

MEGIN RIVER

E.R. #105

PURPOSE: Preservation of alluvial Sitka spruce - western redcedar forest

LOCATION: At mouth of Megin River, Shelter Inlet, 21 km NNW of Tofino

SIZE: 50 ha LAT: 49°26'N LONG: 126°05'W ELEVATION: 0 - 100 m

BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONE: Coastal Western Hemlock

PHYSICAL FEATURES:

The reserve occupies the lower kilometer of the Megin River valley, and mostly consists of level floodplain lands having alluvial surficial materials. Soils developed on these deposits are very rich Regosols. The western side of the reserve encompasses valley slopes above the floodplain. The Megin River, subject to pronounced seasonal variations in flow, has a gravel-cobble bottom, extensive gravel bars along its margins, and many long pools. It has a very low gradient, dropping only 20 m along its 10 km course from Megin Lake to the sea.

BIOTIC FEATURES:

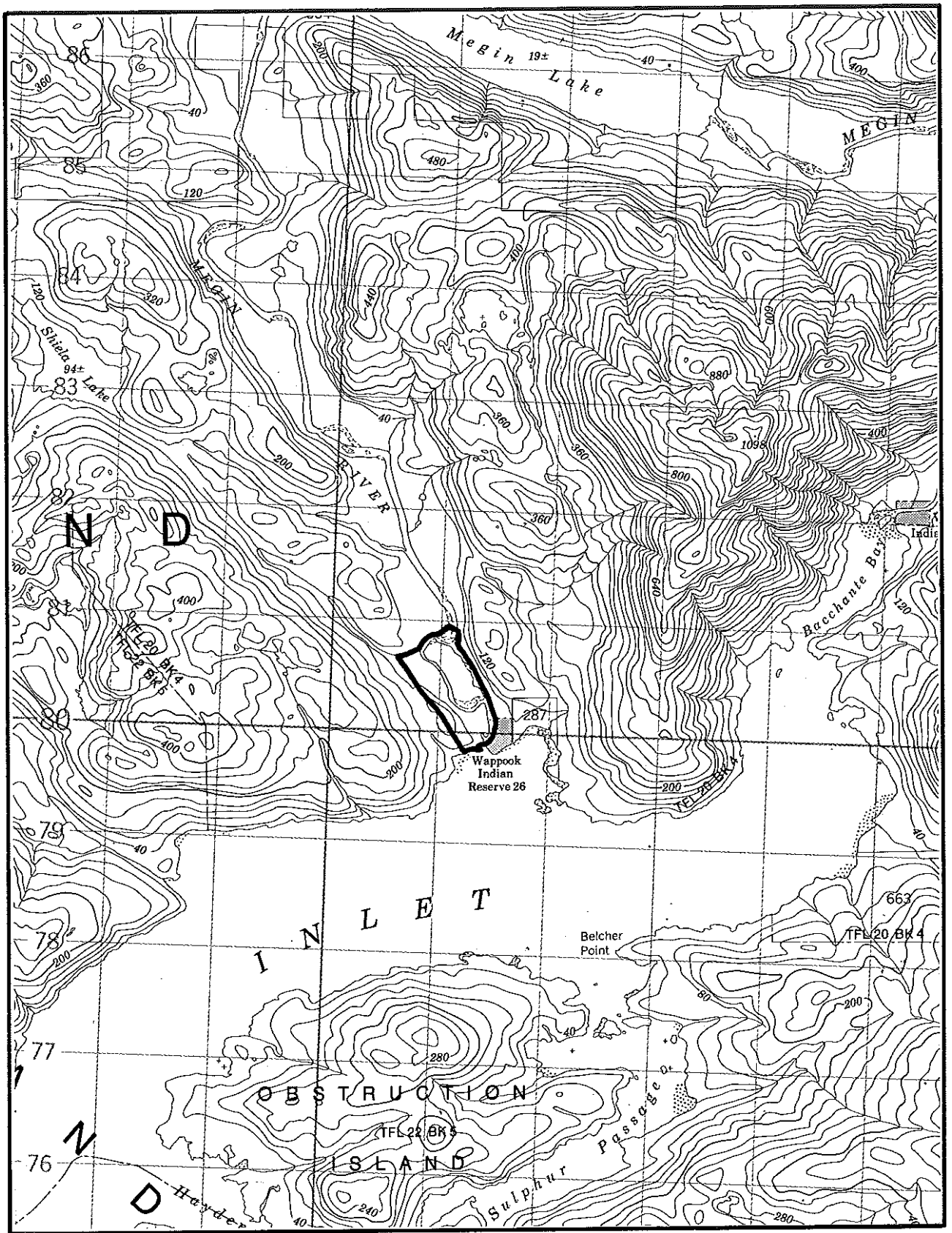
Alluvial lands support old-growth Sitka spruce trees reaching 1.5 m in diameter and 60 m in height, and western redcedars up to 2 m in diameter and 50 m tall. Four plant communities have been described in the reserve. Tall shrub stands dominated by red alder, willows, and salmonberry occur as riparian strips, between gravel bars and the adjacent forest. The large island and downstream alluvial lands support tall Sitka spruce - western redcedar stands having an understory of salmonberry, red-osier dogwood, devil's club, false bugbane and lady fern. Slopes to the west of the river are dominated by western redcedar - western hemlock forest with an understory of shrubs such as Alaskan blueberry, red huckleberry, and evergreen huckleberry. On the ridge crest along the west boundary, the forest is dominated by western redcedar and lodgepole pine, and common understory species are salal, fern-leaved goldthread, and sphagnum mosses.

