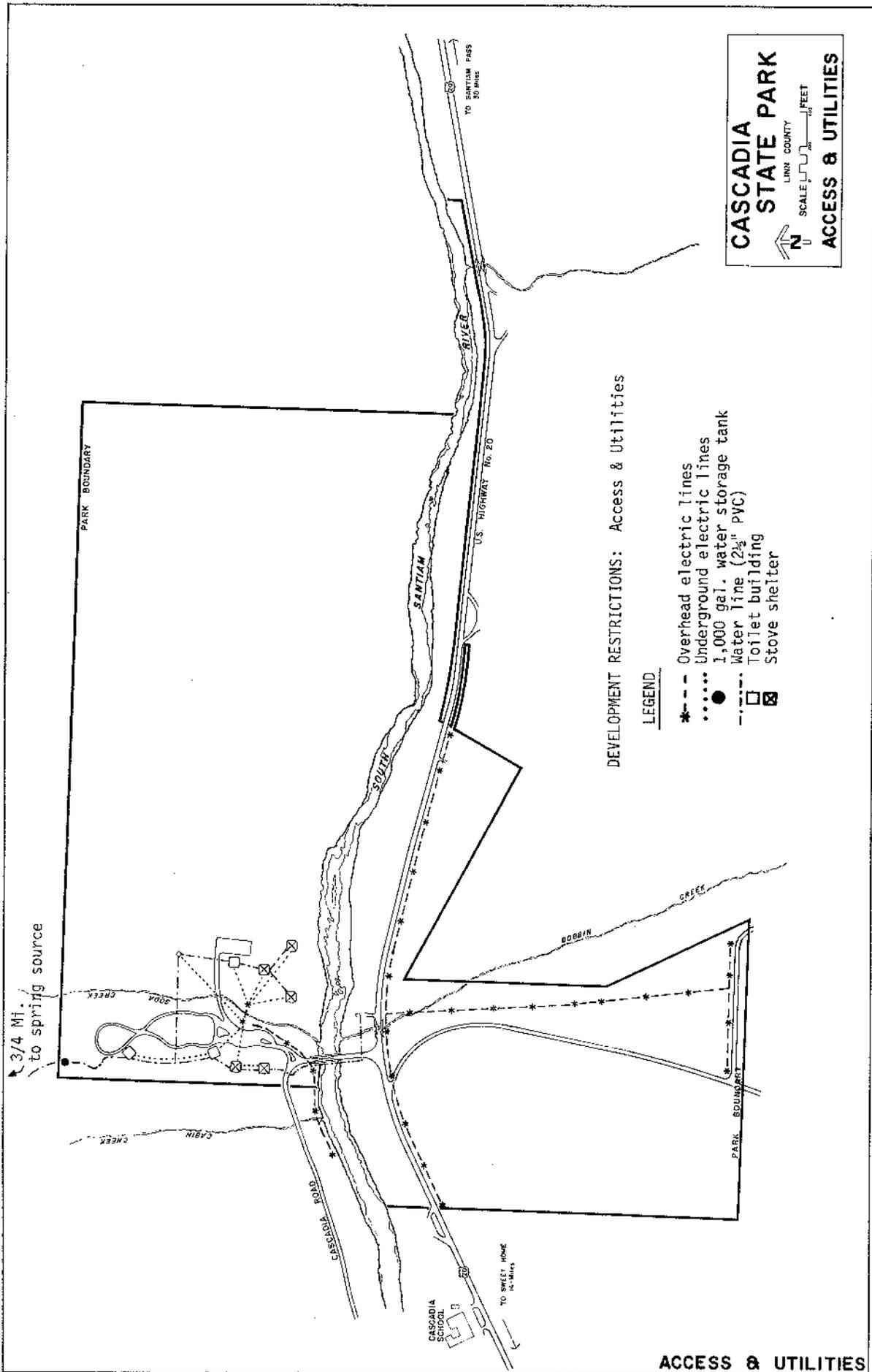
Ample potable water is secured from a spring located in the Cabin Creek drainage area approximately 3/4-mile northwest of the overnight camp. Water from this source is piped to a 1,000-gallon storage tank within the park.

