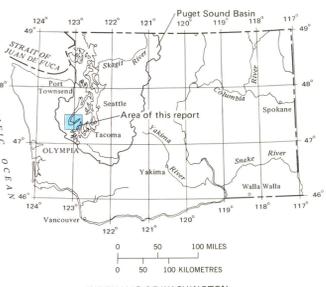
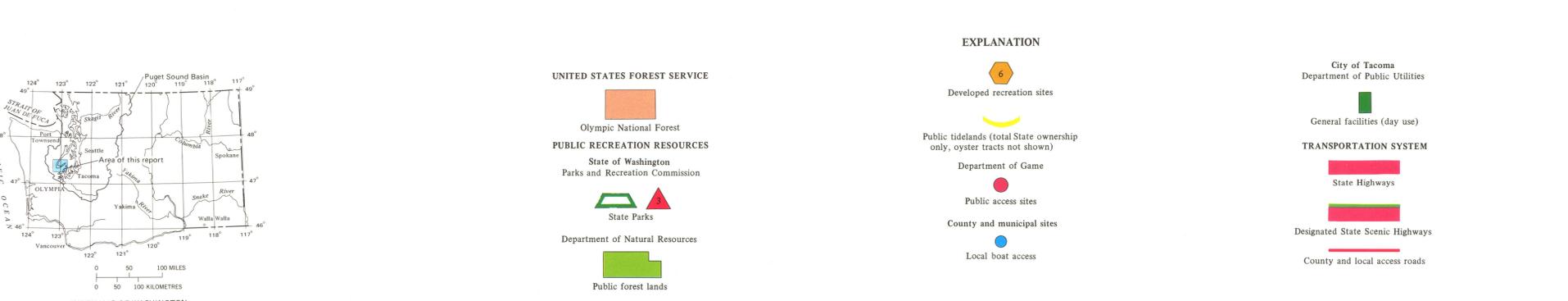
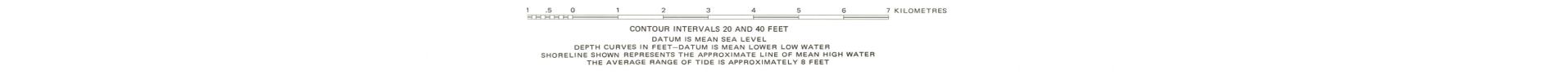


Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1:62,500  
Potlatch, 1937-52 and Allyn, 1938



**MAJOR DEVELOPED PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Map key	Administering agency and name of facility	Total acres	Number of picnic tables	Camping sites		Boating	
				Tent	Trailer	Ramps	Lanes
▲	State of Washington Parks and Recreation Commission						
	1 Belfair State Park	79	99	147	47	1	1
	2 Jarrell Cove State Marine Park	38	7	10	30	-	-
	3 Lake Cushman State Park	581	117	50	30	1	4
	4 Potlatch State Park and tidelands	143	66	15	18	-	-
	5 Stretch Island State Marine Park (undeveloped)	4	-	-	-	-	-
6 Twanah State Park	175	206	81	10	1	1	
●	Department of Natural Resources						
	1 Aldrich Lake Campground	24	4	4	-	1	1
	2 Bald Point Vista	2	-	-	-	-	-
	3 Camp Spillman Campground	10	-	6	-	-	-
	4 Howell Lake Campground	20	4	7	-	-	-
	5 Lilliwaup Creek Forest Camp	10	8	6	-	-	-
	6 Melbourne Lake Forest Camp	5	-	5	-	-	-
	7 Robbins Lake Picnic Area	1	3	-	-	-	-
	8 Tahuya River Campground	12	4	8	-	-	-
	9 Tahuya River Trail	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Twin Lakes Picnic Site	5	3	-	-	-	-	
●	Department of Game Picnic fishing access sites (19 sites, most 1 acre)	31	Approximately 54	-	-	19	19 (1 per site)

**SOUTHERN HOOD CANAL  
A RECREATION DESTINATION**

Although the resident population of the southern Hood Canal area is small, the area serves as a recreational haven for tens of thousands of visitors and nonresident property owners from more urbanized parts of western Washington. Residents of the Puget Sound urban centers in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis Counties are particularly attracted to saltwater and freshwater shorelines for weekend recreational activities. Good regional highway and ferry systems offer ready access to the area. Unfortunately, direct public access to shorelines is limited, and optimum recreational use and enjoyment by the general public is restricted. Careful planning and orderly development will be needed to continue to make available and enhance the recreational values of these resources for public use.

