

Historical File

History - Forest

50 YEAR HISTORY
of the
MONONGAHELA
National Forest

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge the splendid work and devotion to duty of all of the members of the Monongahela staff who have served during the first 50 years. It is their individual contributions of hard work and long hours that have made the Monongahela National Forest a living example of man's concern for his environment.

We wish to particularly single out Mr. C. R. McKim for his outstanding work in compiling this history. Mr. E. M. Olliver, former Forest Supervisor, 1957-1969, asked Mr. McKim to write a history of the Forest in 1965. Mr. McKim was well qualified, having worked on the Monongahela from September, 1927, until December, 1965, in the business management section. He has worked very diligently to make certain that the historical events reported were based on facts, not opinions. He has spent a great deal of his own time in compiling this history.

We are also deeply indebted to other former employees from whom Mr. McKim obtained help, such as W. E. Hedges, D. A. Oliver, Howard G. Hopkins, Wingate I. Stevens, and Henry Sipe. These men were especially helpful in documenting many of the earlier events.

Special thanks are also extended to the many other employees who helped supply information and material. Many current and former employees were especially helpful in supplying names and places. We also wish to thank all of those individuals who reviewed the final draft. Mr. Mark Boesch, Eastern Region Division of Information and Education, is to be commended for his efforts in the review of the final draft of this manuscript.

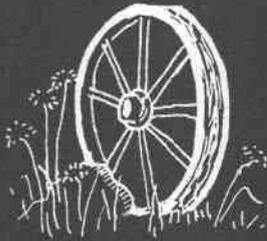
To all of these people and the many friends of the Monongahela National Forest this history of events in the first 50 years is dedicated.

September, 1970



Recreational scenery landscapes.

