



## TRAILS OF THE WILD

THE SOUTH FORK COUNTRY OF MONTANA, ONE OF THE GREAT REMAINING WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES, INVITES THE "TRAIL RIDERS OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS" IN JULY

**J**UST NORTH of the little town of Missoula, and west of the Continental Divide in Montana, lies 625,000 acres of rugged primitive country. It is the South Fork region of the Flathead National Forest, the most rugged and perhaps wildest remaining wilderness in the United States. Into this country "at the back of beyond" The American Forestry Association's "Trail Riders of the National Forests" will venture in July.

No roads lead into this great forest wilderness. Reached only on foot or with saddle and pack horses, it remains as it always has been—an untamed land of romance and adventure. Few people have penetrated its fastness, fewer still know it intimately. Some of its secrets are known to its guardians, forest rangers and smokechasers, and to occasional trappers. A few hardy geologists have tapped their way here and there, studying its remarkable structure.

But to others, this country of lofty mountains, dramatic in their boldness, the summits of which rise above green-mantled slopes, where never-failing streams run vigorous and cold, now leaving the virgin forest, now meandering through flowered meadows, remains mysterious and enchanting. It is a land where bears, deer, elk and mountain goats live practically undisturbed by man, a country a hundred miles from the sound of a locomotive, and two day's journey by trail from the noise of an automobile horn.

Its scenic value is without parallel. Along the eastern edge the peaks and ridges of the Continental Divide rise in huge escarpment. Against the sky of early morning they stand silhouetted in violet and blue; the flat lighting of late afternoon brings out details of green timber and silver limestone cliffs.

To the west rise the bulky summits of the Swan Range which look down on beautiful lakes in rocky basins formed by ancient glaciers. From this range lovely valleys, among

which is the canyon of Little Salmon Creek, lead down to the main floor of the South Fork.

Ages ago a great glacier, born beneath the high peaks now known as the Holland Range, pushed its way downward and eastward and scoured out the valley of Big Salmon Creek, a magnificent expanse of green beauty. This glacier has disappeared long since, but the valley remains as evidence of the tremendous force of this river of ice. Near the mouth of this valley is Big Salmon Lake, a most beautiful sheet of mountain water cradled between green forested slopes. Rarely does one see a lake more lovely or unspoiled.

