

# Historic Preservation Case Studies

A photograph of a small, light-colored wooden cabin with a dark roof and a chimney, situated on a grassy hill. The cabin is silhouetted against a large, bright, orange and yellow cloud formation that dominates the sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue on the right to a lighter, hazy blue on the left. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted vegetation of the hill is visible. To the left of the cabin, a few small evergreen trees and a white, dome-shaped object are visible on the hillside.

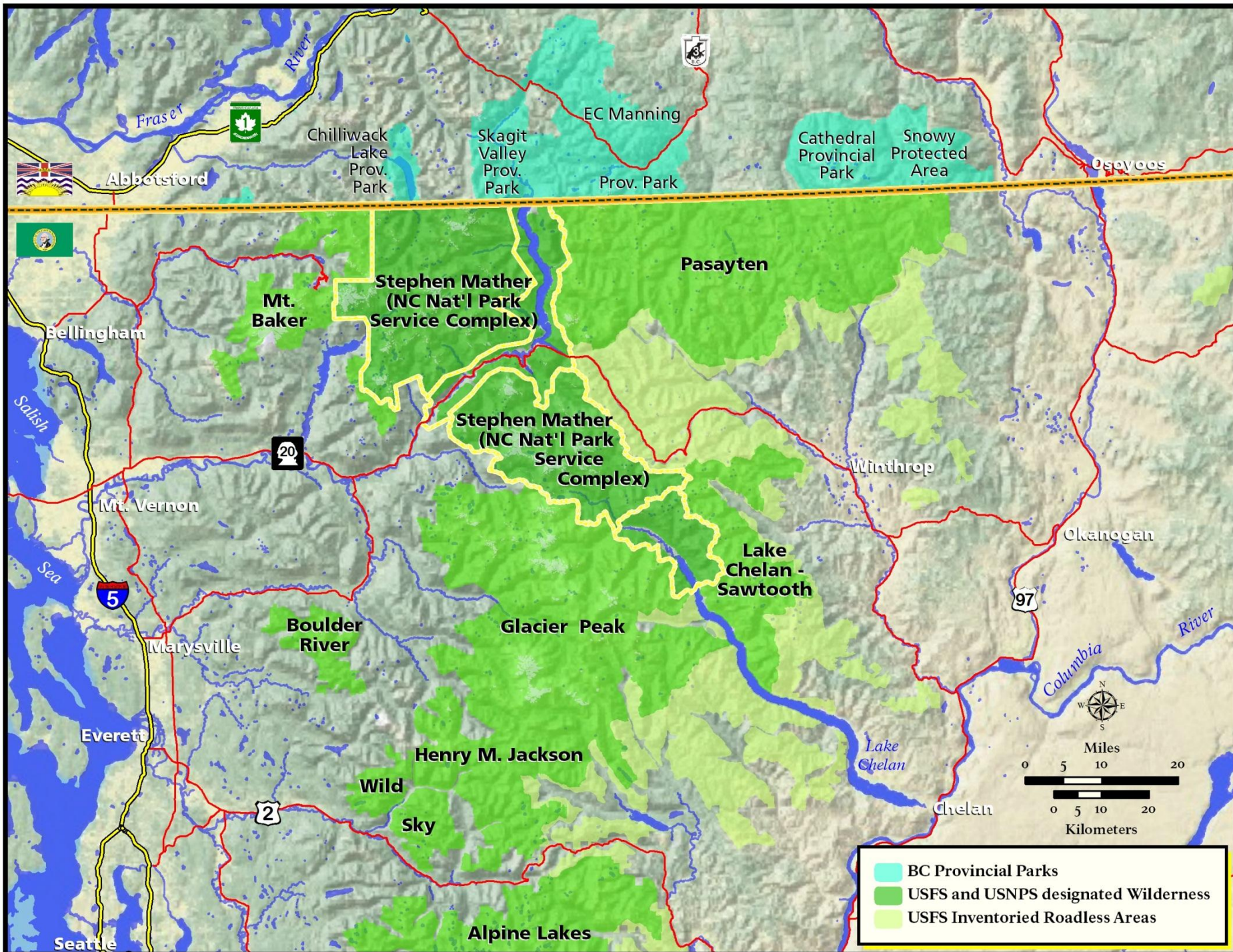
North Cascades National Park  
Stephen Mather Wilderness



## Overview

- Introduction to North Cascades Wilderness
- Overview of Historic Cultural Resources in Wilderness
- Preservation Tools, Techniques and Transport Methods
- Case Studies in applying the Minimum Requirement Concept



