Sewage disposal is handled by septic/drainfield systems. No regional sewage system exists or is planned for this area.

\*See Vicinity Map on reverse side of cover.



The park is accessed at the left from the South Santiam Highway (U.S. 20).



## ***DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS***

### ***CRITICAL PROBLEMS***

Major restrictions in this category include river scarps, geologic hazards, a proposed reservoir project, and buffer zones.

Steep river scarps characterize both banks of the South Santiam River within the park. While these towering water-sculptured cliffs are highly scenic, they also constitute a significant safety hazard to park visitors. Appropriate signing, safety barriers, and designated viewpoints along river trails would both enhance recreational experiences and minimize the danger of serious falls.

Geologic hazard areas exist along the Soda Creek trail near the Lower Falls and above the meadow near the park's eastern edge. In these areas, precipitous cliffs, rockfall, and rockslides are potential dangers. These formations present severe limitations to development.

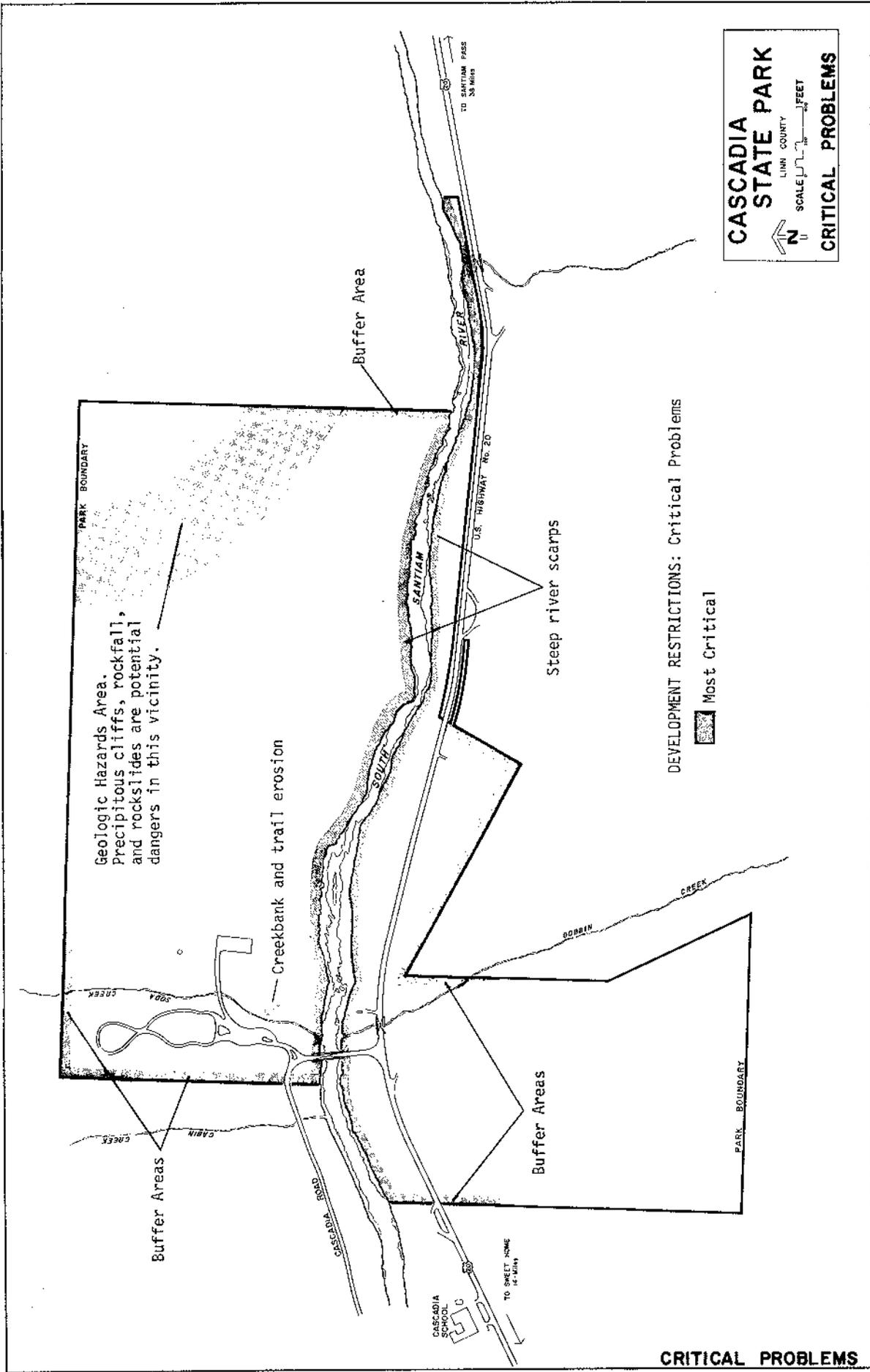
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a reservoir project on the South Santiam River with a dam to be located two and one-half miles below the park. Most park properties will not be disturbed by the proposed reservoir pool; however, the scenic river gorge and the park's historic mineral springs risk total inundation. The Corps has recommended the re-routing of Soda Creek and the construction of a dike as possible measures to save the mineral springs. Even with this provision, the park will lose the natural scenic values of the Lower Soda Creek drainage and the South Santiam River gorge.