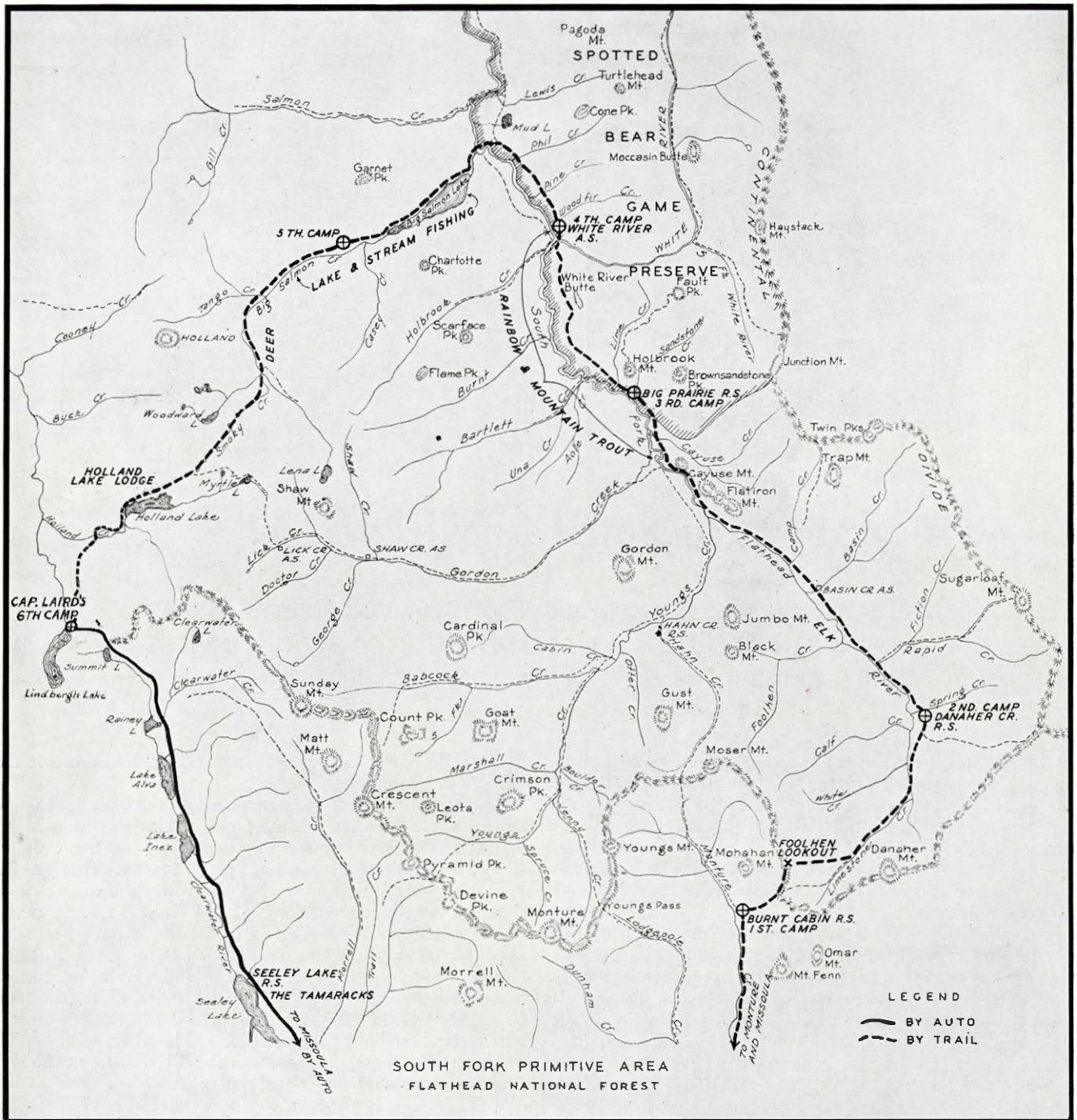
Around this lake and through the valley of Big Salmon Creek, the trail of the "Trail Riders of the National Forests" will lead. Few have followed this unblazed way—few will. For the wilderness that mothers it will remain unspoiled, inviting occasional and appreciative audiences such as the Trail Riders. It is a spectacular panorama of bold mountain beauty, with foaming waterfalls, dark canyons and flowered meadows sharing the stage with the rugged peaks. Elevations change with breath-taking abruptness, rising to 10,000 feet and falling to 4,000 in spans of a few miles.

Beyond the valley of the Big Salmon the way lies up the glaciated valley of Smoky Creek to mountain top basins where small hidden lakes throw back shafts of sunlight, and where the small meadows are veritable gardens of alpine flowers. From here, to the south and north, extend the great peaks of the Swan Range, ahead rises the great Mission Range with its snow fields and glaciers, and twenty-four hundred feet below lies Holland Lake, a timber-girt body of water two miles long, on the shores of which the Trail Riders will camp.

Six days of wonderment, of marvel, of undreamed-of beauty! Nature unchanged for centuries. Mountains that lose their peaks in the clouds, canyons that sink out of sight,

virgin forests that unfold as the sea, cold snow water forming hundreds of unknown lakes in glacier basins, wild life in

all its unspoiled beauty. These are some of the secrets of the South Fork Wilderness that await the Trail Riders.



### TRIP NO. 1—INTO THE SOUTH FORK PRIMITIVE AREA, FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

July 10—Missoula to Monture by Automobile. 70 Miles.

Early lunch at Monture; then "boots and saddles" into the back country.

Monture to Burned Cabin. 9 Miles.

Saddle trip up Monture Creek to a beautiful campsite.

July 11—Burned Cabin to Foolhen Lookout. 7 Miles.

On up east fork of Monture Creek to Divide; a fine view of the South Fork country; lunch with the Forest Service Fire Lookout and demonstrations of his work.