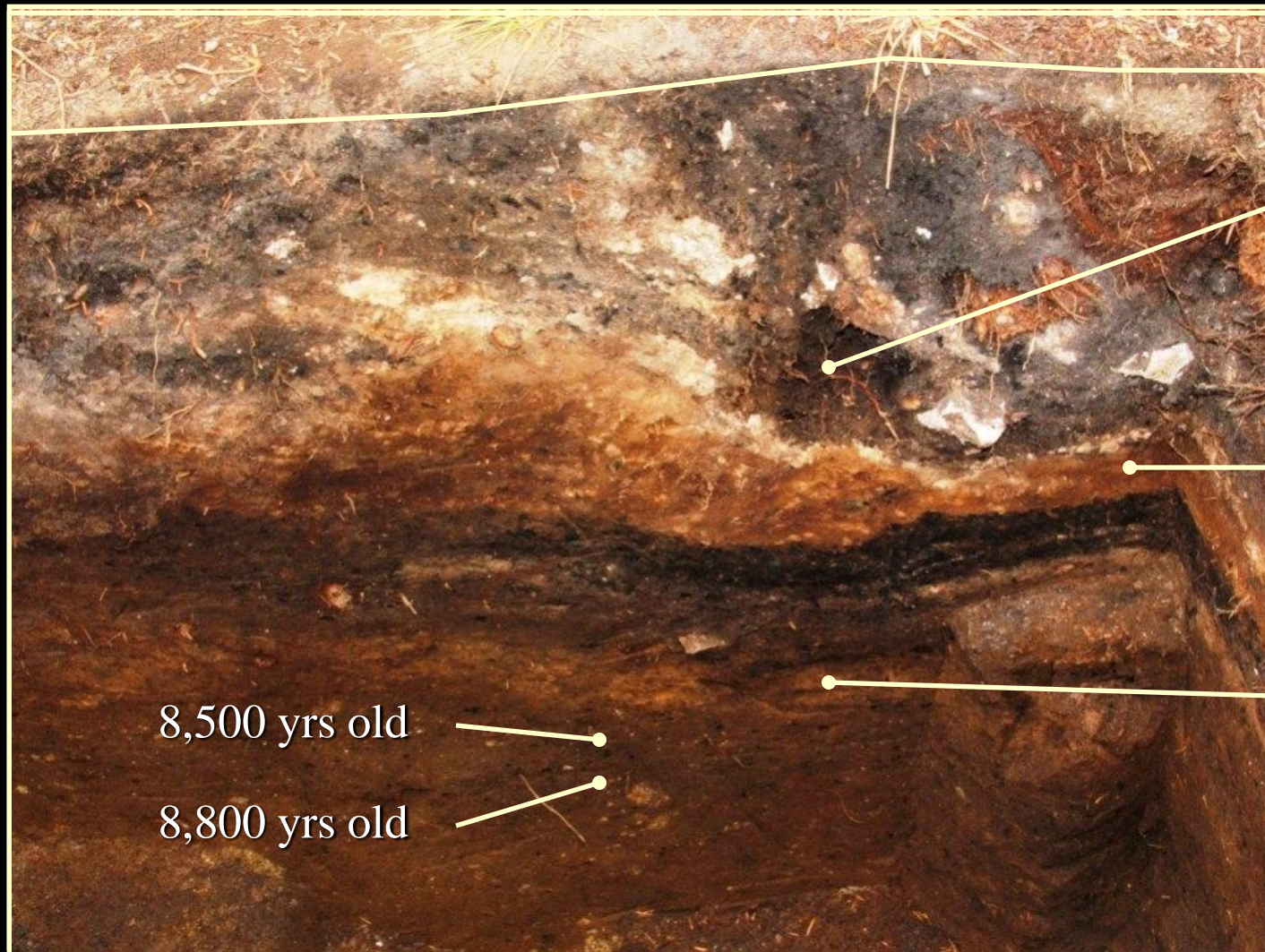








# 9000 Years of Human History



Ground surface

Basin-Shaped  
hearth dated  
2,000 yrs old

St. Helens ash  
cal 3,800 yrs old

Mazama ash  
7,650 yrs old

8,500 yrs old

8,800 yrs old





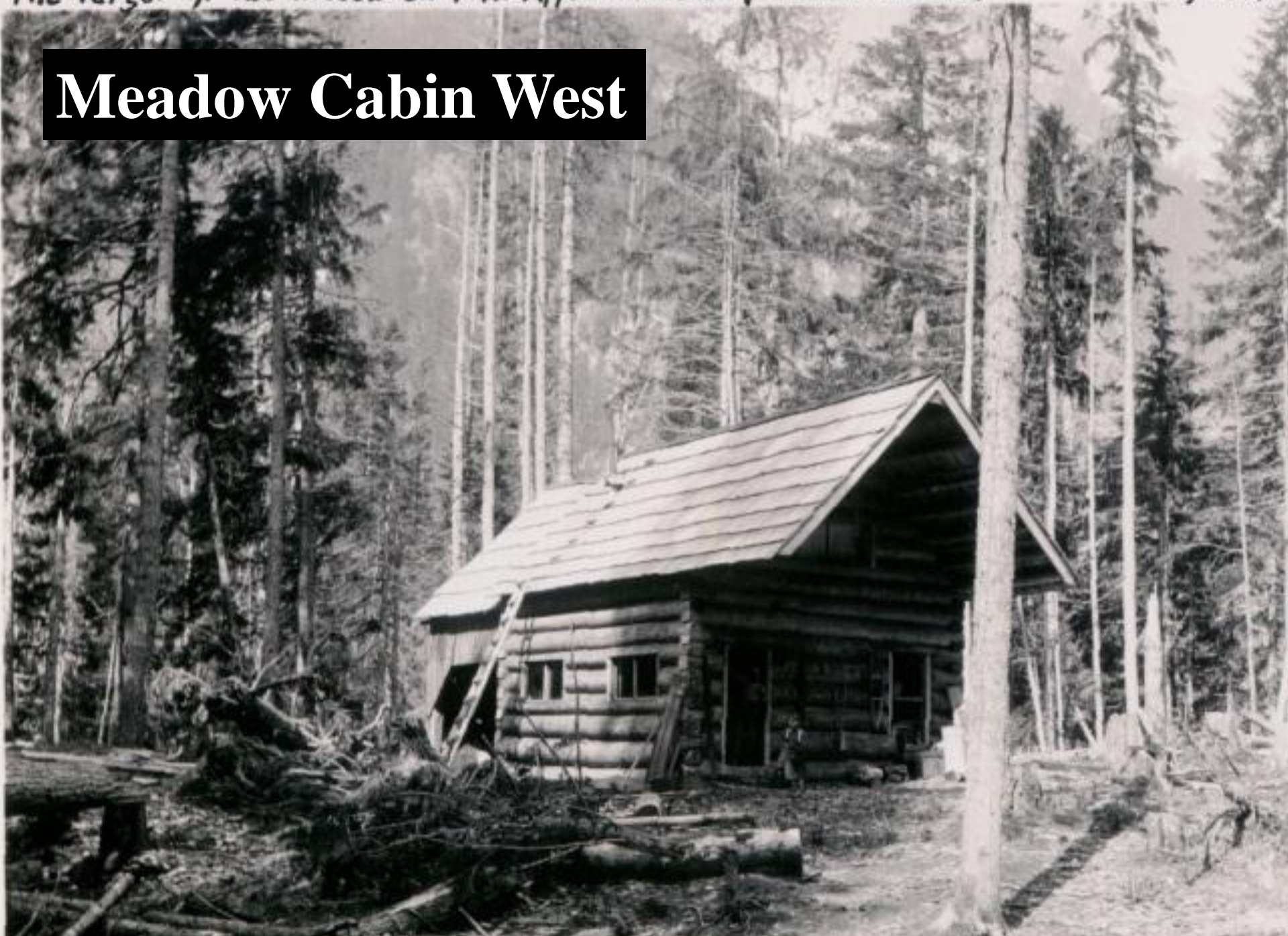
C. MARSH  