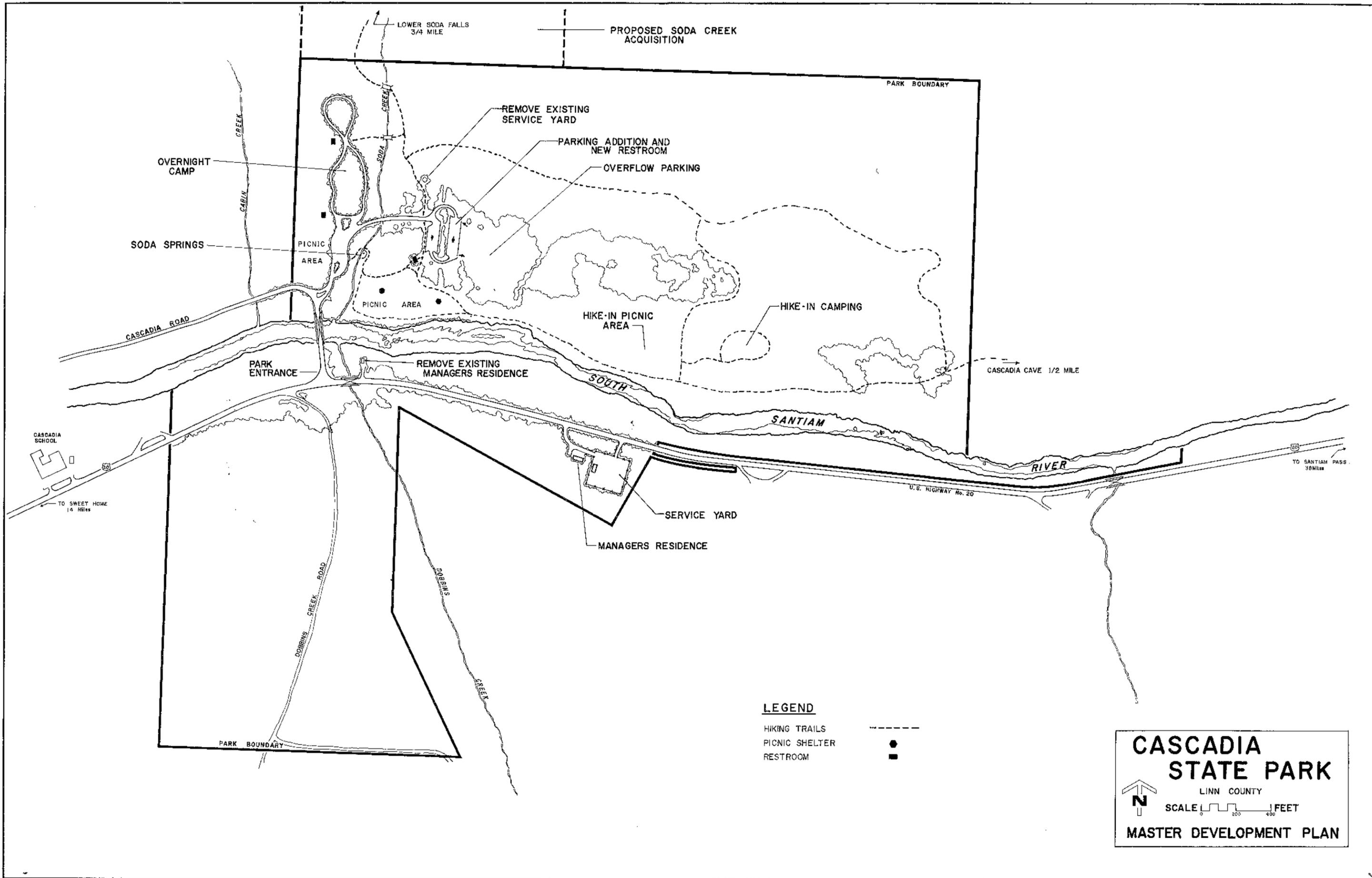
The variety of natural interests, recreational opportunities, and historical/archeological values at Cascadia State Park are irreplaceable elsewhere along the South Santiam River.