The Megin River system supports significant spawning runs of sockeye, chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon. Chum salmon, and perhaps other species, spawn within the reserve.

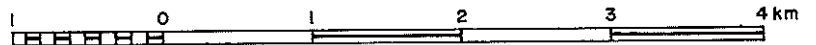
OUTSTANDING FEATURES: A small but excellent old-growth stand of Sitka spruce and western redcedar on a rich alluvial site.

OTHER INFORMATION: Order-in-Council no. 1532, 9 July 1981. Application no. 239. Map no. 92 E/8. Access by boat from Tofino. Proposed logging in the Megin River watershed is expected to profoundly alter the surrounding environment. Although access is difficult at present, the Megin River has potential for canoeing.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE	105
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL	1532
FILE NUMBER	<u>0334512</u>
NAME OF RESERVE	Megin River
DATE ESTABLISHED	July 9, 1981
MAP LOCATION	33.8 km northeast of Estevan Point on the west coast of Vancouver Island, north of Flores Island
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	All that parcel or tract of land, together with that part of the bed of the Megin River, Clayoquot District, containing 50 hectares more or less, as shown on the attached plan.
AREA	50 hectares
OBJECT AND COMMUNITY TYPE PRESERVED	The Megin River Reserve is characterized by productive west coast alluvial and upland forests. Sitka spruce specimens occur in alluvial sites on extremely fertile silty and sandy soils rich in lime. The species diversity here is very high including the pink fawn lily (<u>Erythronium revolutum</u>) broadleaf maple (<u>Acer macrophyllum</u>) and wild ginger (<u>Asarum canadatum</u>). All 5 species of salmon use this river.
BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONE	CWH _b
SURVEYORS	Jim Pojar and Hans Roemer
I.B.P. REPORT NO.	239
AIR PHOTOS	B.C. 7238: 2-3
MAP LOCATION REFERENCE	92 E/8,9 East $\frac{1}{2}$ NE.
FOREST COVER MAP	92 F/SW, W $\frac{1}{2}$