Chapter 1



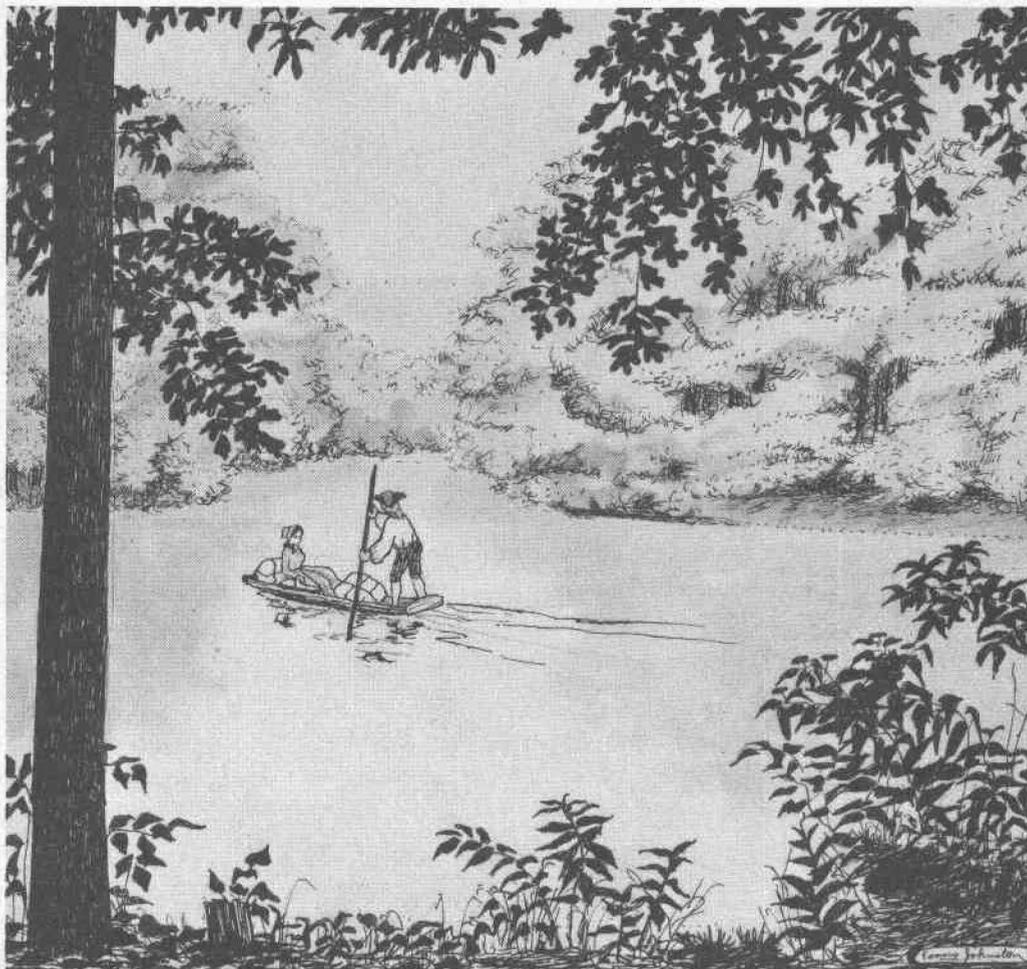
Early History

The first settlers came into what is now West Virginia as early as 1736, and by the middle of that century a number of them had sunk their roots and made permanent homes in what is now the Monongahela National Forest.

These rugged frontiersmen, the vanguard of a mighty tide of immigration that burst the barriers of the Alleghenies, though faced with many hardships and dangers, found in the valleys and forests of West Virginia a country of great natural wealth and appeal. They risked their lives and the lives of their loved ones to fight for it in the French and Indian War, finally emerging victorious, pressing the Redman out and claiming the country for themselves.

Following the decisive battle of 1774 with the Indians at Point Pleasant, during the period known as Dunmore's War, and then the Revolutionary struggle, there came the rapid expansion in the trans-Allegheny movement, resulting by 1790 in a total population of over 50,000 in what is now West Virginia. These were nearly all farmers, gathering themselves in numerous small settlements for mutual protection, but gradually expanding to farther parts of the country, where they cleared the forest to raise their cabins and their crops.

Eventually, as these agricultural clearings continued to increase and expand, there came the need for increased communication, transportation, and industry. By the middle of the 19th century, several turnpikes had been constructed from the East Coast to the Ohio, and in 1853 the first railroad came across the Alleghenies to tap the rich resources of the mountains and valleys of West Virginia. Growing sectionalism and increasing antagonism between tidewater and western Virginia brought about creation of the new state of West Virginia in 1861.



In the wake of the political revolution which established the new state and brought about the War between the States, came the economic revolution that brought a demand for timber, coal, oil and gas, along with manufactures that were dependent upon these raw resources found in such abundance in this region. Increased transportation facilities resulted in further exploitation, as both raw materials and finished products were shipped out of the state to other parts of the growing nation.