JAN 27-1912



*The larger of two houses on F.H. Applic. No. 83 of Remie Durand*

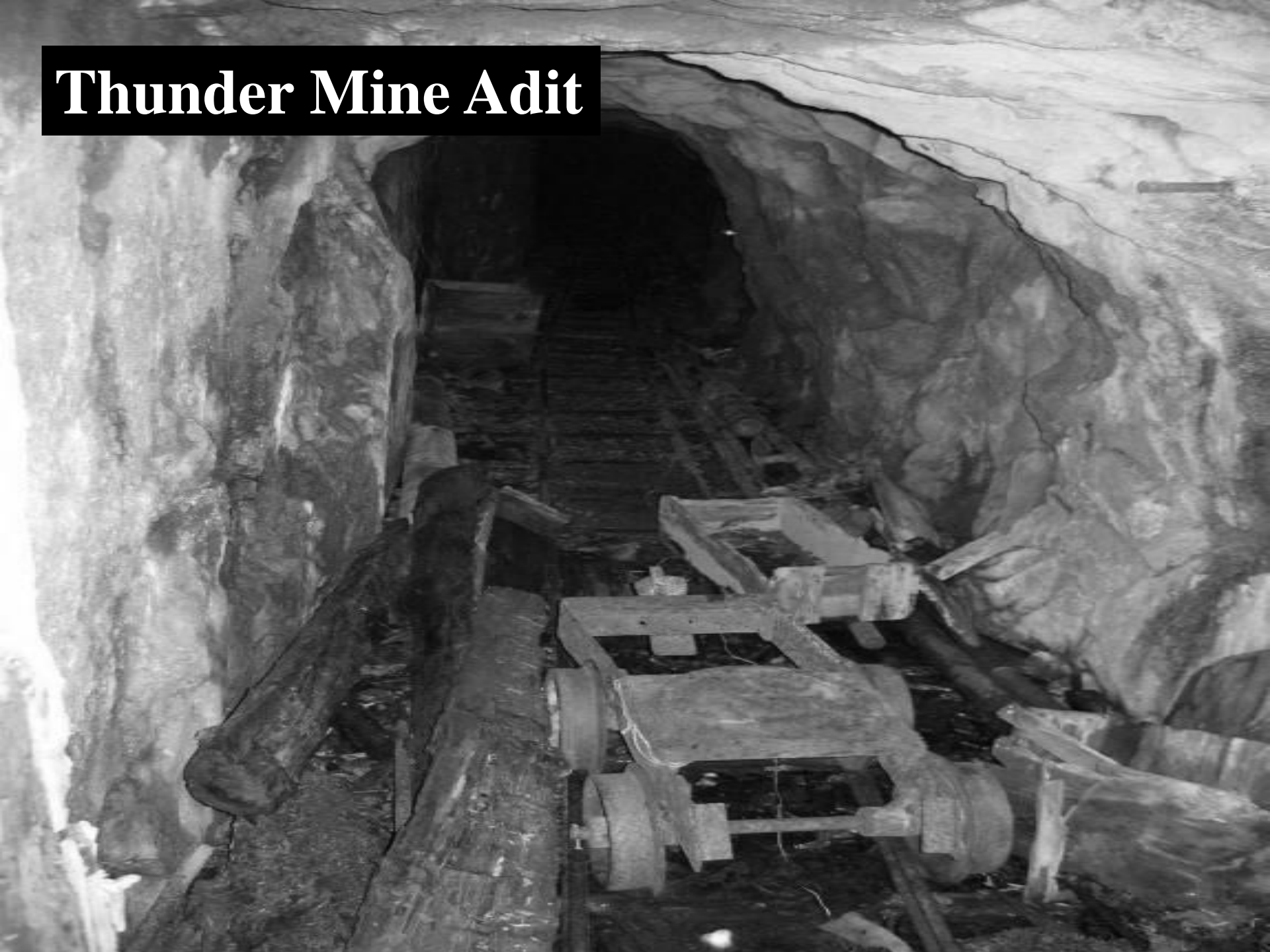
*May 23, 1901*

# Meadow Cabin West





# Thunder Mine Adit

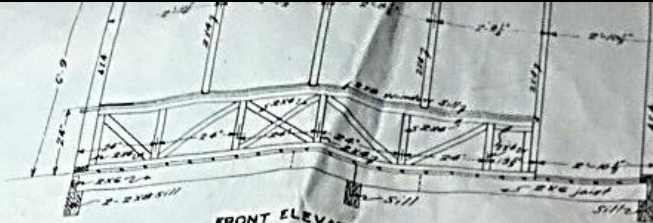




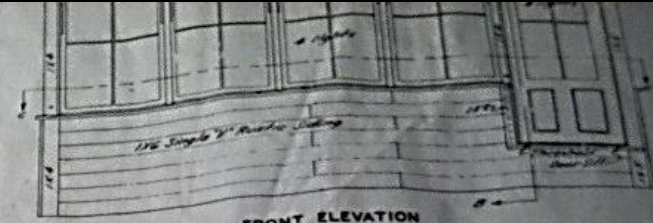