SCALE 1:50 000



N.T.S. No. 92 E/8

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE No.105
MEGIN RIVER

EP # 105



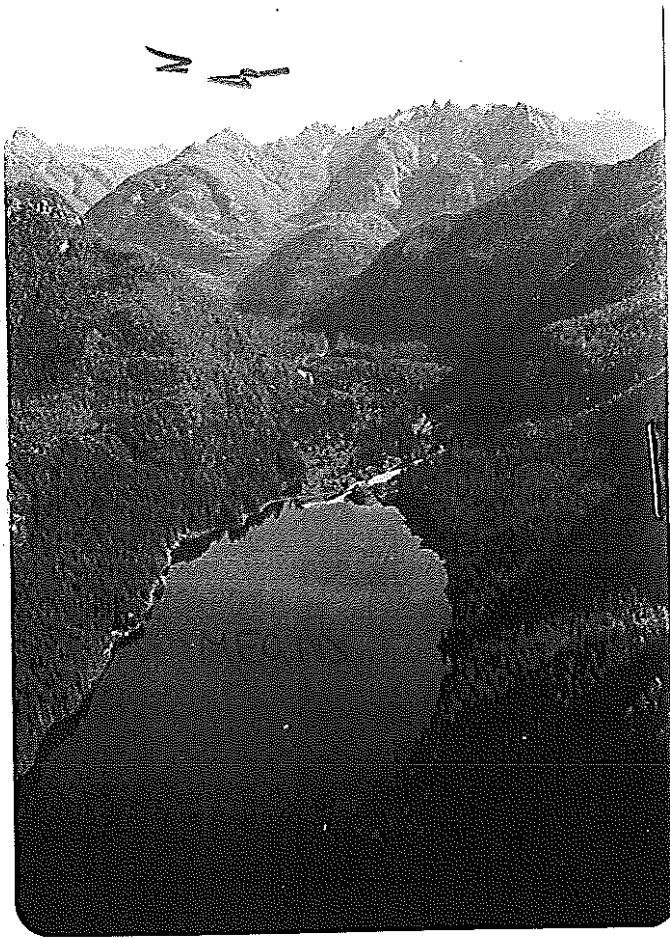
BC7238-002

Request No. 100345

Vict. File 0334512

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE # 239,

Megin River, North of Shelter Inlet,
Clayoquot District.



105-52

Appl. no. 239

Megin River



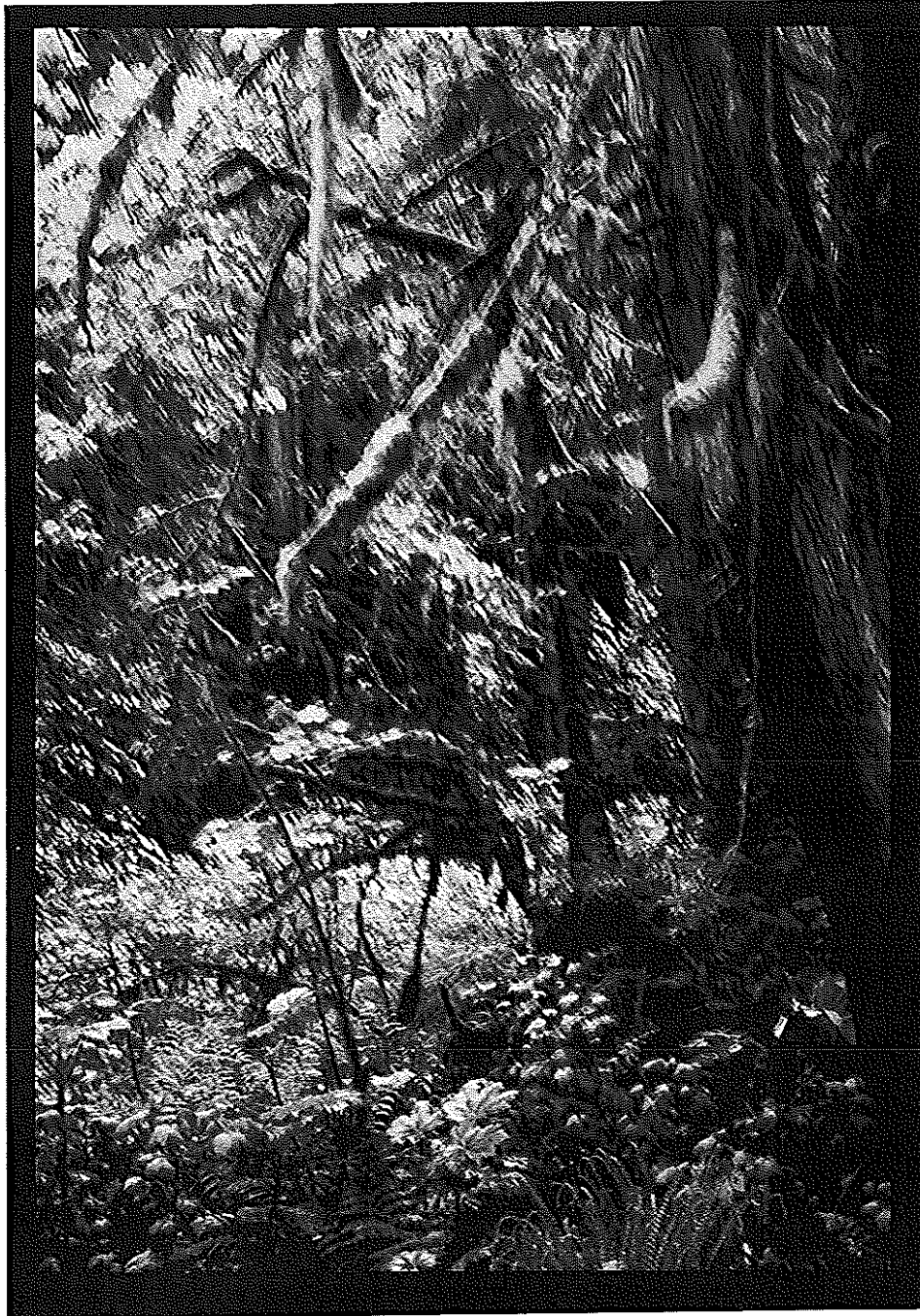
Sitka spruce - western redcedar forest.

