

WOODS CREEK DRAINAGE

The Woods Creek drainage includes 17.5 miles of main-stem plus 11 tributaries providing an additional 53.1 linear miles of stream which flows south from the Lake Roesiger foothills area to its confluence with the Skykomish River at R.M. 25.0 at the town of Monroe. The main access up the Woods Creek system from the town of Monroe, where U.S. Route 2 crosses the creek, is on the Yeager Road which leads to the upper watershed. Lower Woods Creek, up to R.M. 6.0, is accessible from the Florence Acres Road out of Monroe. This entire watershed is located in Snohomish County.

Stream Description

The upper watershed of Woods Creek originates in the foothills immediately south of the Pilchuck River around the 1,800-foot elevation east of Lake Roesiger. It drops rapidly for the first 2 miles, reaching the 600-foot elevation. From here the descent is gradual, dropping at about 35 feet per mile. Woods Creek originates from springs, and also the outflow from Lake Roesiger, and flows through well defined channels over most of its length. It is a typical lowland type stream containing marshy areas, swamps and side pools in some sections. Otherwise it is composed of good pool-riffle-glide balance throughout the heavy, brushy areas as well as open grass and pasturelands. Bottom composition is almost entirely small gravel. At stream mile 7.4 the creek flows through a ravine where a rock ledge forms a 50-foot falls which is a complete barrier to fish passage. At least 5 miles of excellent spawning habitat lies above this falls. Several large log and debris jams are located 1 to 2 miles above the falls. The 22 years of stream gage recordings through 1968 (the last year of record) on Woods Creek near Monroe averaged 155 cfs, with summer low flows around 20 cfs in August and September and winter flows near 300 cfs.

The overflow from Lake Roesiger forms Roesiger Creek that drains southeast for 2.3 miles and converges with Woods Creek at stream mile 11.3. West Fork Woods Creek originates from springs and swampy areas of Carpenter Creek at the 500-foot elevation approximately 2 miles west of Lake Roesiger. A gentle gradient drops about 15 feet per mile below Carpenter Creek. Many beaver dams and pools are located throughout Carpenter Creek. Log and debris jams are common in this stream. A deep ravine occurs in the West Fork between stream mile 3.5 and 4.5 which contains dense underbrush of alder and other hardwood growth. Log jams and obstructions are also present in the West Fork. The bottom composition here is similar to Woods Creek, consisting mainly of small gravel. It also has good stream cover. Richardson Creek and Carpenter Creek are the principal tributaries of the West Fork, with the smaller unnamed tributaries providing minimal salmon habitat.

Land use in the watershed is mainly agriculture with larger farms located in the lower creek areas near Monroe. The upper watershed is cut-over and second growth conifers around the Lake Roesiger and Lake Chaplain area. Summer homes and permanent residences are concentrated around Lake Roesiger. Pasturelands border the stream banks on the upper and lower West Fork.

Salmon Utilization

Chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon utilize Woods Creek below the falls and up the lower 2 miles of the West Fork system. Coho, pink, and possibly chum ascend into Richardson Creek to the cascades about 0.5 miles. Only coho salmon are able to ascend into Carpenter Creek after winter flows have swelled the stream. Barren area plants of coho, fry, and fingerling are made annually into the headwaters above the falls. The entire Woods Creek drainage is an excellent coho stream.

Limiting Factors

Low summer flows reduce the available rearing area in the upper watershed. Beaver dams and log jams on the West Fork become barriers to coho upstream migrations during certain low-flow water stages; however, they also create rearing habitat. The falls on Woods Creek at R.M. 7.3 is a total barrier to salmon migration; however, it is not economically feasible to build a fishway here. Cascades and falls also form barriers on the steeper tributary streams.

Beneficial Developments

No programs or facilities have been undertaken within this watershed to specifically benefit salmon production. The Washington State Department of Game maintains a fish screen at the outlet of Lake Roesiger to prevent trout from escaping the lake or planted coho in Roesiger Creek getting into the lake.

Habitat Needs

Major requirements for maintaining the salmon production capabilities within this drainage basin includes preserving the existing stream flows, stream bank cover, and natural salmon habitat. Since the watershed lies within an area of increasing population growth and expansion, it is imperative that a sound "watershed management plan" be established under the Shoreline Management Act by the town of Monroe and Snohomish County. Future logging in the upper watershed should adhere to strict forest practices for preservation of fish habitat.