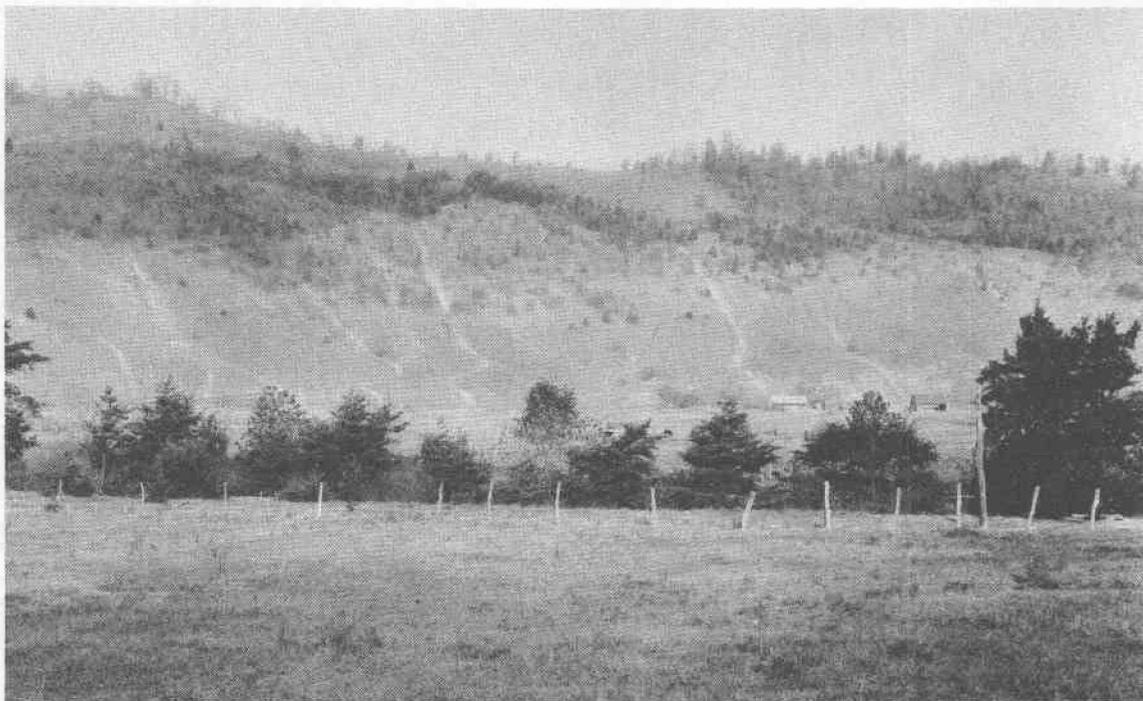
West Virginia was rich with the natural resources other parts of the country needed to develop their own industries. In what is now the Monongahela National Forest grew some of the greatest stands of hardwood timber to be found in any part of the world, and it was reaped by numerous logging operations. It was there for the taking with few restraints. Exploitation was the order of the day. The consequence was a quarter century or so of severe cropping of the timber resource that saw the slopes of the mountains denuded of these excellent stands of timber, hardwoods as well as valuable spruce. By the turn of the century, most of the good timber wealth had been taken from the mountains, as it had earlier been cleared from the fertile valleys.



This devastation resulted in near chaos. During March of 1907, heavy rains brought flood waters down the Monongahela River whose headwaters drained the country where the magnificent forest had once clothed the mountains. The trees and other healthy vegetation were no longer there to regulate the rainwater's flow. It devastated all the rich agricultural land in the basin of the Monongahela River, causing some \$100 million in damages—a gigantic sum for those times—then descending in all its fury upon the helpless city of Pittsburgh, causing there additional damages of \$8 million, drowning people and ruining their homes.

This tragedy caused thoughtful people to seek answers to the problem it pointed up, that of stopping the abuses and correcting the land devastation caused by the over-exploitation. Engineers were employed to study the cause of the flood. They discovered a combination of circumstances had triggered it. There had been an abundance of rain during a short period of time, not an infrequent occurrence in this country. Now, however, the protection the country once had from such heavy rain, was gone. Excessive cutting and burning of the forests within the watersheds of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers were directly related to the disaster that struck the city of Pittsburgh in the year 1907.

On January 30, 1908, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, U. S. Congress, held a hearing at Washington pertaining to the need for rehabilitation of forest lands in Eastern America. Dr. I. C. White, State Geologist of West Virginia, was very active in supporting the proposed bill before this committee, one which when passed would become known as the Weeks Law, and which would enable the Federal Government to acquire lands in Eastern America for National Forest purposes. Dr. White told the committee of the danger of forest fires in West Virginia and how the bill would help the Monongahela River. The Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce also testified, calling the Committee's attention to the need of a national forest on the headwaters of the Monongahela River in West Virginia, pointing out the danger and damages caused by the filling of streams, from erosion, and the pollution of streams used for water supply purposes.