Foolhen Lookout to Danaher Creek. 8 Miles.

Wonderfully scenic country; high peaks, tumbling streams, green timber.

July 12—Danaher Creek to Big Prairie. 18 Miles.

Through "The Basin," past Flatiron and Cayuse Mountains; down the South Fork past Big Prairie Ranger Station.

July 13—Big Prairie to Mouth of White River. 7 Miles.

Short trip along the South Fork of the Flathead River. Unusual scenery and good fishing.

July 14—White River to Big Slide. 12 Miles.

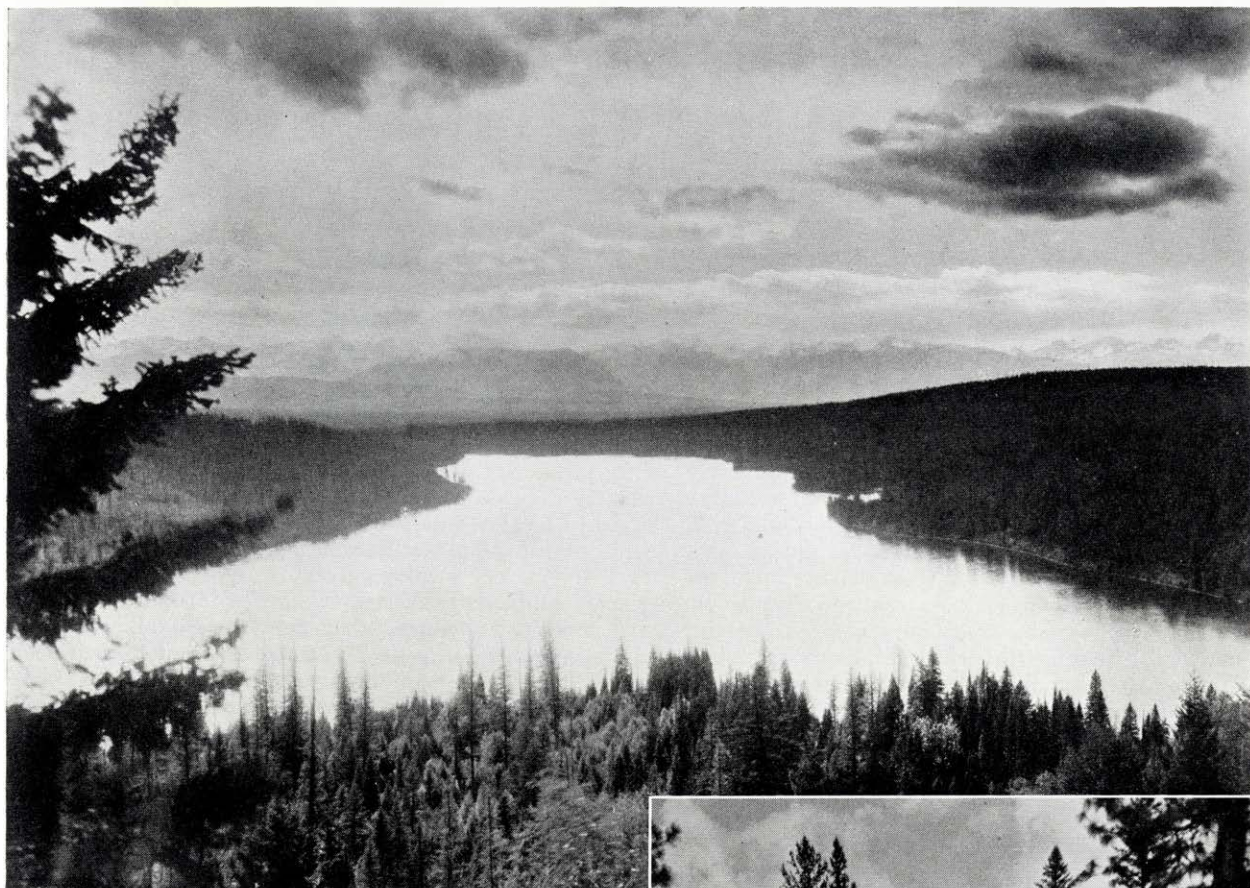
Up Big Salmon Creek; lunch beside Salmon Lake, with opportunity for lake fishing.