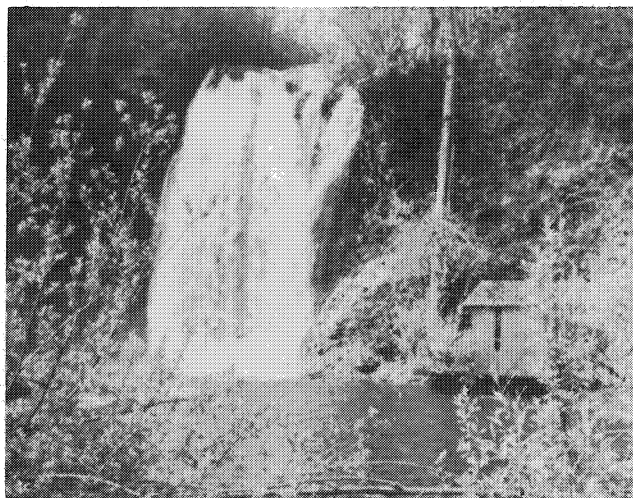


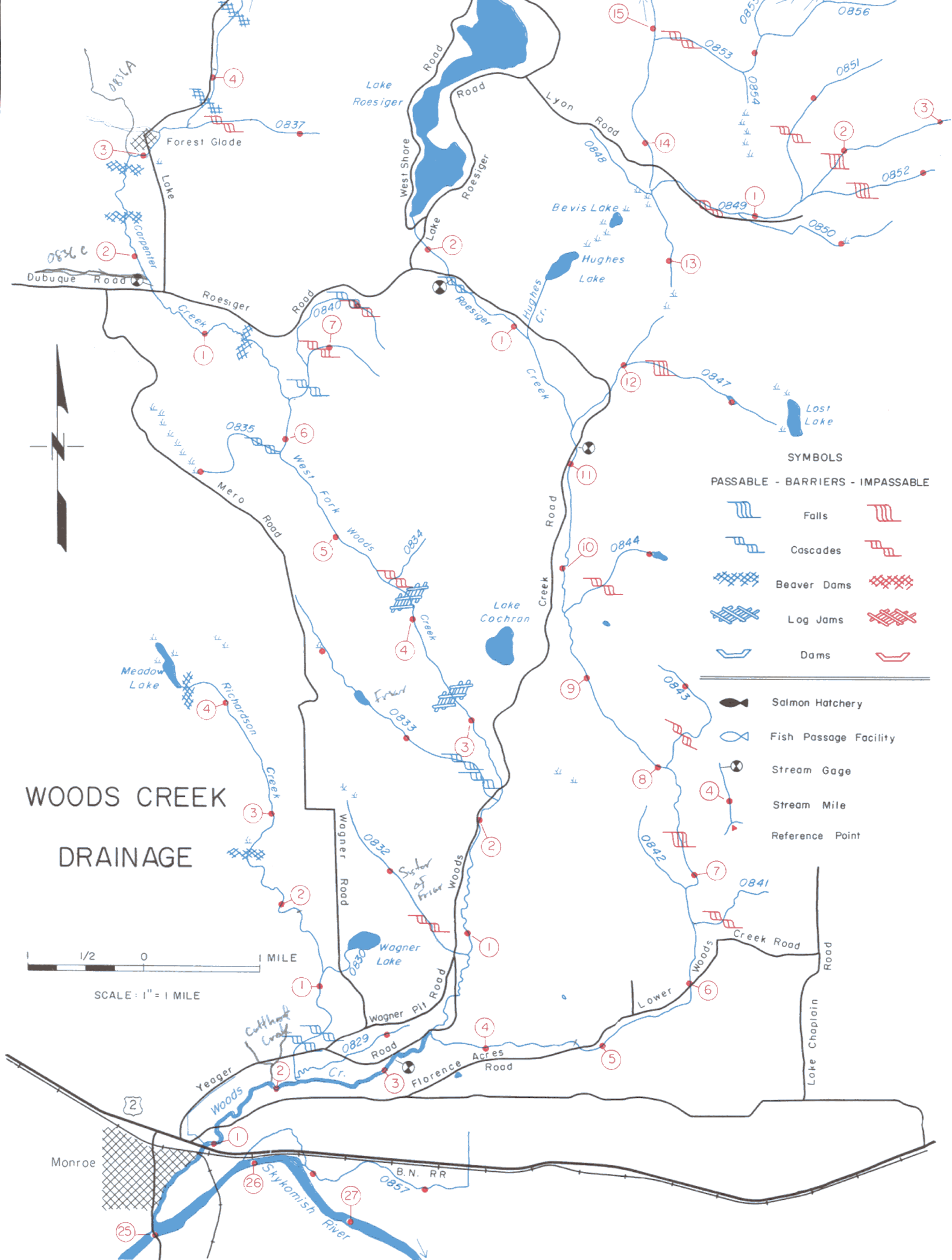
PHOTO 07-26. Impassable falls on East Fork Woods Creek.

WOODS CREEK DRAINAGE

SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

SYMBOLS

PASSABLE - BARRIERS - IMPASSABLE	



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Snohomish River Basin — WRIA 07

Stream Number	Stream Name	Location Of Mouth	Length	Drainage Area	Salmon Use
0012	Snohomish River				
	Snohomish R. cont. as Skykomish R.	@ mi. 20.51	—	—	
0826	Woods Creek	RB-25.05	17.5	—	Chin., Coho, Pink, (Chum)
0828	Richardson Creek	RB-2.2	4.4	—	Coho, (Pink), (Chum)
0829	Unnamed	LB-0.01	1.2	—	Unknown
	Meadow Lk.	Outlet-4.4	—	—	
0831	W. Fk. Woods Cr.	RB-3.5	7.5	26.7	(Chin), Coho, (Pink), (Chum)
0832	Unnamed	RB-0.8	1.7	—	(Coho)
0833	Unnamed	RB-2.2	2.5	—	(Coho)
0835	Unnamed	RB-5.85	1.0	—	Unknown
0836	Carpenter Cr.	RB-6.3	7.4	—	Coho
0837	Unnamed	LB-3.5	1.1	—	Coho
0838	Unnamed	RB-5.5	1.1	—	Unknown
0840	Unnamed	RB-6.7	1.4	—	Unknown
0843	Unnamed	LB-7.95	1.25	—	None*
0844	Unnamed	LB-9.6	1.0	—	None*
0845	Roesiger Cr.	RB-11.3	2.3	—	None*
	Lake Roesiger	Outlet-2.3	—	—	
0847	Unnamed	LB-12.0	1.4	—	None
0849	Unnamed	LB-13.6	3.1	—	None
0850	Unnamed	LB-0.85	1.4	—	None
0851	Unnamed	RB-1.4	1.6	—	None
0852	Unnamed	LB-1.5	1.1	—	None
0853	Unnamed	LB-14.9	2.7	—	None*
0855	Unnamed	RB-1.15	1.5	—	None

* Above natural anadromous fish use. Juvenile salmon planting program supplies rearing stock to accessible streams.

