

WASHINGTON STATE  
Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
Natural Resources

Proposed Name: Schoolhouse Creek

New Name

County: Klickitat

Controversial Name

Township: 4N Range: 10E Section(s): 36

Name Change

Lat. 45.77 N, Long. 121.50 W (Begin)

Location Clarification

Lat. 45.80 N, Long. 121.51 W (End)

Spelling Clarification

**Description**

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): stream

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: 12

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names:

no

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when?

no

**History**

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature:

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
has not been in use

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of support is there for the proposed name?  
List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Application submitted by:

Name: PAUL POKNIS  
Address: P.O. Box 213 City: Husum State: WA Zip: 98623  
Phone #: 541-490-2600 cell Email: dempsey@gorge.net Date of Application: Jan 24, 2024

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: PAUL POKNIS  
Signature:  Date: Jan 24, 2024

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:  
Washington State Board on Geographic Names  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030  
(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: [bozn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bozn@dnr.wa.gov))

**Hello**

**My name is Paul Poknis and I put this application together. The following pages answer the longer questions on the application. And I have included three maps. I am a retired contractor and my wife Patricia Dempsey is a retired educator. We have lived on the property since 1984. Before that we lived in BZ Corners for five years on property that the Forest Service would eventually purchase and develop into a public launch site for kayakers and rafters. It has been an economic boon for the valley and the county.**

**On the public service level - I served as President of the Fordyce Water Association for around twenty years. The Fordyce system services the Husum area and has around two hundred +/- members. I resigned from the board in 2013. My wife Patricia is rfrently on the school board of the White Salmon School District.**

**Thank you**

**Mailing address:**

**Paul Poknis  
Box 213  
Husum WA. 98623**

**Physical address:**

**20 Cottonwood Lane  
Husum WA.**

**Cell# 541-490-2600**

**Email: [dempsey@gorge.net](mailto:dempsey@gorge.net)**

## The Creek

I'll describe the creek and its sources. I also labeled some of the photos to help. The blue dots on the maps are the sources of the creek - to the best of my knowledge. The red dot is the outlet into the White Salmon River. The black dot is our homesite. The creek has a main channel and a north and a south fork. There are also several 'seeps'. The main channel is six feet across as it runs through our land. Its 'headwaters' are the pasture lands just south of Fordyce Road. When there is snow on the ground there will be a three foot wide green strip with water flowing. Canadian Geese can be seen there. It then flows through a stand of Aspen which are rare in our valley.

The north fork joins the main channel down at the west end of our land where the swamp starts. At this point it has been a swamp for a few hundred feet. It's source is another spring located near our driveway at the northeast corner of our land.

The south fork joins the main channel about halfway through our land. Although there is some swampland just above this spot, it flows as a small creek here. And just down creek from this confluence the main channel will enter the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor. The source of the South fork is up in the hills on the east side of the valley and is where I marked as the beginning spot. That would be the one that might have to move. The original Fordyce Spring is somewhere in this drainage. This creek with its tributaries is the only one that flows across the valley before joining the White Salmon River. As such it is a good runway for animals. There may be 5+ miles in the creek's watershed.

After the creek leaves our property it becomes a swamp for a few hundred feet before narrowing again through a grove of about 30+ Oregon Ash (some at 16"+ diameter) which are very rare east of the River - probably the only 'stand' on the east side. When it gets to within fifty feet of the River it makes a 90 degree turn north into a small shelter pool before joining the White Salmon River. The river at this point is about a one quarter mile stretch of prime Salmon habitat - perfect for depositing their eggs. This is the 'end' spot for the creek.

## Forest History:

I have always known this to be a former Schoolhouse Forty forest. We learned that from the logging brothers who sold us the property. Owned and logged by the state for the benefit of the local school district. It was sold (1960's?) to the adjacent landowner (80 acres) along the White Salmon River. The entire parcel of 120 acres was then sold to the two logging brothers who removed some timber and then sold 20 and 40 acre parcels around 1980 - when we purchased our property. The only reason the forest along the creek is still standing is because it was never clear cut. The forest is surrounded by pastureland. There was a homestead in a meadow just west of our property line - out along south side of the swamp. Those folks built too close to the creek and all that is left now are two apple trees and the rusted hulk of a car from that era - and maybe a few remnants of the house down over the bank. The only section of access road to the homestead from the highway that is still intact runs the length of our land. It runs along the hill on the south side of the creek. It has been plowed under out in the pastureland.

I have photographed over one hundred varieties of Mushrooms including all the good eating ones. All the woodland flowers are here in abundance. And we even have both types of poison oak - the dry shrub and the wet vine. There is a spot along the creek where an Oak tree is growing just a few feet from a Yew tree. And there are Cedar all around them.

This is a very healthy forest and already has some of the biggest trees in the valley. The Ponderosa Pine I list hasn't plated out yet so at 44 inches it is still vigorously growing. The dug fir is true old growth. Two to three foot growth leaders are common in the forest. Tallest trees are in the 150'+ range.

This application is to name a creek but the forest along it is a very important part of the story.

**Forest composition in order of predominance:**

**Dug Fir at 70%+/- (up to 48" diameter), Red Cedar (up to 36" diameter), Ponderosa Pine (up to 44" diameter), Grand Fir (up to 30" diameter), Yew (about 20 trees up to 16" diameter) and 1 Sequoia planted in 1989 and doing very well**

**Oak, Big Leaf Maple, Cherry, Cottonwood, Pacific Willow, Dogwood and one Oregon Ash located along the main channel about halfway through the property**

**Vine Maple, Hazelnut, Mock orange,**

**Animals that follow the creek and/or live in the forest:**

**Black Bear (the den is down along the north side of the creek along the swamp close to the White Salmon River), Cougar, Bobcat, Coyote, Turkey, Elk, Deer, Raccoon, Possum, River Otter, trout, crawdads, freshwater clams**

**Predominate larger birds:**

**Red Tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl, Short Eared Owl, a very small Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Sage Grouse, Quail, Crows/Ravens and I once watched a Bald Eagle fly up from the creek just below our home, and an occasional Osprey from their nest along the White Salmon River just upstream from where the creek comes in**

**Support:**

**Friends of the White Salmon is a local environmental group that was established in 1976 or so in reaction to the local PUD's attempts to what essentially would be the killing of the White Salmon River with a series of dams - with an earthen reservoir just above the town of Trout Lake that would forever threaten the town and the entire White Salmon valley. Because of the efforts of this organization and a lot of other residents of the valley it never happened. With the removal of Condit dam it is now a free flowing river from its source on Mt. Adams to the Columbia River. Kayakers and rafters have brought an economic resurgence to the valley.**

**Members of the group are familiar with our forest from being on our property. Best way to contact them is through their website. Pat Arnold would be your contact.**

**[friendsofthewhitesalmon.org](http://friendsofthewhitesalmon.org)**

**Our friend and neighbor Bruce Monk owns the northern half of the Schoolhouse Forty. The North fork is mostly on his property. He is a retired National Marine Fisheries biologist. He likes the idea. All I have is his home Phone #**

**1-509-493-3774**

**The neighbor on our eastern property line who owns property along the creek is also a retired National Marine Fisheries biologist. I haven't spoken with him about this but I think he would support this - as would the rest of my neighbors along Fordyce Road.**

**Our last selective cut was about ten years ago. And I think it was at this time that I stood with three men from DNR etc. at the junction of the south fork and main channel. At that time the south fork was an 'F' stream but the main channel was an 'N'. But one of the men changed it to an 'F' on the spot - if I recall correctly.**

## **Value to the public:**

**I feel that this forest and the creek that runs through it should not be just the privy of whomever is living in the house. This forest has a history of state (public) ownership which was well managed and which is why it is the diverse forest that it is today. And it is a place that I feel could be shared for educational purposes.**

**So naming the creek is the first step and 'Schoolhouse Creek' seemed appropriate. And maybe in the future the forest could be called the 'Schoolhouse Natural Area' - or something like that. Our homesite sits above the creek and forest on just a few acres. So 15 acres+ are available for the local school districts for field trips - maybe a photo or science club kind of thing at first. Over the years we have opened up and maintained the game trails and the old and wider logging roads that had become overgrown. So there is quite an extensive trail system in place.**