# Sourdough Lookout



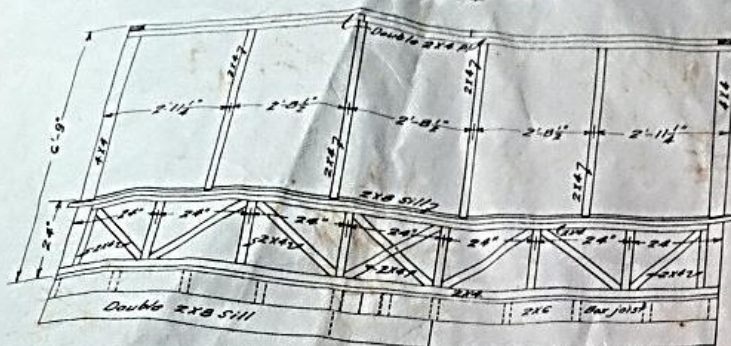




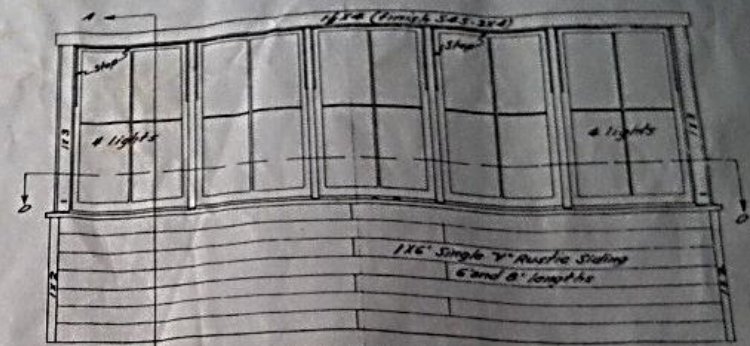
FRONT ELEVATION FRAMING  
Figure 4



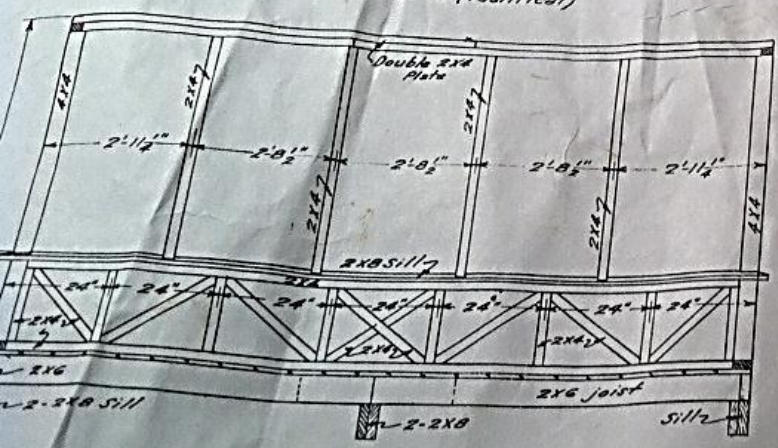
FRONT ELEVATION  
Figure 5



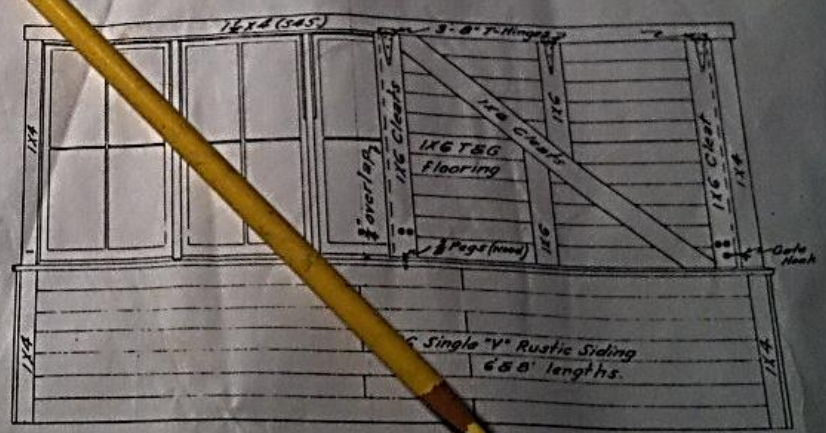
SIDE ELEVATION FRAMING  
Figure 6 & 10 (Identical)