Eroded land needing planting, Greenbrier County.

The West Virginia Legislature passed an Act on February 26, 1909, consenting to the purchase of lands in this State which in the opinion of the Federal Government are necessary for the establishment of a National Forest Reserve. It took several years more of debate, but finally Congress passed the Weeks bill, and the President signed it into law on March 1, 1911. The law was cited as, "An Act to enable any State to cooperate with any other State or States, or with the United States, for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams, and appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of

conserving the navigability of navigable rivers." It was this law, one of the greatest in the history of conservation in America, which enabled the people to have national forests in Eastern America. Prior to this, all the National Forests, known first as forest reserves, had been created from the public domain. Since there was very little public domain left in Eastern America, and since the need as pointed out in the hearings cited, was so great for such a program in such a state as West Virginia, the Weeks Law was a great stride forward in conservation history.

The National Forest Reservation Commission set up by the Weeks Law was a safeguard, to judge the merits of each land purchase. The Commission was composed of the Secretaries of War, Interior, and Agriculture, plus two members of the U. S. Senate and two members of the U. S. House of Representatives appointed by the President. They had to pass on every acre of land proposed for acquisition by the Government for National Forest purposes. Today, all purchases made under Weeks Law provisions must still pass muster by this Commission.

The Weeks Law was slow in taking effect in West Virginia for several reasons. One big reason was that adequate monies for survey and acquisition of eligible lands were not available in 1911.

The annual report of the National Forest Reservation Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, points up other problems:

"The underlying purpose of the act of March 1, 1911, is to improve the flowage conditions of the navigable streams through the acquisition by the Federal Government of sufficient areas of mountainous nonagricultural lands to be influential in protecting the watersheds from the ill effects of forest fires and unwise timber cutting and clearing. The purpose of the law restricts materially the activities to be carried on. Even in the more mountainous sections conditions exist which sharply limit the areas to be acquired. In some localities it is the presence of farm land. Again the presence of coal or other minerals makes necessary the holding of the surface by the operators to facilitate mining operations."

After the State Legislature passed necessary enabling legislation, the area to be eventually known as the Monongahela National Forest became what was known as a purchase area. The Commission report for 1915 had this to say about it:

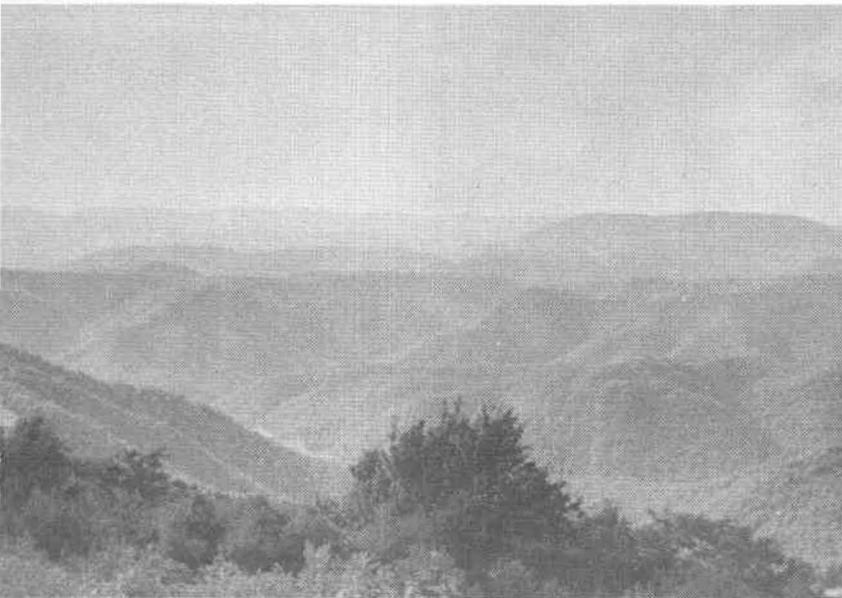
"Monongahela. — This area, which lies on the extreme headwater basins of the Monongahela River in the great timber region of the State of West Virginia, contains 682,316 acres, of which 52,610 acres have been approved for purchase. To a large extent the most valuable timber has been removed, and that which remains is held by lumber companies and is not generally available to the Government at present. Lying as it does within the Allegheny Mountains, the area is characterized