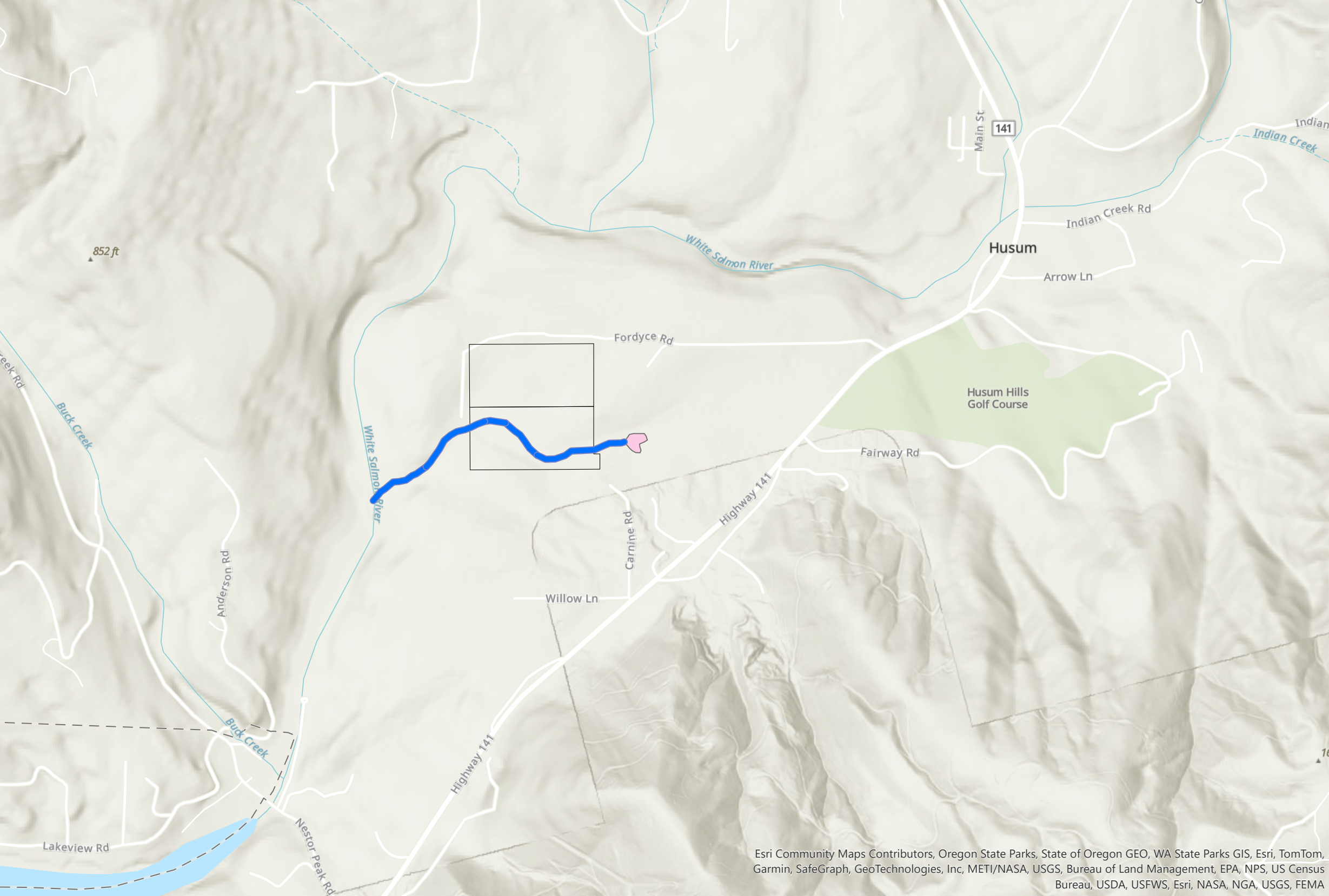
**This spring we are planning a selective cut on the upper few acres along our driveway and around our home. We will be favoring the older trees for the most part. This will open up the upper forest to more sunlight. And some trees will be removed for safety purposes. This will be the third time 20 years that we have had a selective cut up above. The rest of the property is off limits.**

**So this forest will need maintenance over the years and I'm still thinking on that. We can maintain it while we're around. There is a scenario where the house can be rented out and some of that money can go into maintenance of the property and house - or something like that. We could even favor an educator as a renter. And they could do the routine yard work like any renter would. But first things first and this is the first thing.**

**Like I said there are only a few acres of 'usable' land up above. The rest is off limits. So, no matter who lives in the house the forest is just going to grow older and older. It's already well on its way. And the creek completes the picture of a miniature northwest forest. And there is a lot that can be learned here. Thank you.**

**Paul Poknis**





852 ft

141

Husum

Main St

Indian Creek Rd

Arrow Ln

Fordyce Rd

Husum Hills  
Golf Course

Fairway Rd

Highway 141

Carmine Rd

Willow Ln

Highway 141

Anderson Rd

Buck Creek

Nestor Peak Rd

Lakeview Rd









Y Y Y Y - swamp land

● - creek sources

● - creek end

● - homesite

Schoolhouse 40

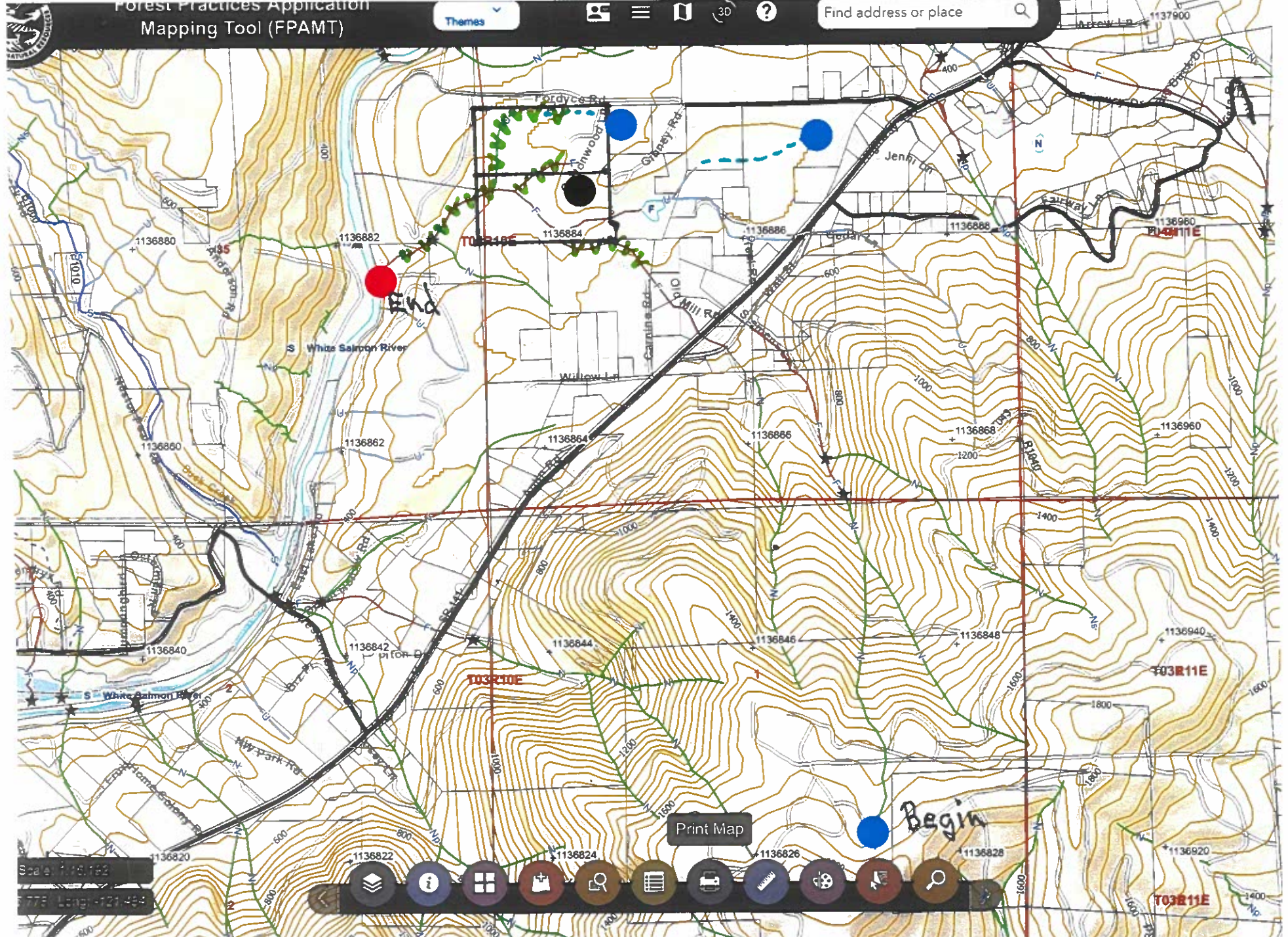
AA

fpamt.dnr.wa.gov

Forest Practices Application Mapping Tool (FPAMT)

Themes

Find address or place



Scale 1:100,000  
775 Long - 421 - 44

Navigation toolbar with icons for home, info, layers, search, print, and other map functions.





- County Boundaries
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
- Urban and rural serves
- RLIS Zoning
- Taxlots
- Wetlands
- Flood Plain
- 2 ft Contours





