



WATCHING FIREMEN SEARCH the upper floor of his burning house was Dave

Shaffer, center. Behind him was Phil Kiser; in front, fireman Howard Piper.

AMONG THE FIREMEN fighting Tuesday's blaze were, left to right, Kenneth Bell, Rob Hedstrom, Dave Kono-

patzke, Gary Purdy on ladder, and chief Don Anderson, front.

Keith Klingenberg photos.

Implementing Flathead Wild, Scenic Rivers

Being implemented is development of an administration plan for the 219 miles of the Flathead River forks that as of Oct. 12, 1976 are a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Team leader in local field work is Geoffrey Wilson, Hungry Horse District forester.

He noted that the Forest Service Environmental Statement is now in final form and that 340 copies are to be mailed shortly. These will go to area libraries and to those who submitted statements.

As soon as a list of private landowners is obtained an information packet is to be mailed to them, Wilson said. He hopes this will take place within the next month.

Wilson also commented that the wild, scenic and recreational river designation would pertain to up to a half mile from the rivers, and that the system extended down to the east end of Bad Rock Canyon.

Hungry Horse and Glacier View District Ranger offices as well as the supervisor's office in Kalispell have maps that show the boundaries of the designation. These can be inspected by area landowners if they wish.

There are 57,400 acres included within boundaries of the wild, scenic and recreational rivers. Of this total 17 per cent is privately owned, 2 per cent owned by the State of Montana, 21 per cent by Glacier National Park and 60 per cent in Flathead National Forest.

Largest portion of the river

designation applies to the Flathead's Middle Fork with 14 miles inside wilderness area as of now; 87 miles outside wilderness. This latter figure includes a portion of the Great Bear Wilderness Study Area that may become wilderness.

The Flathead's South Fork has 40 1/2 miles inside wilderness

above spotted bear, and 19 1/2 miles outside wilderness, while the North Fork portion amounts to 58 miles.

Privately owned shore totals 16 miles up the North Fork and 13 1/2 up the Middle Fork.

The Flathead project has a target date of July 1, 1977 for providing a legal description of the river boundary, spelling out various river classifications.

Next phase will be to develop a plan dealing with recreational use of the river.

Next year, Wilson expects, will see the acquiring of scenic easements on privately owned land, and this is described "as the most challenging project facing us. To do this Flathead National Forest plans to hire experienced people familiar with land appraisal and scenic easements. There will be months of organization and preparation before a land owner is approached for an easement, and we anticipate it will be late fall of 1978 before any landowner is contacted."

Pointed out is that the Wild and Scenic River Act specifically prohibits condemnation for fee title for outright ownership where 50 per cent or more of the land within the river boundaries is owned by the State or Federal governments. This applies to the Flathead area.

All lands classified in a wild river status (97.9 miles) are already entirely within federal ownership up the Middle and South Forks. As implied there won't be any development.

Scenic designation pertains to 40 1/2 miles of the Flathead's North Fork from the Canadian line to Camas Bridge.

The law defines scenic river areas as follows: "These rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads."

These are to be managed with "emphasis on preserving

scenic quality. Key values are its free-flowing character, limited river access, largely undeveloped and primitive shorelines, unpolluted water and outstanding features such as scenery and wildlife."

Scenic easements purchased by the federal government for portions of the river designated as "scenic" require that the general topography be maintained at its present condition unless changes are approved by the Forest Service, prevent unattractive or nonpermanent structures from being moved into the easement area, require that trees not be cut, except for those which are dead or a hazard to safety, unless approved in writing by the Forest Service, require that construction, erection, or placement of new or additional buildings, structures, or facilities be approved by the Forest Service.

There are other requirements including the minimum size of residential lots resulting from new subdivision would be five acres with a minimum river frontage of 300 feet.

Recreational river area includes: "Private land adjacent to Highway 2 between the towns of Hungry Horse and Camas and private land in the vicinity of West Glacier would be limited to new commercial enterprises offering necessary services or goods to visitors, through travelers, and local residents. Examples would be automobile service stations, stores, cafes, lodge or motel accommodations, trailer parks, campgrounds and winter sports facilities."

"All other private land within the proposed river management zone of recreational rivers would be limited to commercial enterprises associated with a commercial campground. For example, individual camping units could be provided with a central building containing such facilities as showers, store and laundry."

There are also these provisions: "New or additional structures would have to be in accordance with architectural and site plans approved by the Forest Service. Exterior flashing lights and neon signs would not be permitted. Advertising signs and billboards would be limited to one on premise sign property and to designated sign plans."

Specifically stated: "In that scenic easements would not give the public the right to enter upon the property for any purpose. Deny the right of the landowner to use the area for general crops, livestock farm-

Save Yourself from Freezing

HELENA — An accidental dunking at this time of year may be more than a chilling experience. Of the many reports on shipwreck survivors in navy files, few show survivors in water colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the Montana Department of Fish and Game.

The warmest water in any frozen lake is 39 degrees, and it's right on the bottom. Warmer or colder, the water lightens and rises. Even at 50 degrees, muscular paralysis comes quickly.

Some grizzly experiments at the German Concentration Camp Dachau during World War II show the deadly effects of cold water. In water from 35 to 55 degrees, stiffening in the arms began in about five minutes. In about 20 minutes consciousness became clouded, heart action began to falter and soon ended in a fatal standstill.

Advice to persons falling into cold water is first not to panic and thrash about. Thrashing around will release trapped air from clothing and make it more difficult to stay afloat as well as speed up the loss of body heat.

In open water, grab ears, decoys or any other floating debris. Small buoyant objects can be shoved inside the jacket to aid in floating. If there is a boat, log or other large object, the victim should pull himself out of the water as far as possible. All clothing, including

a hat or cap, should remain on to conserve body heat.

Air trapped in clothing, including boots, will help to keep afloat. To keep from losing the air, swimming movements should be smooth, modified breast or backstrokes. Arms should be kept under water.

Breaking through thin ice poses another problem — getting out. If alone, a knife, belt buckle, section of broken fishing rod or any other sharp object will help to get a hold on slick ice. During very cold weather, wet sleeves will soon freeze to ice. If other efforts fail, extend wet arms onto the ice and allow a short time for clothing to anchor. Ice is most apt to be thin around stumps or other protruding objects, near shore, and over springs. Newly formed ice is much stronger than old spring ice, especially if there has been some thawing and refreezing. Clear ice is much stronger than ice saturated with bubbles.

Once out of water the body must be warmed as quickly as possible. A good hot bath is most effective.



GETTING A FRESH air tank ready was Gary Purdy, while Paul Murphy rests on the window sill before resuming his room to room search for four-year-old Warren Peterson.

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