by broad, rolling plateaux, deeply trenched by valleys. The soil on both ridges and slopes is well adapted to timber production, and once supported a heavy growth of valuable timber. While farming and grazing have been carried on for upwards of 100 years, the land which can be used for these purposes is limited and confined largely to the limestone valleys. Lumber operations have in most cases been followed by severe fires, which have greatly damaged the remaining forest and soil, and on some of the lands protection through many years will be required to produce another stand of timber. The presence of many mills and wood-using plants together with favorable freight rates to the chief markets, gives timber of all classes an excellent value. The forest will be of especial value in its protective influence on the Monongahela River, and the purchases that have been made should be considered as only a start on this important area."

The very first land acquired in West Virginia for National Forest purposes was the Arnold Tract. On August 7, 1911, Thomas J. Arnold signed a Proposal for Sale of Land, offering 7,200 acres of land in Tucker County, West Virginia, for sale to the Government. The deed for this tract, signed November 26, 1915, was a sizable and valuable acquisition, the kind to get the program going in good style. This represented the real beginning of the Monongahela National Forest.

The Forest Service had to build an organization to purchase lands. Surveyors had to be hired, men had to be trained in land examination and appraisal, and procedures had to be established.



The administration and supervision of the lands purchased during the period 1915 to 1920 was done by the personnel handling the acquisition program. W. A. Hopson, whose title was Forest Examiner, was assigned these duties in 1916. Funds for the employment of a part time clerk were provided during fiscal year 1916. This was the start of what would become the Forest Supervisor's headquarters in Elkins.

There were some personnel on the job before 1915. Two of the names found on early documents are Rudolph Deffenback, Forest Examiner, and M. L. Taylor, Examiner of Surveys.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST
VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA.

By the President of the United States of America

Organized fire protection was begun in the Monongahela in 1916. The purchase area was split into two protection districts, the fore-runners of ranger districts. They were referred to as Protection District No. 1 and Protection District No. 2.

WHEREAS certain lands within the States of Virginia and West Virginia have been or may hereafter be acquired by the United States under authority of the Act of Congress approved March thirteen hundred and seven, 36 Stat., 959, entitled "An Act to enable the State to cooperate with other States in the United States for the protection of watersheds of navigable rivers and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of rivers; and

Joseph Schmidlen, who several years later became the Monongahela's first road foreman, was the first Forest Guard employed. He was assigned to Alpena, West Virginia, on Protection District No. 1. J. K. White, Forest Guard with headquarters at Laneville, was assigned to Protection District No. 2. Both of these guards were financed for 9 months of the year. Schmidlen's salary \$75 per month, and White's \$60. W. A. Hopson, who as Forest Examiner was chief executive officer on the Monongahela, was paid \$1500 per year.

WHEREAS, it appears that the public forest reservation, and the same have been and shall be part said lands as a public forest reservation, and the same have been used by the Secretary of Agriculture as the Monongahela National Forest;

By 1916 the Monongahela could boast of 66 miles of trails, 6 miles of telephone lines, and 2 dwellings. Some of these improvements may have been acquired when the land was bought; others were probably constructed by the employees.