Photo Prints

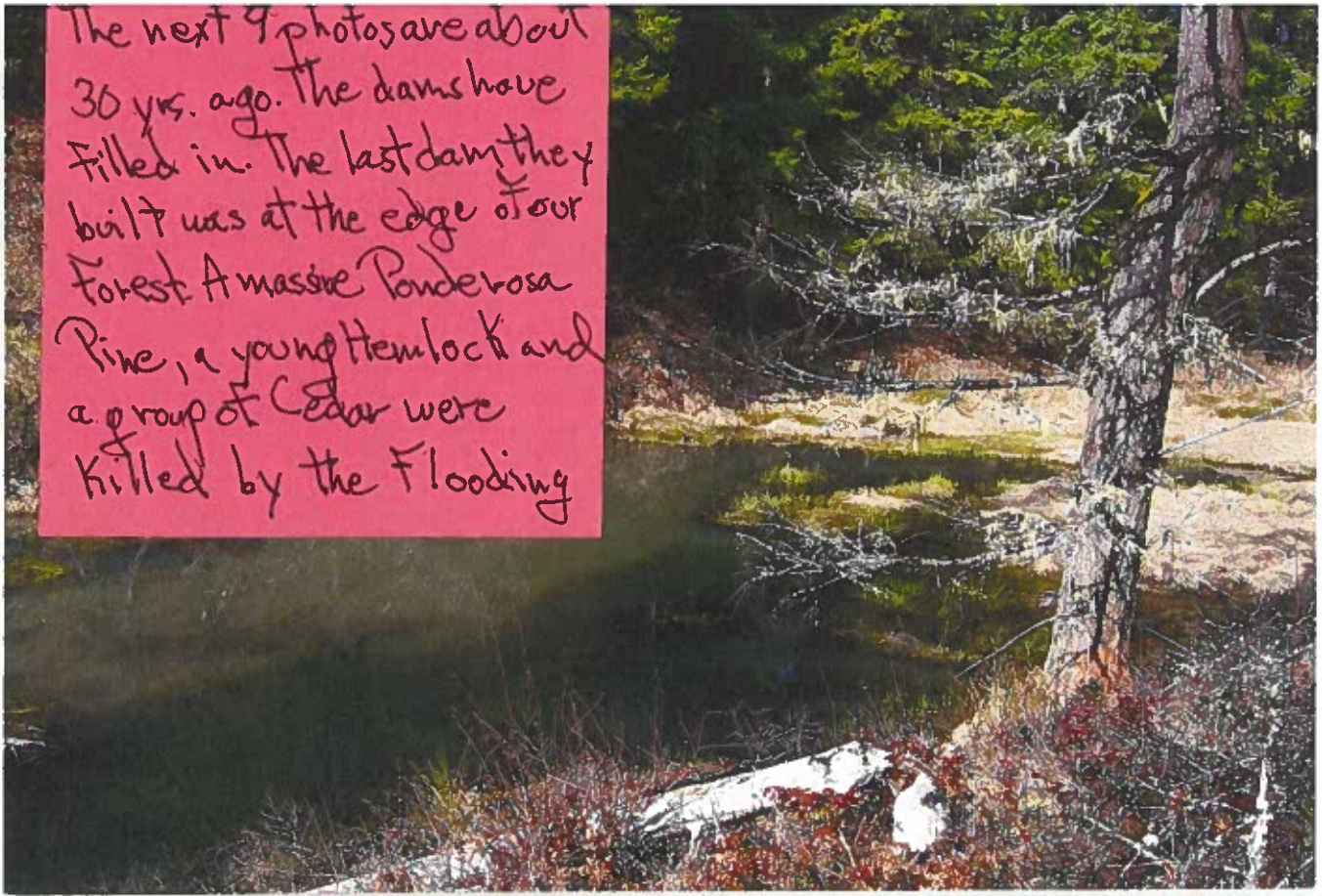
Tu  
mo  
a n

Creek photos beginning  
at eastern property line  
and ending at its confluence  
with the White Salmon River.  
Creek flow is generally left  
to right except where noted.  
Many of the photos have  
tags like this to explain.

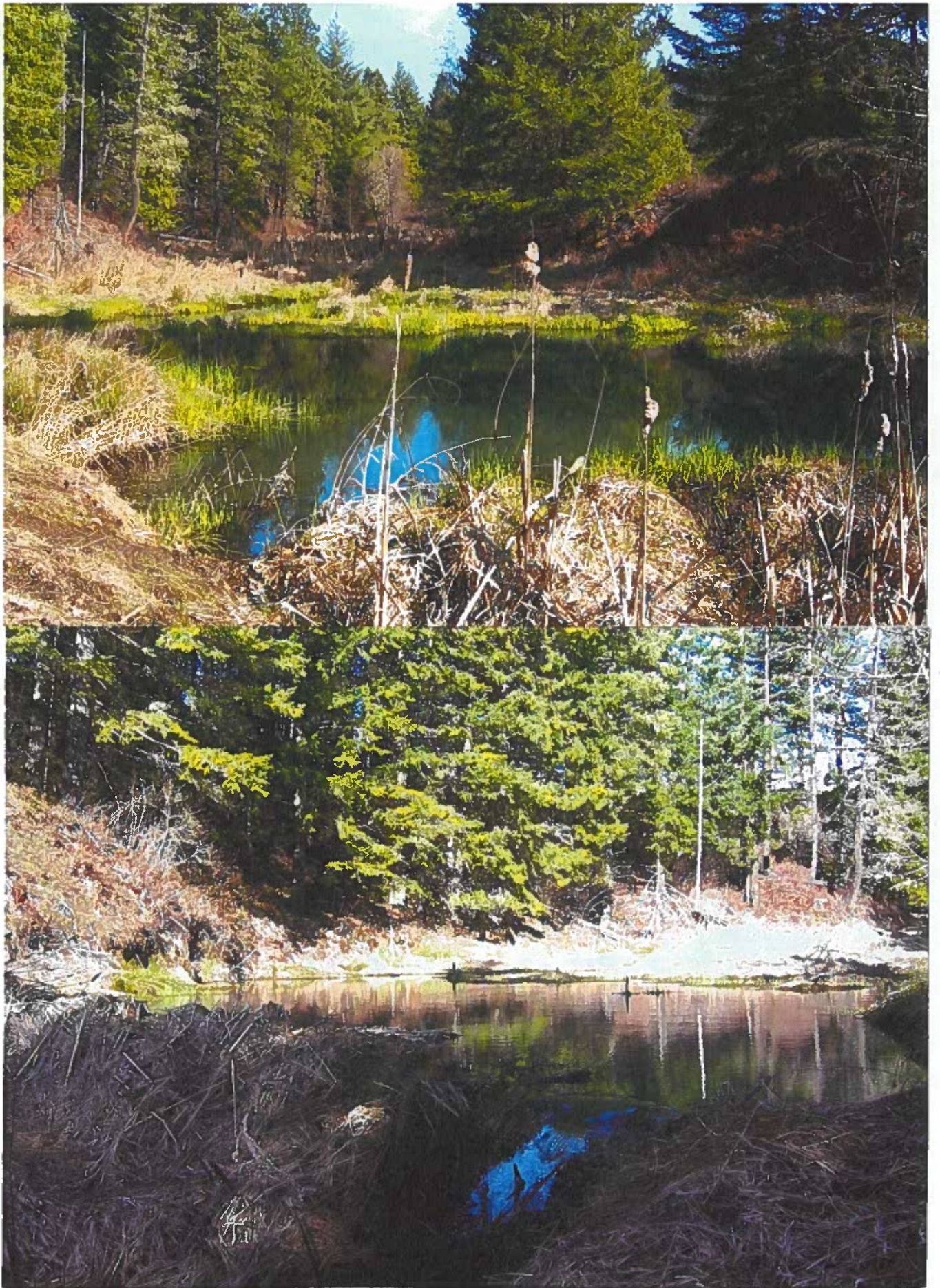




The next 9 photos are about 30 yrs. ago. The dams have filled in. The last dam they built was at the edge of our forest. A massive Ponderosa Pine, a young Hemlock and a group of Cedar were killed by the flooding











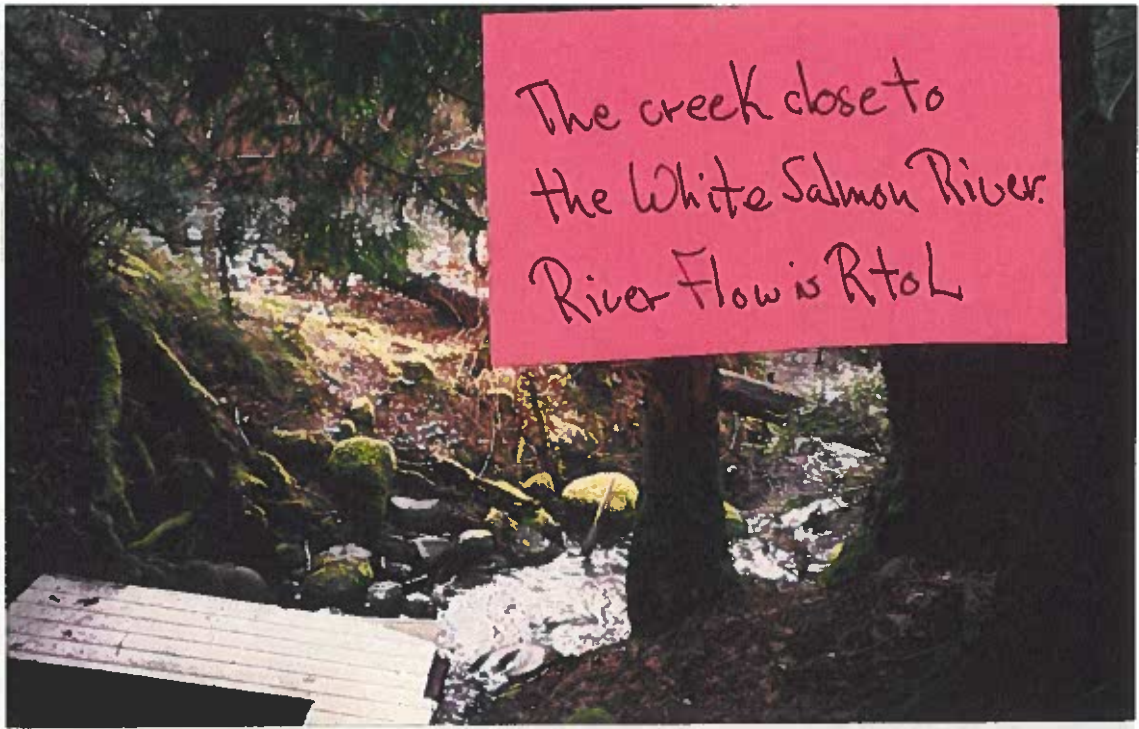


Looking upstream  
in the swamp.  
Small beaver dam  
to the left.