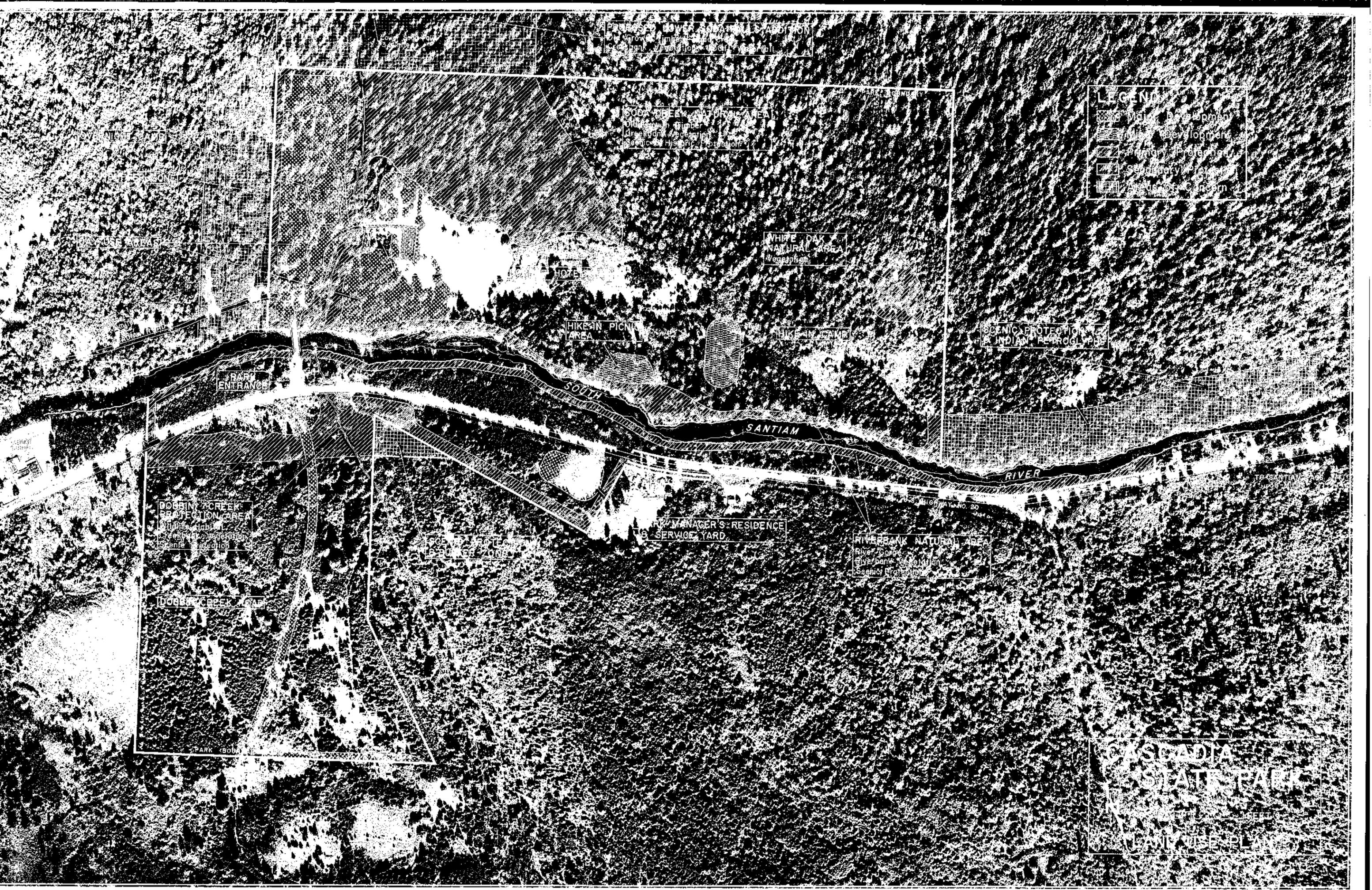
Park buffer zones are designated within the park boundary where additional protection is necessary to avoid adverse impact with adjacent properties.