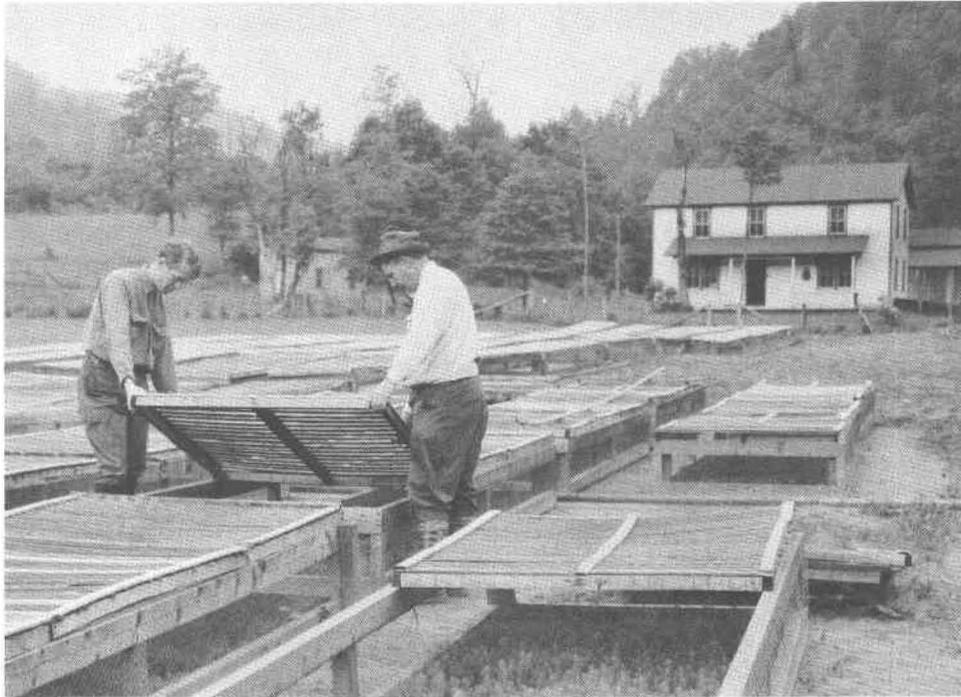
Now, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, do hereby exercise the power in the vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, by section twenty-four of the Act of March three, eighteen hundred and one, entitled "To repeal timber-culture laws and for other purposes", and by section one of the Act of March three, eighteen hundred and one, hereby reserved and set apart as a public forest reservation in the State of West Virginia, the Monongahela National Forest on the lands within the area as defined in part hereof, and the lands therein which have been or may hereafter be acquired by the United States under authority of said Act of March three, eighteen hundred and one, shall be permanently reserved and administered as part of the Monongahela National Forest.

Henry L. Johnson replaced W. A. Hopson as officer in charge during fiscal year 1918. Elizabeth Lloyd was the part time clerk in 1918. Joseph Schmidlen remained as Forest Guard for District No. 1, but Howard Coberly became Forest Guard on District No. 2. A patrolman for the Hambleton area was added to the protection force. Offices were moved to the new Post Office Building in Elkins in 1918.

The year 1920 was a most eventful one for the Monongahela. On April 28 of that year, the Monongahela purchase area was proclaimed as the Monongahela National Forest by President Woodrow Wilson. The first Ranger District was headquartered at Gladwin, West Virginia, and contained 54,000 acres. Charles E. Long became Ranger there. Henry L. Johnson became the first Forest Supervisor, his appointment effective July 1, 1920, his salary \$1,980 per year.

WOODROW WILSON

By the President:
BAINBRIDGE COLBY
Secretary of State.



Gladwin Nursery—1927. Left to right—Carlton L. Perkins, Forest Supervisor, and William P. Dale, Forest Ranger.

Another "first" came in 1920. Funds were provided for forest nursery work at Gladwin. The amount for seeding, seed beds, transplants, and watering totalled only \$300; nevertheless it was a start. An additional \$375 was allocated for walnut stock to be planted on the Alabama, Nantahala and Natural Bridge National Forests, while another \$225 was provided for white pin planting stock to be used on the Nantahala.