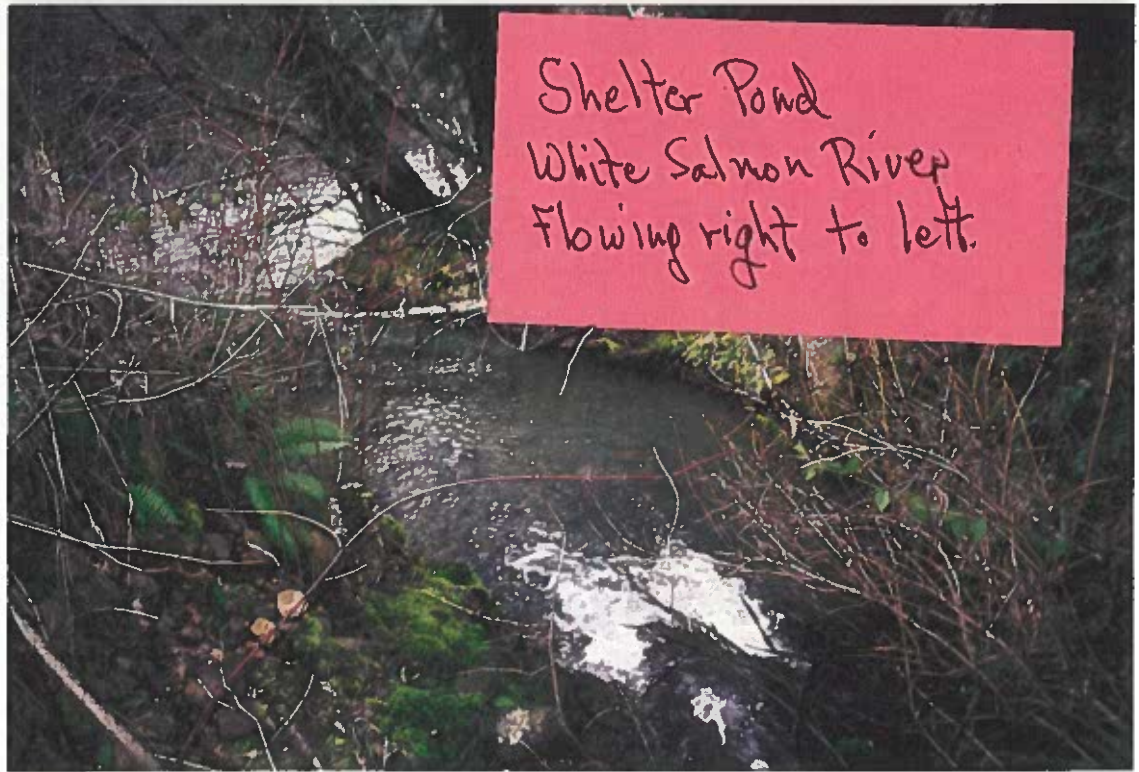


The beaver dam in  
the previous photo.





The creek close to  
the White Salmon River.  
River Flow is R to L

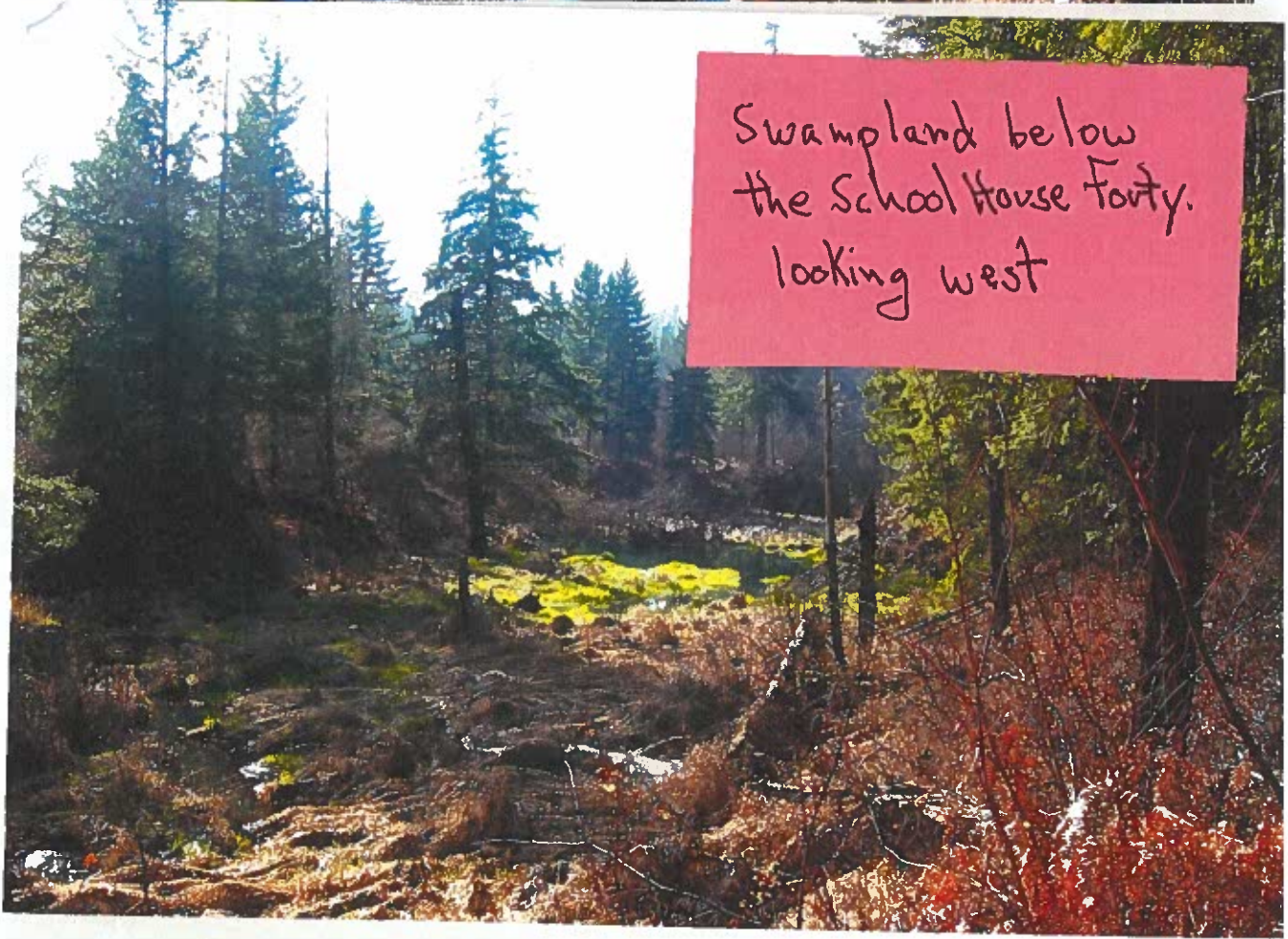


Shelter Pond  
White Salmon River  
Flowing right to left.





The Swamp at our  
property line.  
Looking upstream



Swampland below  
the School House forty.  
looking west



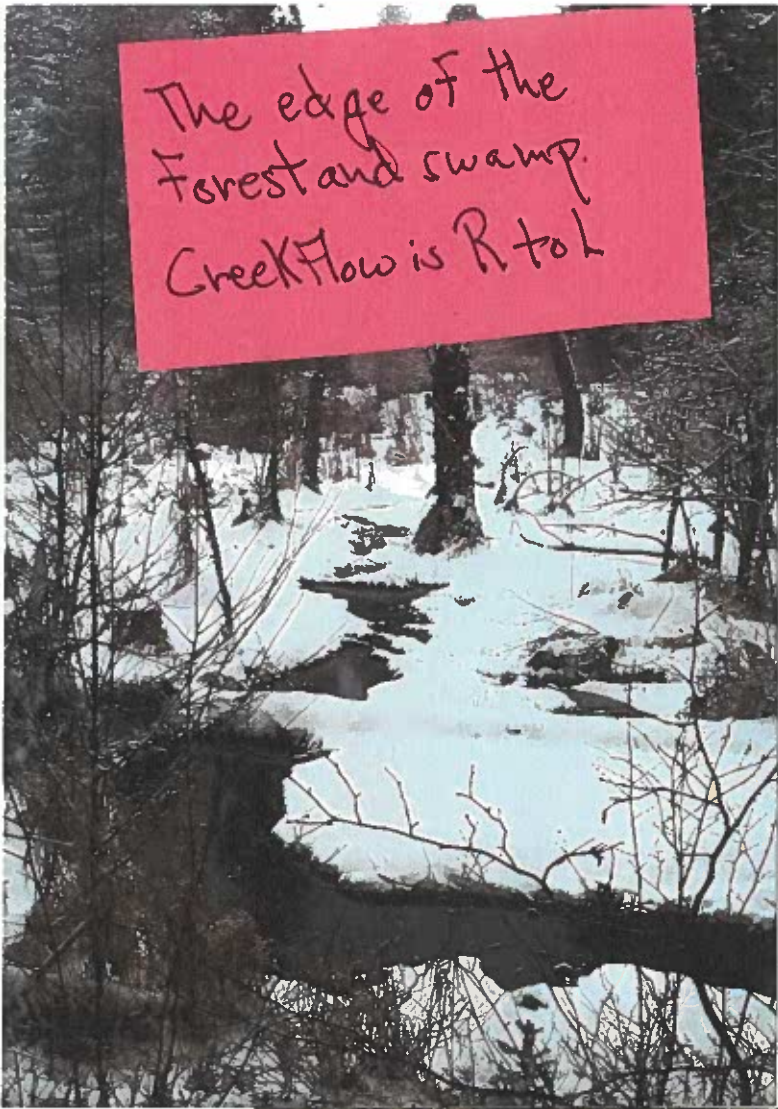


Main channel at  
the W property line.  
North Fork is at the  
top. Spring Floodings