SIDE ELEVATION  
Figure 7 & 11 (Identical)



REAR ELEVATION FRAMING  
Figure 8



REAR ELEVATION  
Figure 9

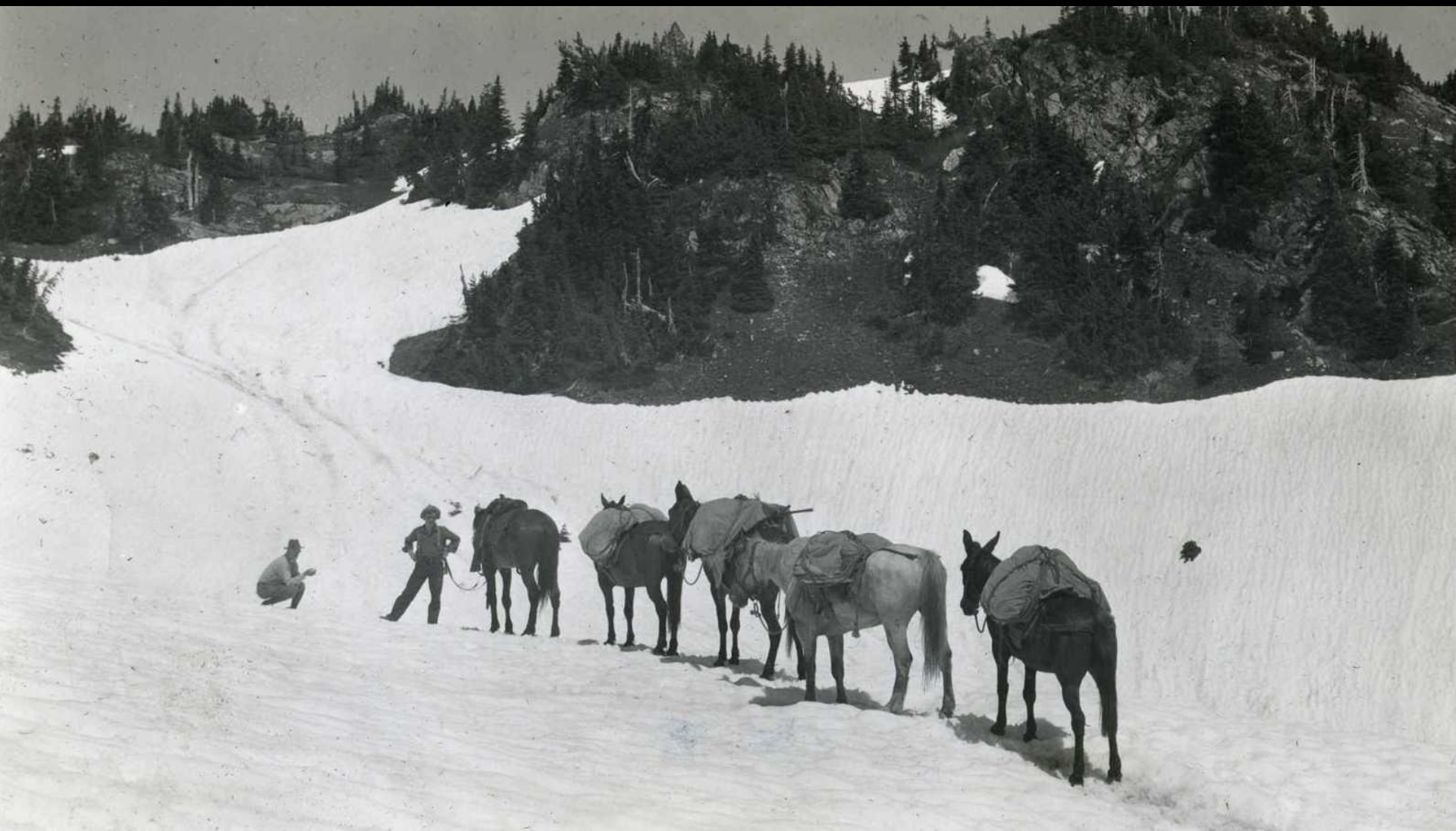
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Note: See Sheet 4 for Cross Sections thru Sections B-B and C-C fig. 5 and A-A and D-D fig. 7-11.

