Skykomish was a Railroad Town, but

Timber was the dominant Industry

Warren Carlson, who worked for forty years with the National Forest Service, has written extensively on the history of the national forests in Washington State. His most recent effort was to write a piece about the Miller River clearcut, a subject close to his heart and one that he has been working on for many years. In his new book, "The Miller River Clearcut," Carlson tells the story of a logging operation that took place in the early 1900s and had a profound impact on the local community.

The history of the Miller River Clearcut begins with the early days of logging in the Pacific Northwest. At that time, logging was a labor-intensive process, with workers using hand tools to cut and haul logs to the mill. The logs were then milled into beams, but many were used with the bark still attached.

In the 1900s, the Miller River Clearcut was one of the largest logging operations in the Pacific Northwest. It covered thousands of acres of forest land and employed hundreds of workers. The logs were hauled to the mill in a large log yard, where they were sorted and graded before being sent to the sawmill.

The logs were milled into beams, but many were used with the bark still attached. This made them easier to transport and handle, but also introduced a significant amount of waste into the system. The bark had to be removed before the beams could be used, which added to the cost of production.

The Miller River Clearcut was also a major source of employment for the local community. Many families lived in the area and worked in the logging operation. The mill was a hub of activity, with workers coming and going all day long. The town of Skykomish grew up around the mill, with shops and businesses catering to the needs of the workers.

In the 1930s, the Miller River Clearcut was forced to close due to a combination of economic factors and environmental concerns. The Great Depression had hit the region hard, and the mill was unable to compete with the lower costs of labor and materials in other parts of the country. Additionally, the area was designated a wilderness area, which restricted logging activities.

The closure of the Miller River Clearcut had a profound impact on the local community. Many families lost their livelihoods, and the town of Skykomish was forced to adapt to a new way of life. However, the area has since become a popular destination for outdoor recreation, with many visitors drawn to the natural beauty of the region.

In summary, the Miller River Clearcut was a major part of the history of Skykomish and the Pacific Northwest. It was a labor-intensive operation that employed hundreds of workers and had a significant impact on the local economy. Although it is no longer in operation, the history of the Miller River Clearcut continues to be an important part of the region's heritage.