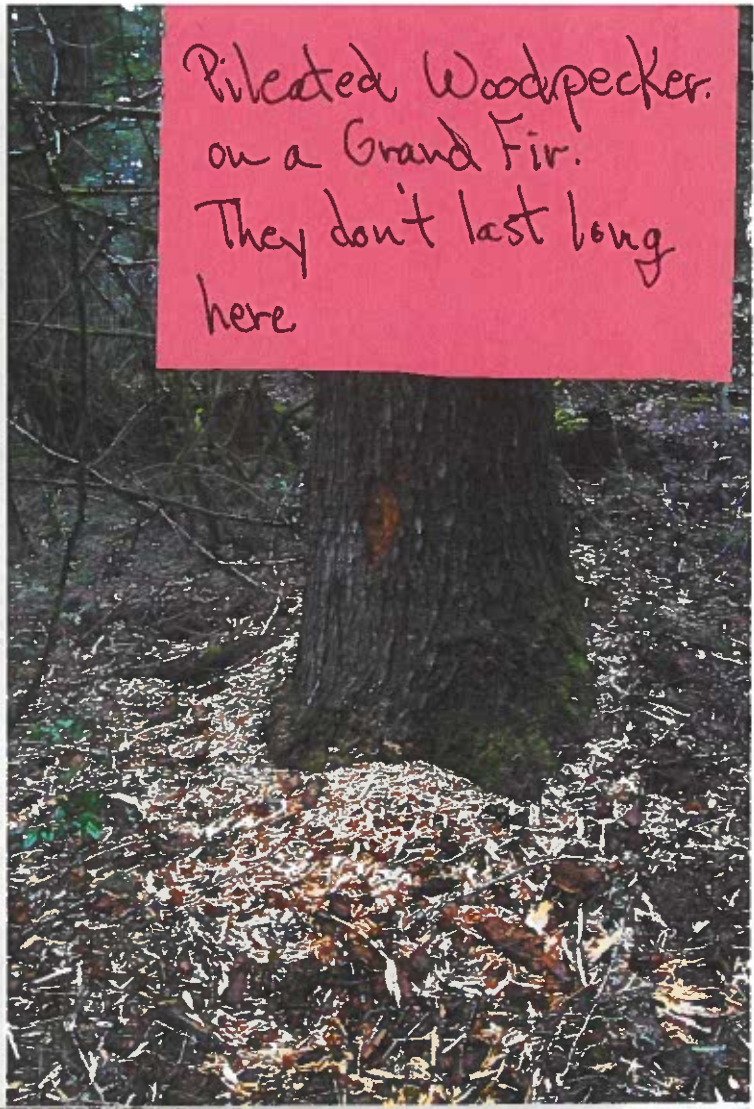




The edge of the  
Forest and swamp.  
Creek Flow is R to L



Pileated Woodpecker.  
on a Grand Fir.  
They don't last long  
here



Looking west into the  
swamp  
Main channel is left.  
North Fork to the right.



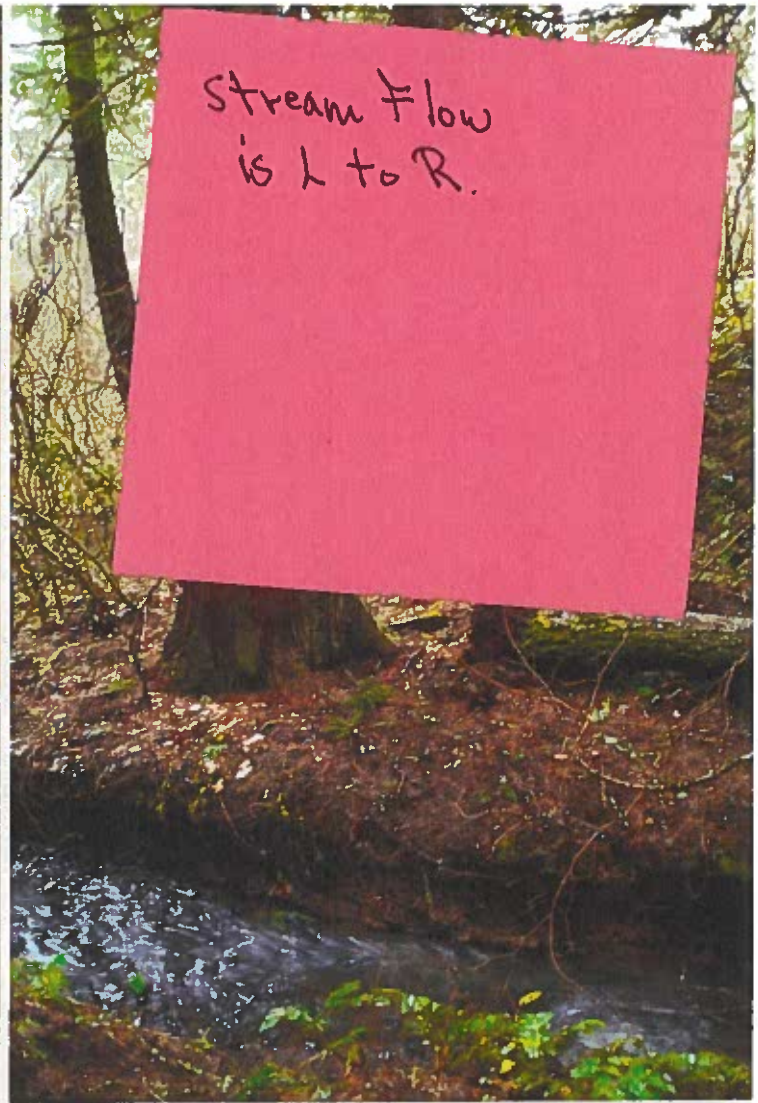


Looking SE along  
the access road to  
the old homestead.

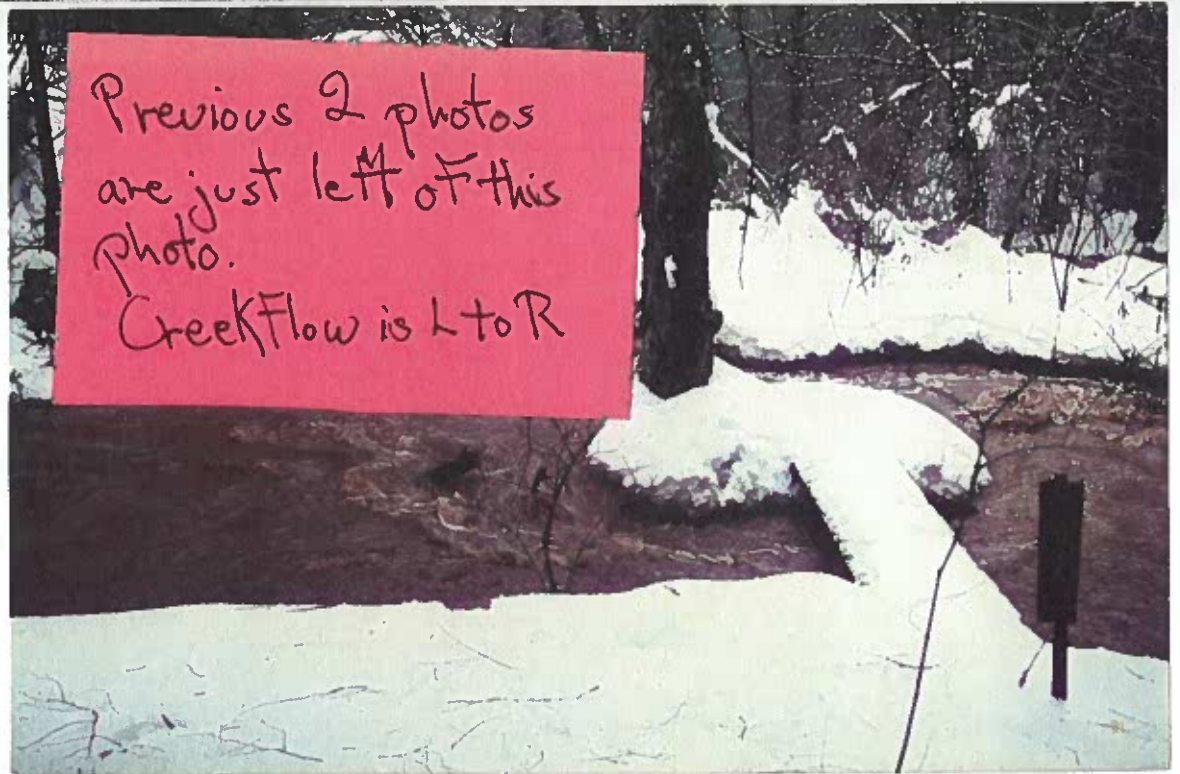
The next photo is  
looking west from the  
same spot.





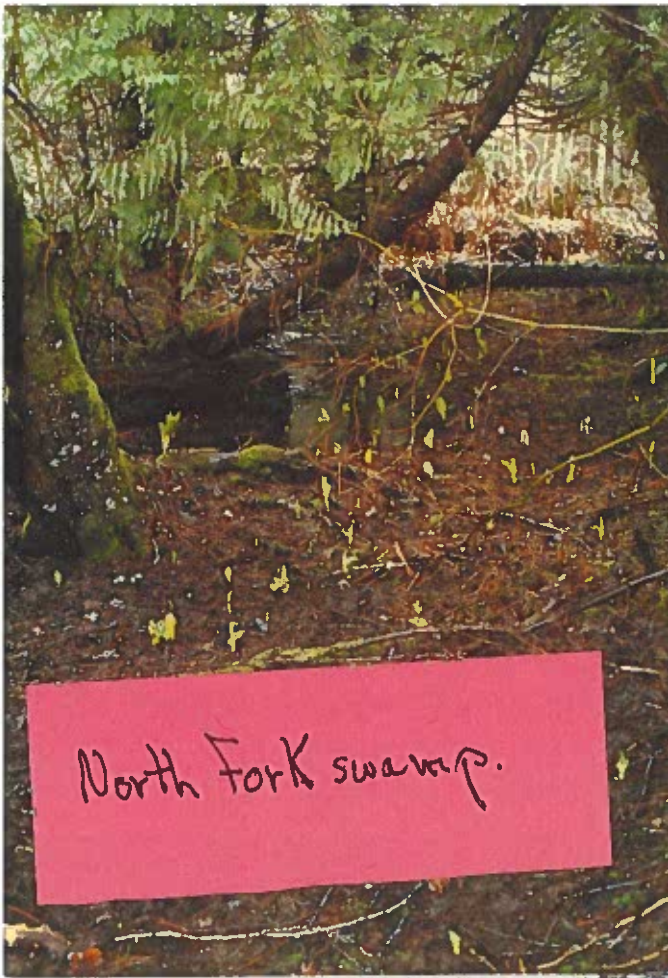


Stream Flow  
is L to R.