PLAN L-4  
R-6 1930 L.O. HOUSE  
14'X14'  
1932 REVISION  
Sheet 2



# Sourdough Lookout





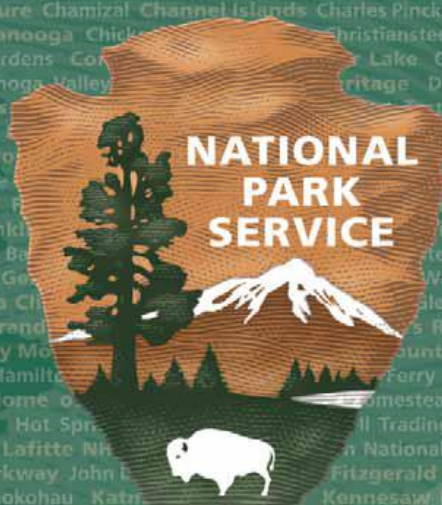
# Desolation Lookout









[illegible]





# Minimum Requirement Concept

1. Determine if action is necessary and will not cause a significant impact to wilderness character.

If yes, then:

2. Select the minimum tool, technique or method. Choose tools and methods to minimize impacts on wilderness character.



## UNTRAMMELED

- LIVING LANDSCAPE, CHANGE HAPPENS FAST
- FOREST CHANGES, WINDING (HUMAN) EFFECTS
- POST-HOC TIME SCALE, SEASONAL
- ALLOWED TO DO ITS THING
- CONSTANT, NATURAL CHANGE
- SEEING NATURAL PROCESSES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE
- UNCONQUERED, BE-LIVING, HUMILITY
- STRONG NATURAL PROCESSES WILL OVERTAKE WHAT WE DO
- FIRE + ICE, SUPER POWERFUL FORCES
- NATURE IS IN CHARGE - RESILIENT
- HUMAN ACTIVITIES EVERYWHERE - EPIHEMERAL

## UNDEVELOPED

- PRIMITIVE - UNKNOWN
- QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS HERE
- TRULY WILD
- NO SIGN/SIGHT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS AGE VISIBLE
- COMPLEX LANDSCAPE DRIVES - DIFFICULT LOGISTICS
- CAN BE MORE LIKE OUR AMERICAS AND DEPENDENT ON IMMEDIATE ENV.
- EPIHEMERAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENTS
- ACCEPTING OF THIS LAKE / BENEFITING FROM

## NATURAL

- RICH AND PLENTIFUL

- BIG + SCARY (WILDLIFE MOUNTAIN SLACKERS)
- WATER (SHALLOW)
- CROSSING DIVERSE AREAS/ECOSYSTEMS - TRANS/ECOTONE
- EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES / GEOLOGY
- TRANSITIONS - SHORT - QUICK TRANSITION
- TIME SCALES OF SYSTEMS
- MEANINGFUL FOR LIFE
- SOUNDS (NOISY - NATURAL SOUND OF WATERS)
- DISTURBANCES - LARGE SCALE
- PRESERVATION OF BIG AREAS
- WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE PART
- CHAIN OF WILD PLACE - HEART OF WILDERNESS
- YES, SLEEP - SLEEPERS IN WILDERNESS
- SILENCE - HETEROGENEITY
- ABUNDANCE

## SOLITUDE

- BREATHTAKING VIEW
- EASY TO ACCESS - PRIVATE
- MYSTERY - DISCOVERY
- FREEDOM - LONGER
- TIME SLOWS
- OPPORTUNITY TO BE ALONE
- HUGE CHANGE IN
- TO BE TRULY ALONE
- NOT MANY (DO FLIGHT)
- BREATH-TAKING
- BONDING OF PEOPLE
- CONSTANT CHALLENGE
- CAN DRINK WATER
- LOT OF DIFFERENCE
- ABILITY TO SET
- ESCAPE HUMANITY
- LOW VISITATION