Steep river scarps along the South Santiam River present a safety hazard to park visitors.







Prepared by the LAND USE PLAN  
Division  
Forest Management Section  
Forest Planning Unit  
Forest Planning Section

DOBBINS CREEK PROTECTION AREA  
Wildlife habitat  
Scenic location

WHITE OAK  
NATURAL AREA  
Vegetation

HIKE-IN PICNIC  
AREA

HIKE-IN STAMPS

SCENIC PROTECTION  
INDIAN PETROGLYPHS

PARK  
ENTRANCE

SOUTH  
SANTIAM  
RIVER

DOBBINS CREEK  
PROTECTION AREA  
Wildlife habitat  
Scenic location

SCENIC PROTECTION  
LEBUNKER ZONE

PARK MANAGER'S RESIDENCE  
& SERVICE YARD

RIVERBANK NATURAL AREA  
River gorge  
Riverbank vegetation  
Scenic location

DOBBINS CREEK ROAD

PARK BOUNDARY

**LEGEND**

- Major development
- Minor development
- Primary protection
- Secondary protection
- Scenic location

CASCADIA  
STATE PARK  
LAND USE PLAN

ADDENDUM SHEET

Updating the November, 1974 Master Plan  
for CASCADIA STATE PARK  
to October, 1980

- The replacement of the restroom building, fencing, and parking area improvements recommended in the master plan has been completed.
- The property exchanges proposed in the plan have been completed. This involved the addition of the 49-acre Lower Soda Falls timbered canyon tract to the park in exchange for the 52-acre surplus hillside tract south of Highway 20 and timber from 22 at the northeast corner of the park and another surplus highway property.
- Attendance for the past two years has decreased to an average of 145,000 day visits and 4,500 camper nights annually.