Roscoe Arbogast, later to become the first ranger on the second ranger district of the Forest, was employed as Forest Guard in 1921.

Other names familiar to the early acquisition program appeared on the scene in 1922. W. E. Hedges, Land Examiner, arrived to handle the acquisition program. E. R. Conrad, Rezin E. Pidgeon, A. A. Reimer, and P. G. Jenney all were assigned to survey of lands.

In 1923 Miss Inez L. Sweeney became the new clerk. Then Miss Alyce Scallon took over, serving as clerk from November 1923 through May 1924.

Romance also blossomed in the early days of the Monongahela National Forest. Wingate L. Stevens became Forest Assistant in October 1923, assigned to the land acquisition section. "Steve" wooed and wedded Alyce Scallon.

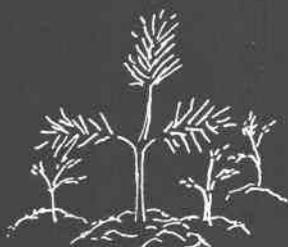
The second Ranger District on the Monongahela was established in June 1922. Roscoe Arbogast was promoted from Forest Guard to the Forest Ranger position, making his headquarters at Horton, West Virginia. The acreage in the new district was 90,000, and the acreage of the first ranger district was now 76,000.

In fiscal year 1923, in addition to Ranger C. E. Long, funds were provided for four Forest Guards on District 1. Their official stations were at Alpena, Laneville, Hambleton, and Mozark Mountain.

Three Forest Guards were assigned to District No. 2. They were stationed at Spruce Knob, Winterburn, and Middle Mountain.

The Monongahela had thus become a full fledged National Forest, increasing in size and scope of work, while it was still relatively young in years.

Chapter 2

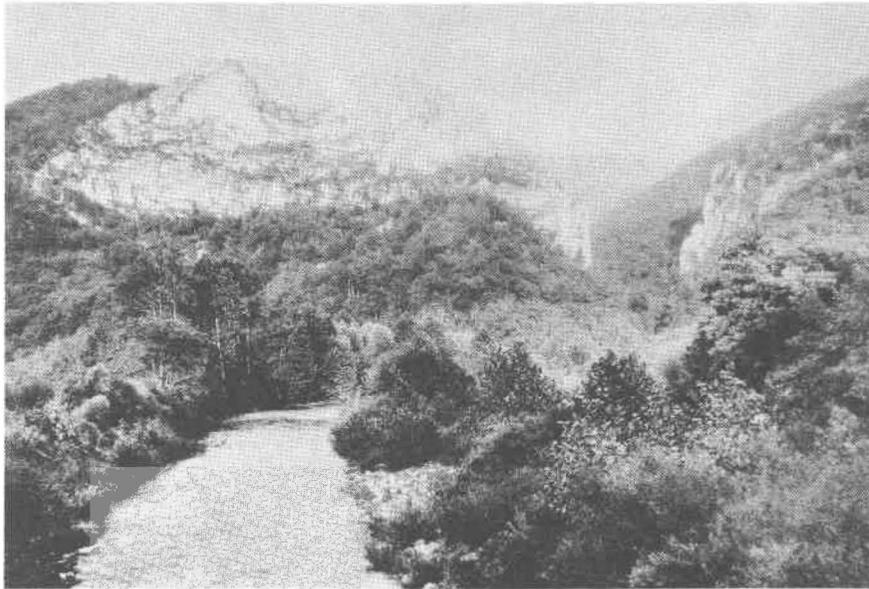


Lands Reclaimed

The year 1924 was one of the most important not only in the history of the Monongahela National Forest, but in the annals of forestry in America. It was that year that saw passage of the Clarke-McNary Law by Congress. This was the first important amendment of the Weeks Law, making it much more effective and meaningful for establishing a dynamic forestry program in America. It authorized and directed the Secretary of Agriculture to locate and recommend for purchase such forested, cut-over or denuded lands within the watersheds of navigable streams as in his judgment may be necessary to regulate the flow of navigable streams or for the production of timber and to report to the National Forest Reservation Commission the results of such examination.