## Perry Creek Shelter

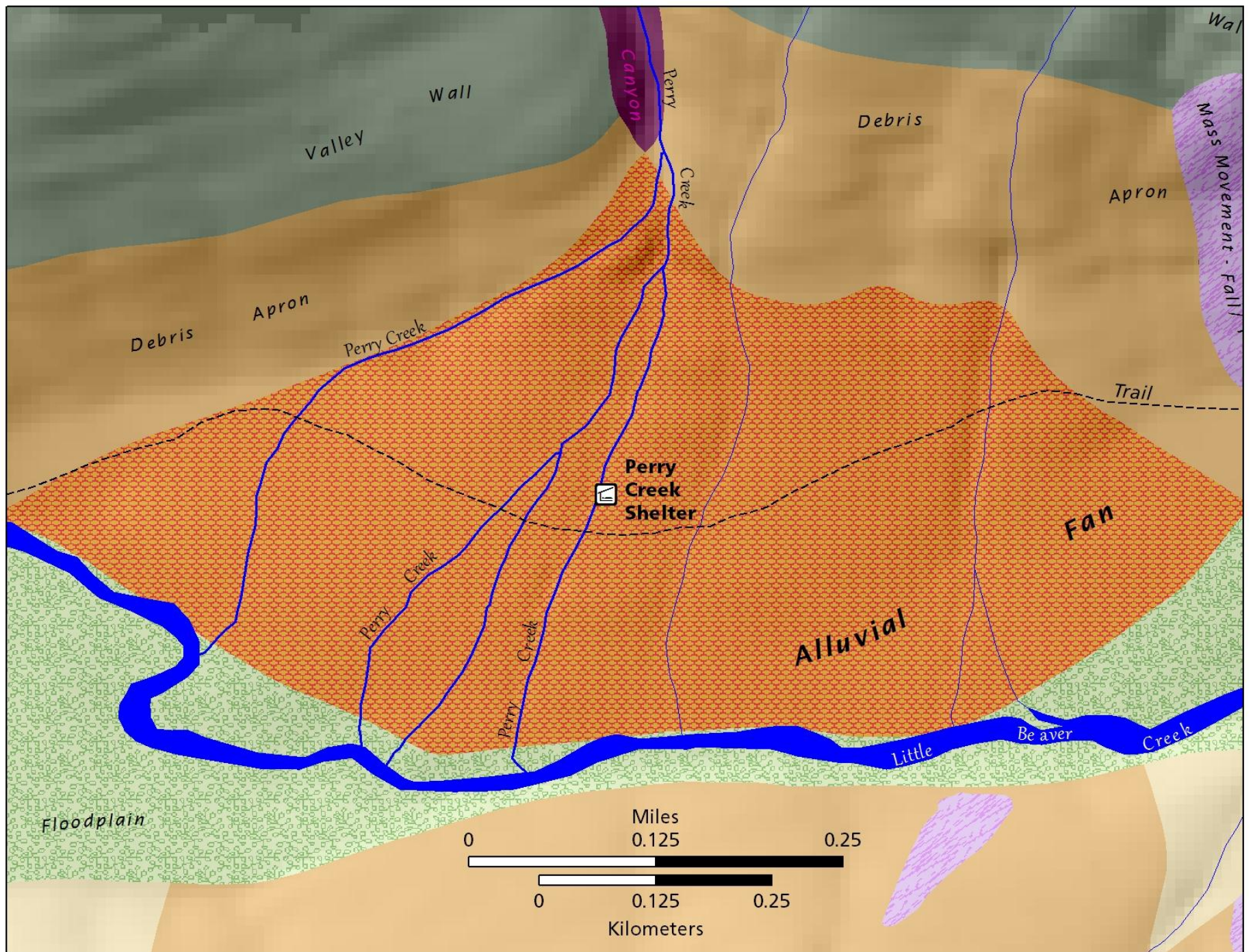
- Historic Shelter constructed by CCC.
- Shelter lies on an unstable alluvial fan.
- Perry Creek has changed course due to recent flooding. This is common on alluvial fans.
- Water flows through the shelter after heavy rain.
- The shelter probably will not last much longer.

*Is preservation appropriate?*

















## Perry Creek Shelter

- Interim measures have been taken to remove debris from behind structure.
- There is no reasonable place to relocate the shelter given the terrain.
- No action would seem to meet Minimum Requirement in this case.
- Must follow Section 106 process to arrive at final decision.



## Transportation Methods

- North Cascades is a *rugged* wilderness landscape
- Options include backpack, stock or helicopter
- Must consider personnel safety, feasibility, timing, weight/bulk of materials
- Impacts to wilderness character (e.g. loss solitude) can be mitigated but not eliminated. By law that's OK.



































# Tools for Historic Preservation

The choice of the “Minimum Tool” depends upon:

- Project objectives
- Personnel safety, site conditions
- Weight of materials
- Timing, budget, personnel resources available
- Mechanized tools can be a reasonable choice







































## Meadow Cabins

### Objectives:

- Replace deteriorated logs in-kind
- Replace shake roof in-kind
- Preserve historic fabric whenever possible
- Remove hazard trees around structure
- Provide hands-on experience for...



# **Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School 2006**

**Backcountry Session  
Meadow Cabin East**

North Cascades National Park Service Complex





## Logistical Constraints

- Cabins are located 12 mi. in wilderness and accessible by stock trail.
- Very heavy materials to move & lift into place.
- Complex scope of work includes educational Field School component.
- Cedar shake bolts in difficult to access floodplain setting.





## Wilderness Mitigations

- Obtain cedar bolts from downed logs and use hazard trees from local area. Do not import.
- Use hand tools to minimize impacts.
- Use many hands, stock and mechanical advantages to move heavy things.
- Use hand tools to replicate in-kind deteriorated components.
- Keep group size <12. Use LNT principles.





















































## Desolation Lookout

### Objectives:

- Replace cedar shingle roof
- Work safely and avoid lead exposure
- Abate lead paint and avoid site contamination
- Repaint L/O inside & out
- Maximize quality of paint job to minimize future maintenance





## Logistical Constraints

- Lookout most accessible from June-September.
- Need to abate lead paint without exposure to personnel or to the environment.
- Need good weather to paint.
- Trail to lookout not suitable for stock.
- Mechanized equipment and shingles too heavy to pack in.
- Must camp near worksite in subalpine setting.





## Wilderness Mitigations

- Use helicopter to transport essential materials—before/after peak season. Hike rest in and out.
- Pb toxic to environment: use ultra quiet portable generator to power HEPA PPE & heat gun
- Use generator only in morning—shut down when visitors arrive
- Follow LNT practices.

































# Sourdough Lookout

## Objectives:

- Preserve the lookout.
- Retain historic fabric whenever possible.
- Repair door and windows (extensive repairs).
- Straighten structure from racking due to snowload.
- Replace deteriorated structural members in-kind.
- Work safely. Minimize impact to subalpine env.





## Logistical Constraints

- Access from July(?)-September (La Nina=SNOWPACK)
- Extensive scope of work. Two year timeframe needed.
- Extensive window restoration work. Need controlled environment to do repairs and to re-glaze windows.
- Need materials (2x4 bracing & plywood) to “re-plumb” lookout and to temporarily stabilize for winter “entombment”.
- Windows & building materials too heavy/fragile to pack in/out.
- Trail to lookout not suitable for stock. Need helicopter.
- Extensive rot repairs to historic fabric of lookout. Need battery powered tools to do “surgical” repairs & preserve historic fabric.
- Need to camp in fragile subalpine setting.