105-10c

File 6-6-2-99
ER#105

Appl. no. 239

Megin River



Dense shrub layer in the Sitka spruce - western
redcedar forest.

105-11c

Appl. no. 239

Megin River



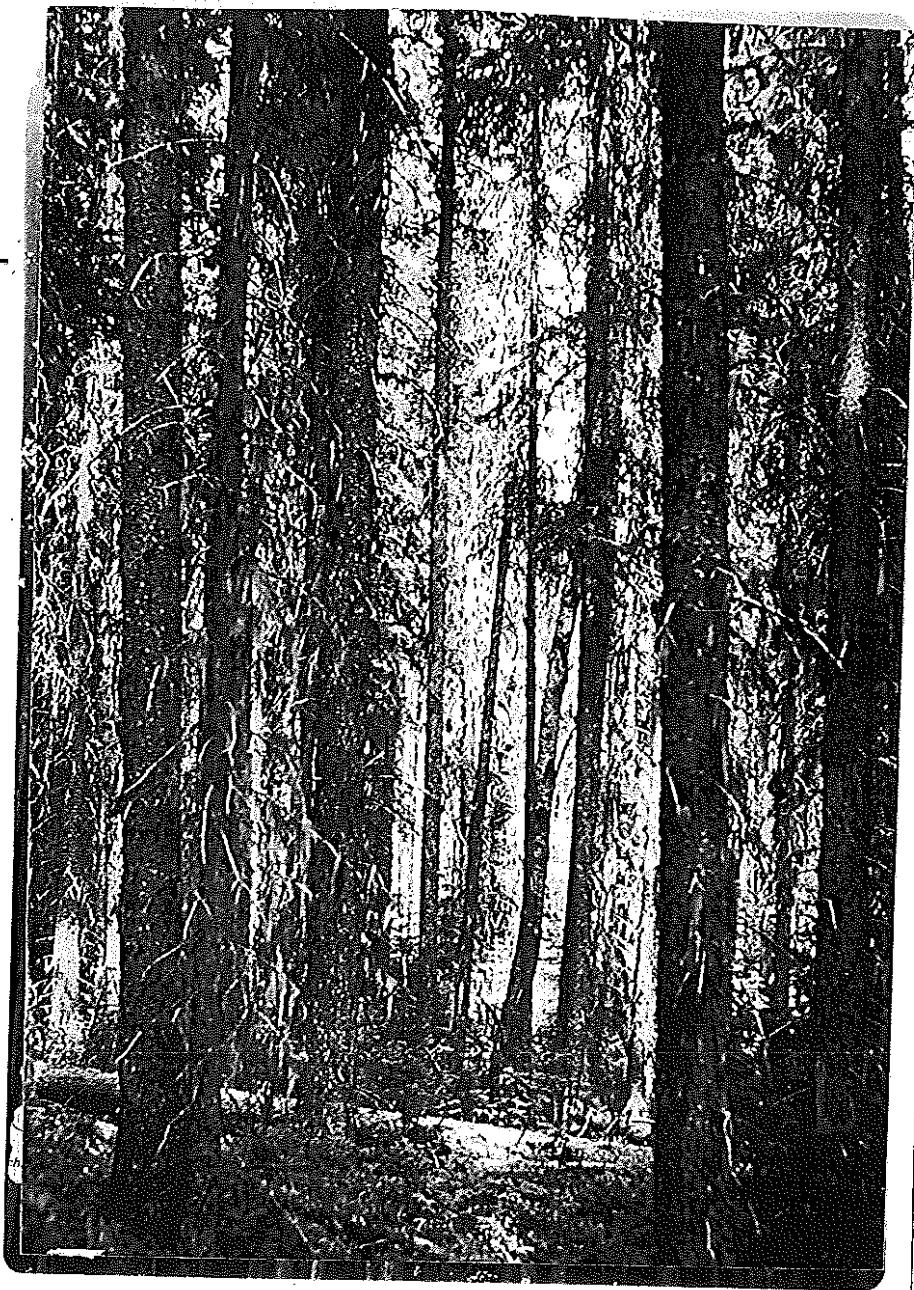
Sitka spruce forest with broadleaf maple and red alder at the head of Megin Lake (area "B").