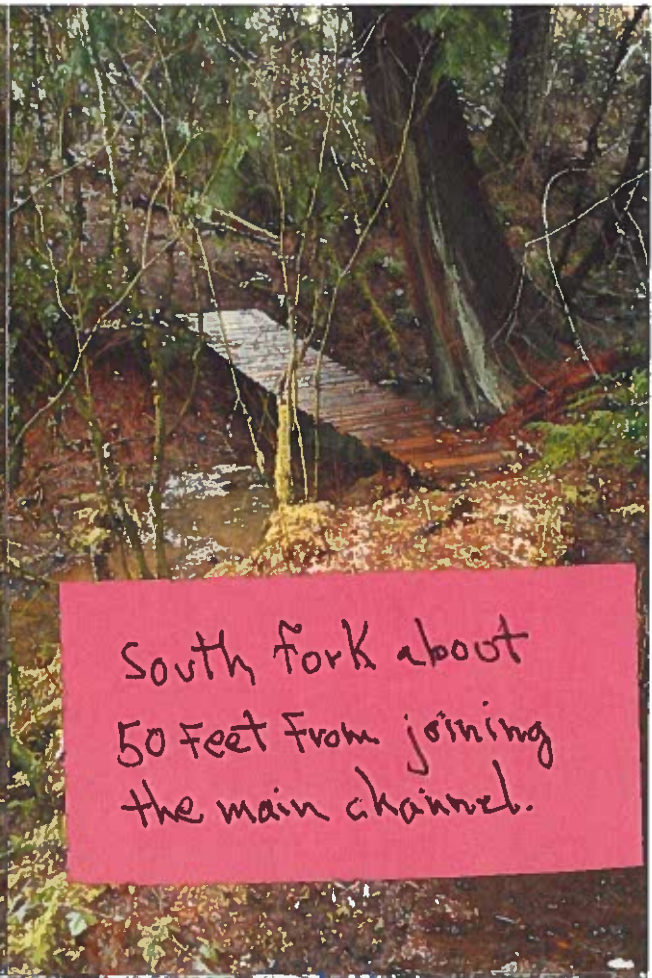


Previous 2 photos  
are just left of this  
photo.  
Creek Flow is L to R

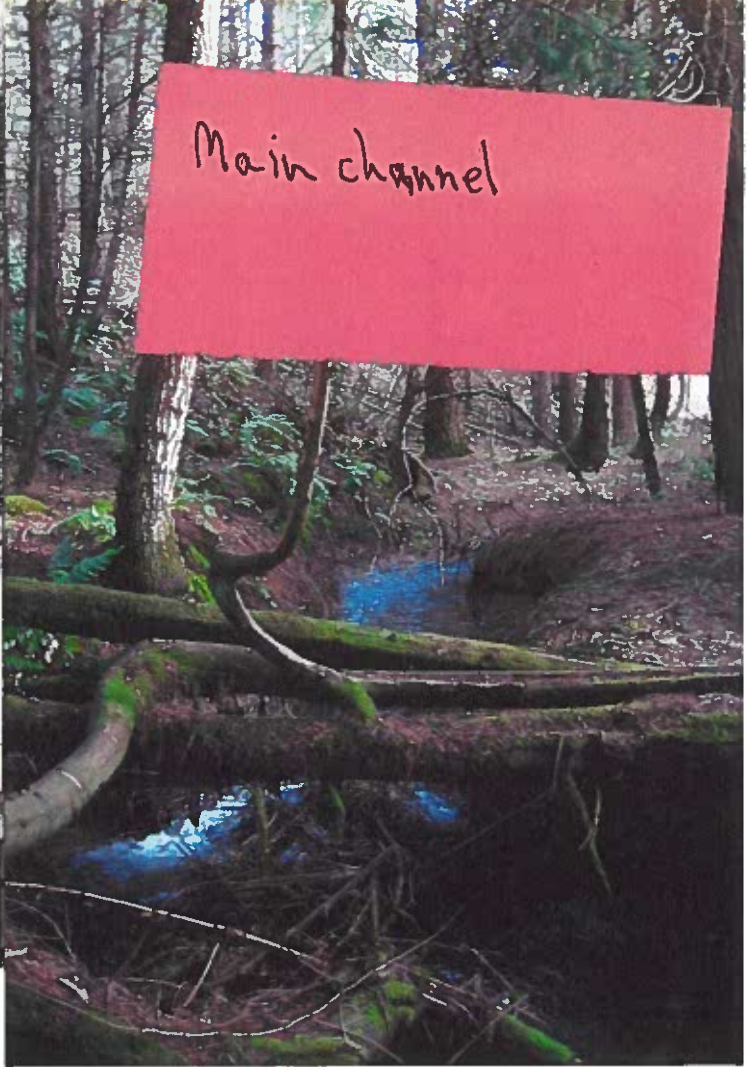




North Fork swamp.

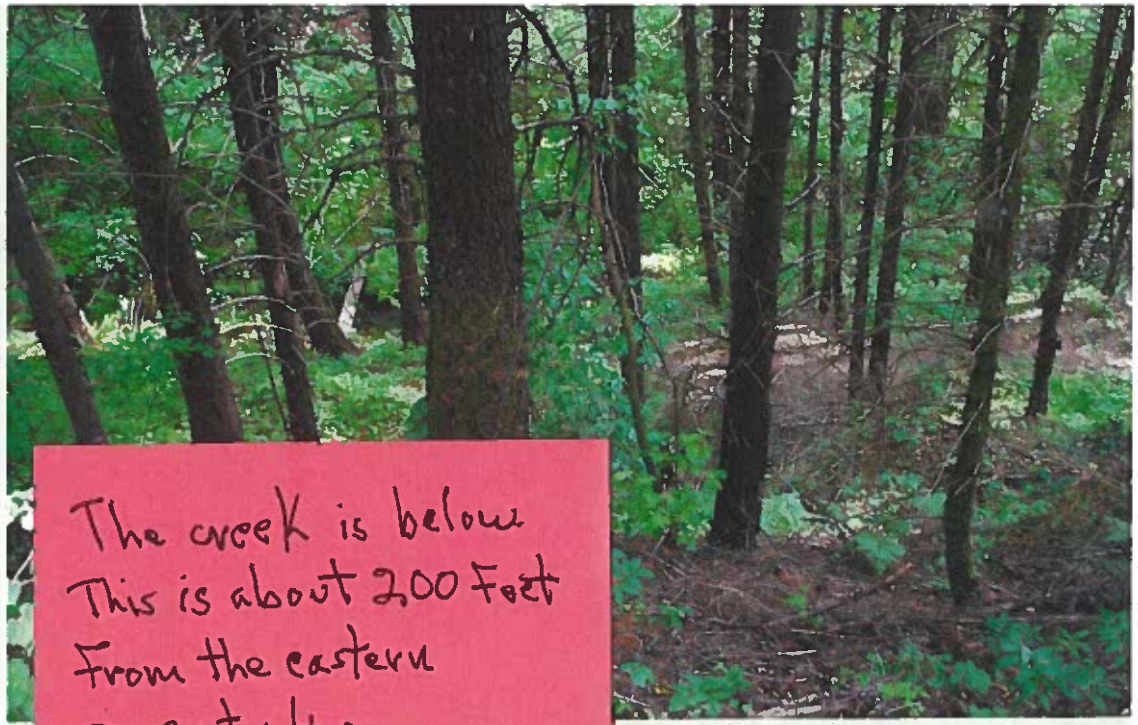


South fork about 50 feet from joining the main channel.