July 15—Big Slide to Laird's Recreation Lodge. 18 Miles.

A climb to the Divide by way of Smoky Creek; innumerable lakes; descent to Holland Lake where automobiles are waiting; swim in Lindbergh Lake; night at Laird's Lodge.

July 16—Lindbergh Lake to Missoula. 82 Miles.

Dip in the lake, the automobile to Missoula, with lunch at the Tamaracks on Seeley Lake. Arrive in Missoula in time for train connections.



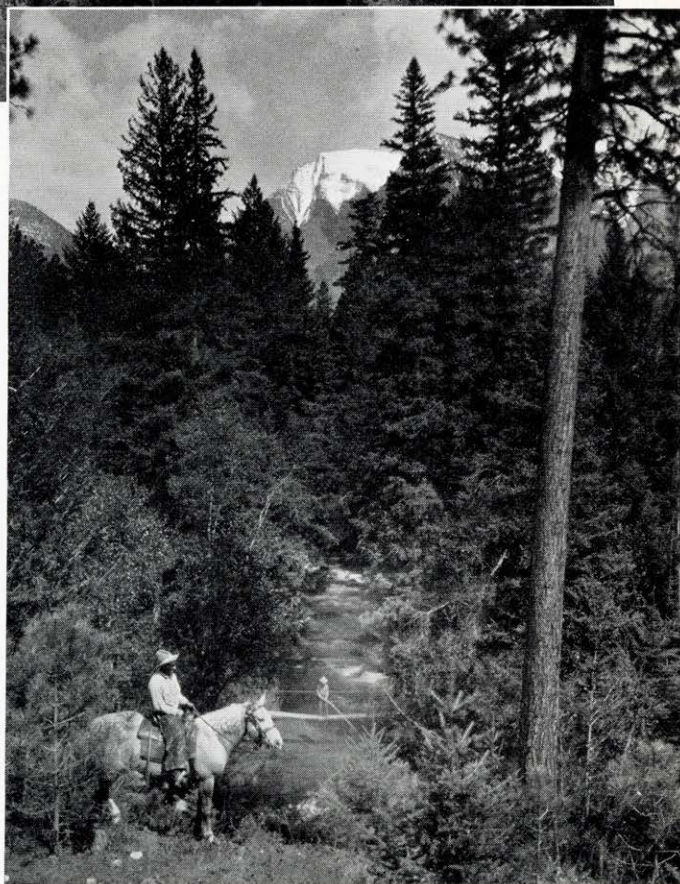
Anyone who has known the joy of living in primitive surroundings needs only the opportunity to seek new adventure—an opportunity that is offered on July 10 when the first group of "Trail Riders of the National Forests" leaves Missoula, Montana, for six exhilarating days in the great wilderness of the South Fork of the Flathead River, in the Flathead National Forest. To those who have never known the beauty of the wilderness trail the trip will prove an experience to be cherished throughout life.

Riding under the direction of The American Forestry Association, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service and the Northern Pacific Railroad, the trip offers an opportunity never before made available to lovers of the out-of-doors. Forest Rangers will ride with the party, expert wranglers, guides and packers will serve every need of the trail.

The cost of the expedition is unusually low, and within the reach of everyone. All expenses for the six days—from Missoula back to Missoula—with the exception of bed rolls, will amount to \$43.75—a little more than \$7 a day.

The second expedition of the Trail Riders is scheduled for August, into the romantic Sun River Wilderness of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, of Montana. In the April issue this trip will be described in full.

Ride with the "Trail Riders of the National Forests" under the auspices of The American Forestry Association. Upon request, the Editor will give you full details.



Above: Holland Lake, two miles long, a silver gem in the virgin forests of the South Fork Wilderness. Below: Looking into the heart of the forest wilderness where the "Trail Riders of the National Forests" will go in July.