## Wilderness Mitigations

- Only use helicopter to transport essential materials. Avoid peak season. Pack in remainder.
- Only use solar powered equipment (e.g. drill, saw) to minimize noise. Otherwise use hand tools.
- Work 8-days at a time and camp on site to maximize productivity/minimize crew intrusion.
- Keep crew size small (2-3) and use LNT principles.





SOURDOUGH LOOKOUT  
ELEV. 5997



# Sourdough Lookout in Winter













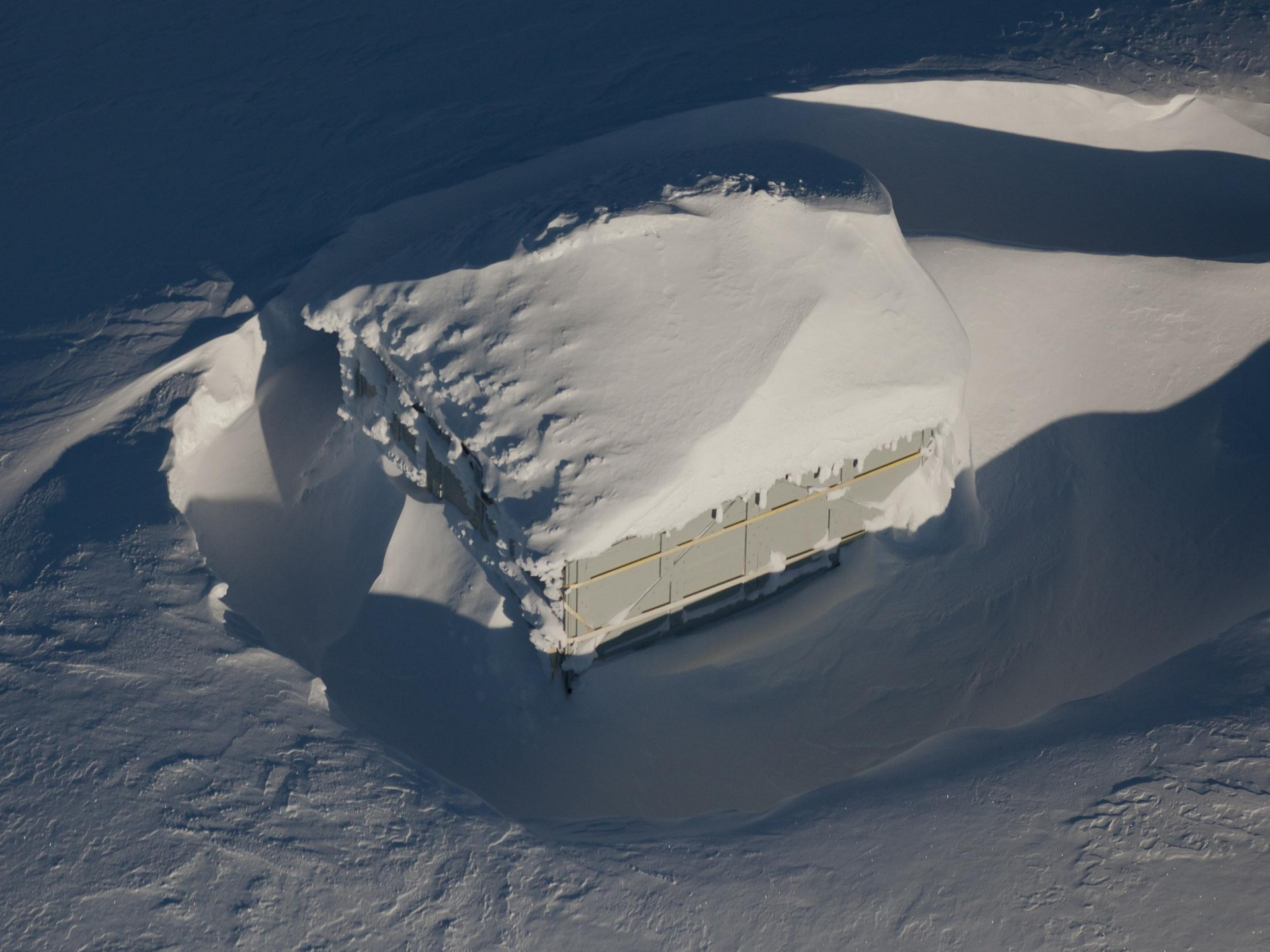






This Site Listed on the  
**NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LOOKOUT REGISTER**  
A national register recognizing  
fire lookout sites, structures  
and towers with historic and  
cultural significance to forest  
fire detection in order to  
promote their protection.  
Maintained in cooperation with  
federal, state, and private  
forestry agencies and  
landowners throughout the  
United States.











































# Lessons to Take Home

- Evaluate every project according to site-specific circumstances and project objectives.
- Use a rigorous interdisciplinary process and carefully document your decisions.
- Impacts to wilderness character should consider duration, timing and intensity. Mitigate accordingly.
- Use traditional tools & techniques whenever feasible.
- Mechanical tools may be necessary, especially for personnel safety.
- Adaptively maintain historic uses whenever possible.











# Questions?







## NPS Organic Act

“to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”