Main channel





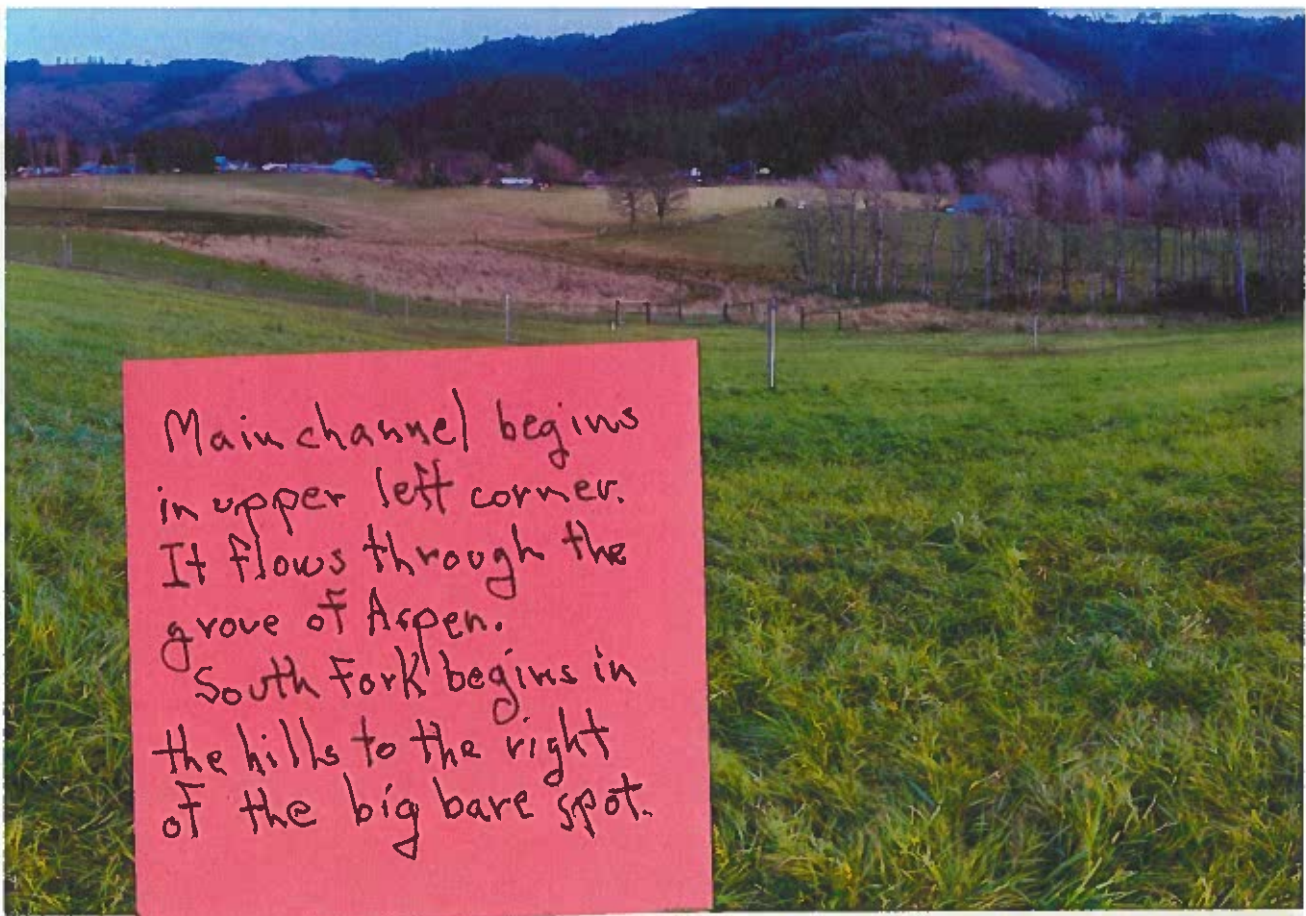
The creek is below  
This is about 200 Feet  
From the eastern  
property line.  
Flow is left to right.



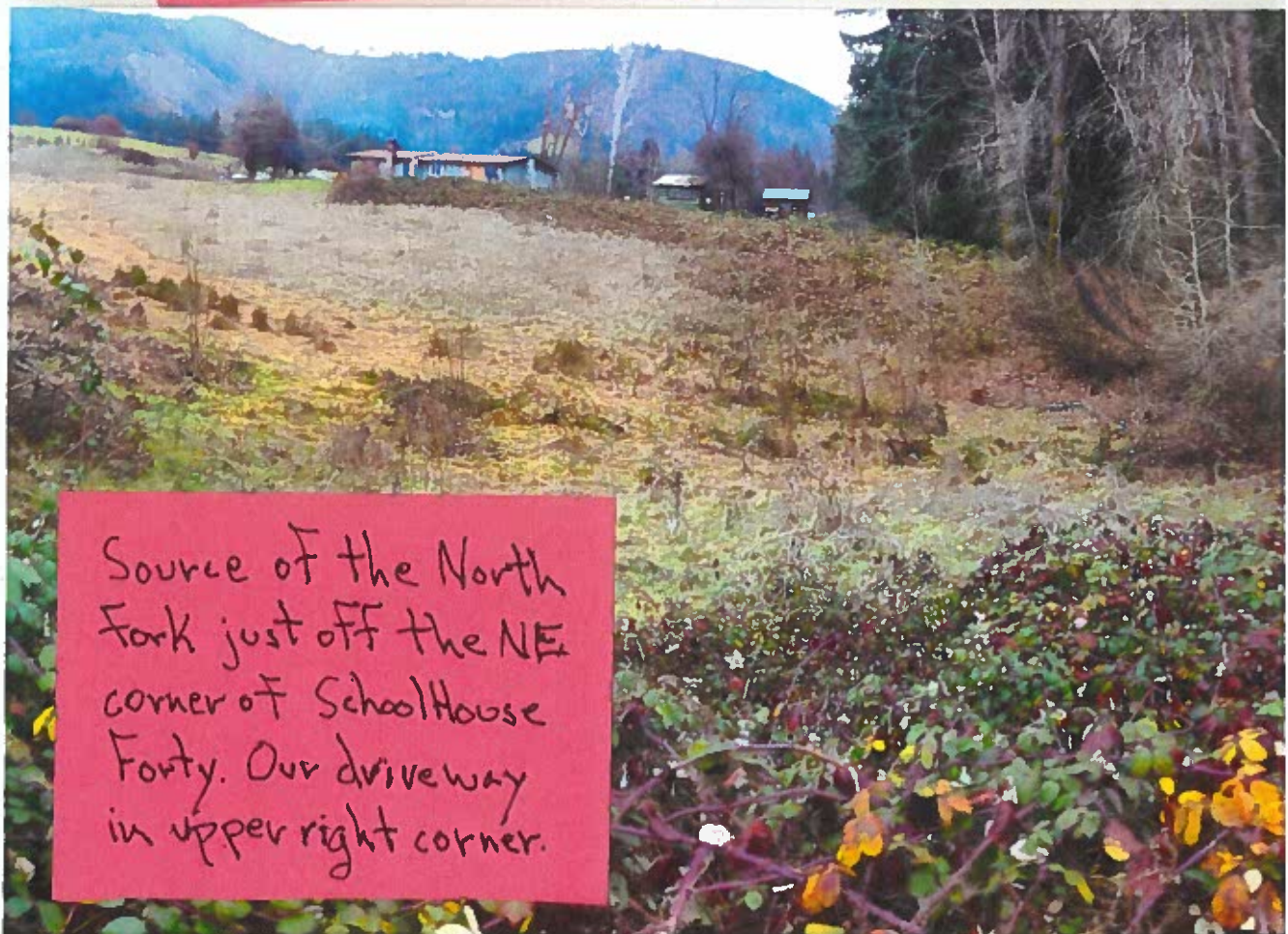
Looking up stream  
down below in the  
previous photo.








Main channel begins  
in upper left corner.  
It flows through the  
grove of Aspen.  
South Fork begins in  
the hills to the right  
of the big bare spot.

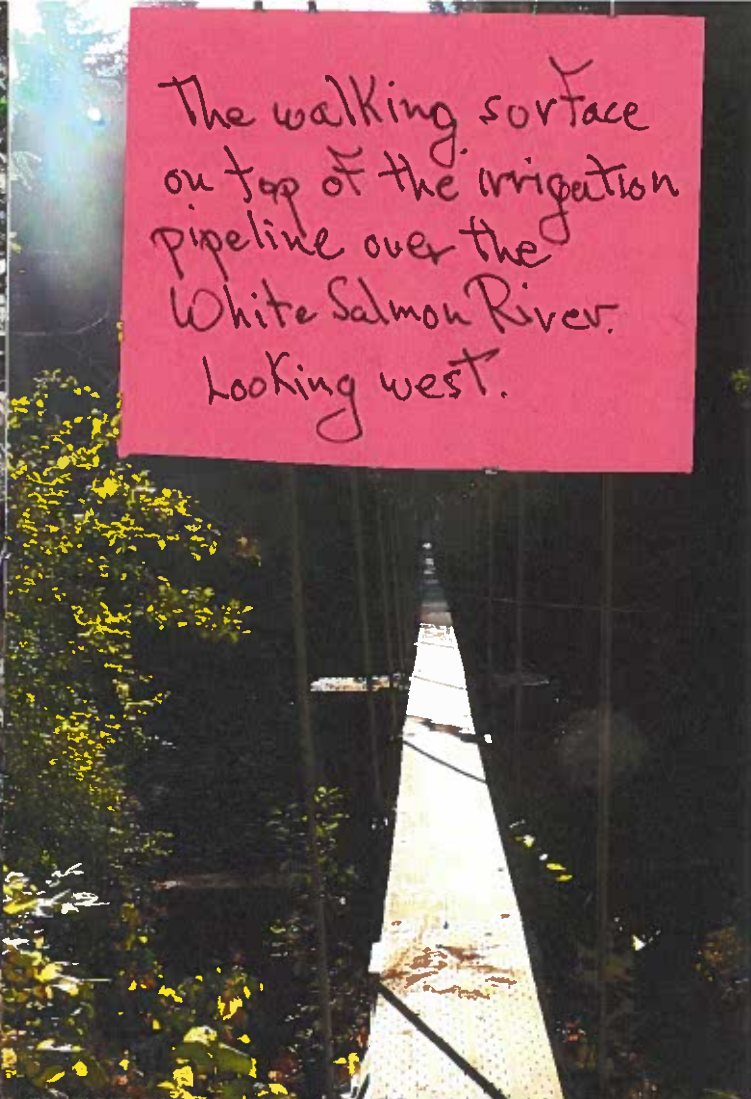


Source of the North  
Fork just off the NE  
corner of Schoolhouse  
Forty. Our driveway  
in upper right corner.