**PURPOSE OF THIS COMPILATION**

The accompanying map and table provide a complete, up-to-date (1973) inventory of existing major public recreational resources and facilities and public-access routes in the southern Hood Canal area (private and quasi-public recreational areas have not been included). This information can assist planning agencies in determining the location and type of new recreational opportunities necessary to meet existing and future needs in the region. The map also can be used as a key to locate recreational areas that might suffer adverse environmental impacts from projects such as a highway improvement.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITED ACCESS**

Pleasure driving and scenic enjoyment probably are the major public recreational activities in the southern Hood Canal area. State Highways 101 and 106 are designated Scenic Highways and offer excellent views of forests, mountains and, particularly, Hood Canal, a large glacially carved arm of Puget Sound. However, enjoyment of these many attractions by the general public, especially of shorelands and beaches, is limited because direct public access is restricted. Hood Canal, the public forest lands, and the many freshwater lakes of the region have major potential to provide an even greater variety of public recreational opportunities. Improved access and careful development of additional recreational facilities would permit and encourage more fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation.

Private ownership of "summer homesites" is the predominant pattern of recreational land use along shorelines in the area; public ownership is very limited (see map). Development of private recreational communities and resorts along shorelines is increasing, and speculation in private recreational land can be expected to continue. If not properly guided and adequately controlled, these patterns of land use can result in environmental problems such as degradation of water quality, especially in small lakes and streams, and contamination of ground-water supplies.

Solid blocks of homesites and private ownership along shorelines tend to hinder general use of lakes and saltwater areas for fishing, boating, and swimming by the public. Gathering of clams and oysters along Hood Canal beaches is a popular pastime, and this activity is particularly affected by the pattern of private ownership. The public may be excluded from tidelands remaining in total State ownership because of private ownership of lands above the shoreline. The same general problem exists along shorelines of the many freshwater lakes in the region, although 1-acre public access sites are designated on several lakes (see map). These recreational access sites allow public fishing and boating but are limited in their capacity and provide only minimal day-use facilities.

Six State parks offer the major developed public recreational facilities in the area and provide the most extensive public access to saltwater and freshwater shorelines (see map and table). They provide a broad spectrum of water-related activities such as boating, fishing, camping, and scenic enjoyment. A considerable acreage of State-owned public forest lands in the area provides recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, horse packing, and enjoyment of forest scenery. The State has developed forest camps which cater to the visitor seeking a more primitive type of camping experience. Hunting also is a popular activity on much of the State-owned forest land. Obviously, public recreation on multiple-use State forest lands must compete with other uses—principally timber production. In spite of this, State forest lands will continue to be held for public purposes, and recreation, to the extent it is compatible with other uses, will become an increasingly important use of these lands.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Public tidelands and beaches in the southern Hood Canal area offer some of the highest quality opportunities for public recreation in the Puget Sound basin. However, limited public access and extensive private ownership prevent realization of many of these opportunities. The information provided here is designed to be used in assessing the basic problem of insufficient public access to public recreation resources, particularly Hood Canal, and to guide planning for future recreational facilities.

The development of facilities for increased recreational activities should be accomplished in such a manner as to avoid producing adverse environmental effects. Good water quality and productive fish and wildlife habitat, for example, are important resources for recreation as well as other needs. Proper planning, development, and management of public facilities will protect these resources while still allowing for their use and enjoyment. In addition, potential adverse environmental effects on recreation and other resources should be assessed as an integral part of all land-use decisions regarding future public and private developmental proposals for this area.

This map is one of a series being prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with several agencies to present basic environmental information and interpretations to assist land-use planning in the Puget Sound region.

**DATA AND ASSISTANCE FROM:**

1. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Technical Services and Recreation Divisions
2. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
3. Washington State Department of Game
4. Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
5. Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
6. Mason County Regional Planning Council
7. Mason County Comprehensive Plan, and related documents prepared by Consulting Services Corporation of Seattle, Washington
8. Mason County Park and Recreation Plan

**PUBLIC RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IN THE SOUTHERN HOOD CANAL AREA, WASHINGTON**

By  
**R. P. Hutchison**  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Northwest Region  
1976

For sale by Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225, price \$1.00