105-9c

Appl. No. 220

ER #107

Chunamon Creek Thrifty Spruces



Good growth Picea glauca and P. engelmannii.

107-6c

Appl. No. 220

Chunamon Creek Thrifty Spruces



Good growth Picea glauca and P. engelmannii.

107-6c

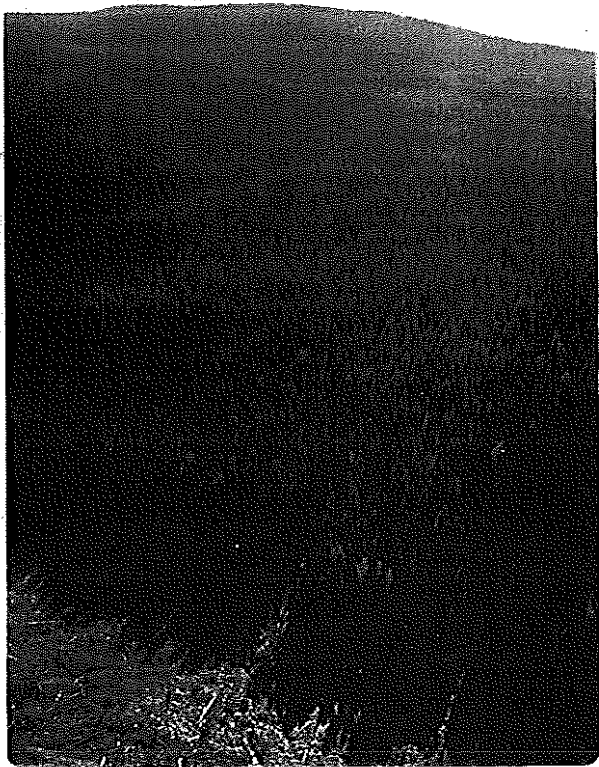
Appl. No. 220
Chunamon Creek Thrifty Spruces



107-20

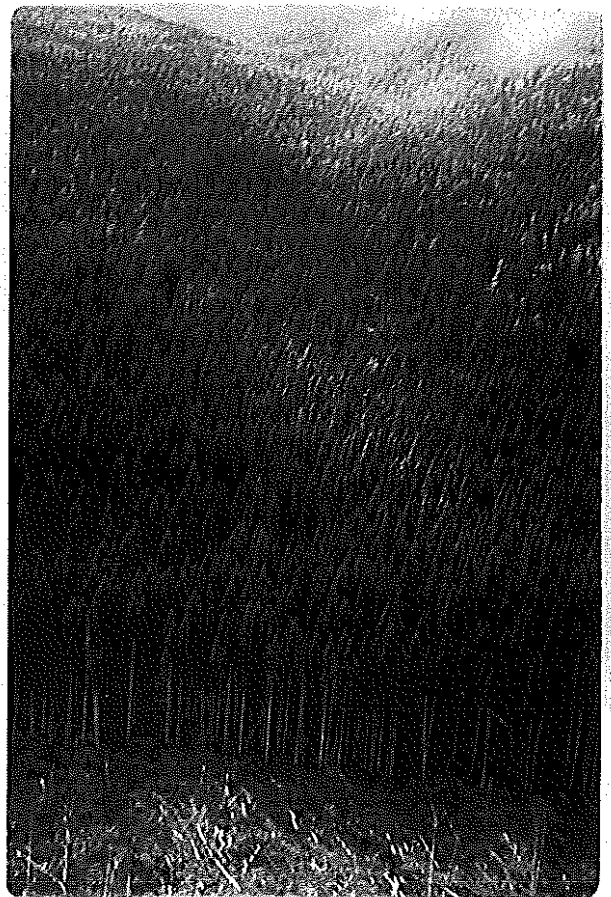
Appl. No. 220

Chunamon Creek "Thrifty Spruces"



107-4c

Looking west.



107-5c