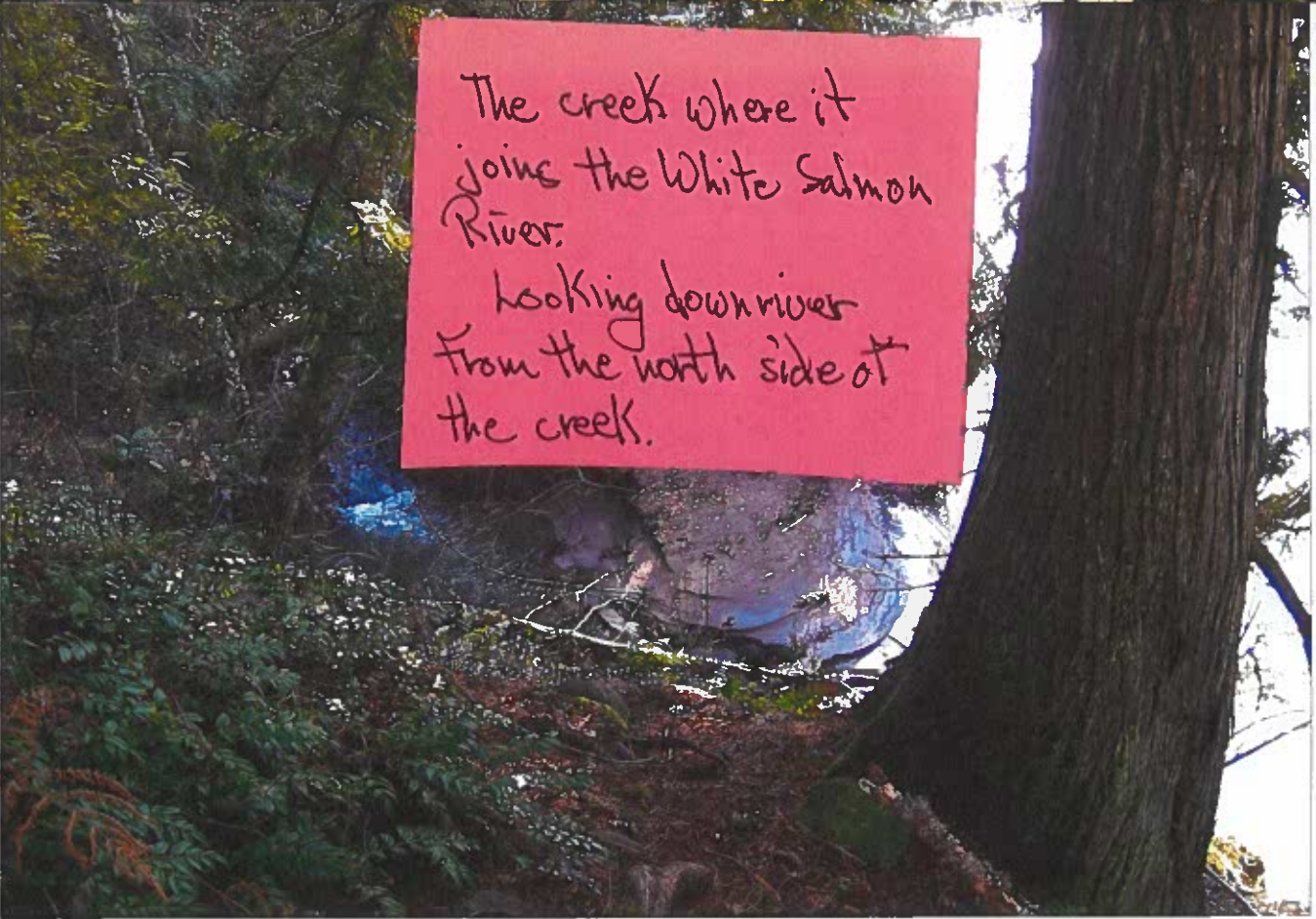




Old irrigation pipe  
near the  
White Salmon River.



The walking surface  
on top of the irrigation  
pipeline over the  
White Salmon River.  
Looking west.

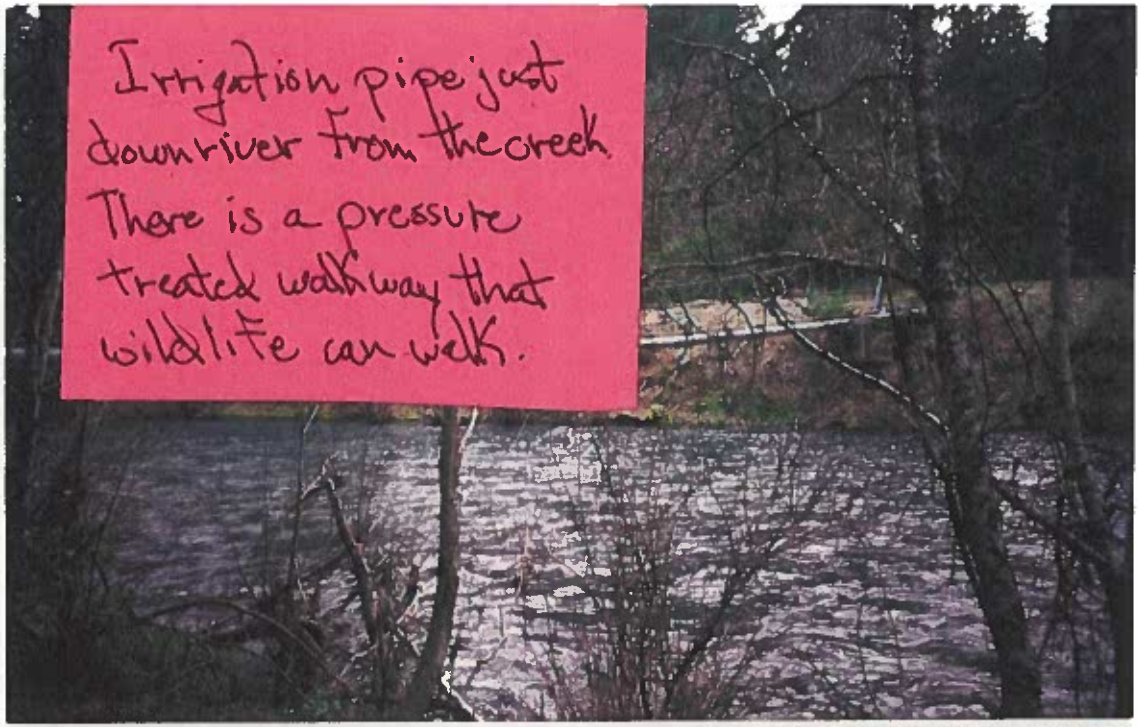


The creek where it  
joins the White Salmon  
River.

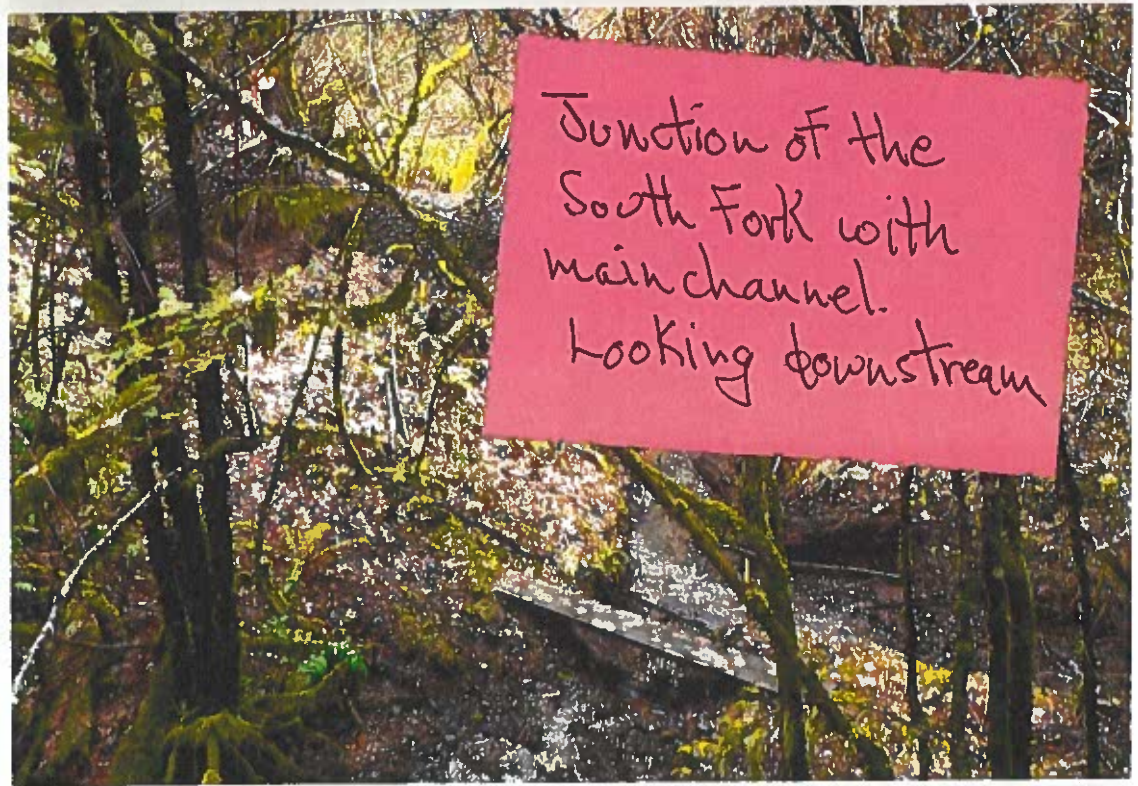
Looking down river  
from the north side of  
the creek.



Irrigation pipe just  
downriver from the creek.  
There is a pressure  
treated walkway that  
wildlife can walk.



Junction of the  
South Fork with  
main channel.  
Looking downstream







2010.09.07.21:58



This bobcat was in our yard basically telling us to stay out of it. He walked over to a rabbit hair and pulled out a bunny. He broke the bones and then swallowed it whole.









2010. 11. 12. 19:11



0000 02 11 00.10









2010.06.20.07:14