This change in the law authorizing the purchase of land for production of timber made it possible to acquire land which could not have been bought without this additional authorization.

In April of 1924 Nicholas C. Strawn began work as transitman in an acquisition survey crew. He was later to become the first Forest Engineer on the Monongahela. In June of 1924, Daily L. Christie became the first clerk on the Forest with Civil Service status, filling the position vacated by Alyce Scallon.



The effects of the Clarke-McNary Law on the Monongahela soon began showing. On January 8, 1927, an extension of the original proclamation boundary for the Forest was approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission. Most instrumental in this was Harlan M. Calhoun, a prominent lawyer of Franklin, West Virginia, as well as other citizens of the area east of the original Forest boundary. They wished to have the outstanding Seneca Rocks and famous Smoke Holes on the South Branch and the North Fork of the Potomac River included within the National Forest, and this was accomplished by this first extension of the boundary. It was most propitious, as it would eventually lead to the first declared National Recreation Area on any National Forest, passed into law by the Congress in 1965; and meantime there was acquired timberlands within this extended boundary that were best suited for National Forest purposes.

The second extension of the boundary came in 1933. At the close of that year the total acreage of the Monongahela National Forest had reached 261,968. The average cost per acre of this acquired land was \$3.43.

The economic depression which so severely affected the United States during the 1930's, also had its effect on the Monongahela National Forest. It seems ironical that hard times for the nation as a whole would bring the kind of funding and programs that would get this important National Forest program in West Virginia into high gear, but such was the case. The beginning of this stepped-up National Forest program came when President Franklin Roosevelt allocated \$20 million for it from emergency funds Congress had provided for use at his discretion.

Pertinent quotes from the 1933 annual report of the National Forest Reservation Commission give a good picture of conditions then existing:

"...need for constructive action on a greatly enlarged scale became more clearly defined. Deficiencies in the age classes of forest growing stock from which sawtimber needs must be met 25 or 50 years hence became more painfully apparent. Progressive extension of the menace of soil erosion in situations where the restoration of a forest cover seems the most practicable remedy was more clearly established by realistic and factual studies. There was further confirmation of the importance of watershed protection through the agency of trees and shrubs not alone in the interest of navigation, flood control, hydroelectric power production, and irrigation but also to most completely safeguard sources of water supply vital to the welfare of large populations.

"Depletion of forest resources in the present century seldom has been accompanied by compensatory development of other equally productive industrial activities. In consequence, there is all too often a break-down in living standards and in social, economic, and political institutions, which can be revived and maintained only by the revival and maintenance of the one practicable and renewable natural resource, the forest. In the interim, local markets for labor and farm products dwindle and the economic life of dependent communities retrogrades accordingly."

President Roosevelt recognized the need to solve the problem. One of the first acts of his Administration was to establish the Civilian Conservation Corps. There also came in 1933 the allocation of the mentioned \$20 million, to be used for the purchase of additional forest lands for National Forest purposes wherever this was essential for the public good. This would result in additional acres of lands in the various states, far short of the recognized need of bringing such protection and management to 163 million acres in the United States, but still a good start in that direction.

Many people today probably do not recognize the gravity of the problem that faced the country during the Depression years of the 1930's. The National Forest Reservation Commission in its report for 1933 described it well:



Log skidding on Gauley District by Cherry River
Boom and Lumber Company.

"... Additional areas of major watershed influence but less subject to severe soil erosion approximate 276 million acres, while the still further areas upon which soil erosion is serious but where watershed influence is less than major, embrace roughly 119 million acres. These are gross areas, which contain within their limits large acreages suitable for farm crop production or other beneficial private uses, but excluding all such lands from the calculation the remaining areas still are staggering in their proportions."

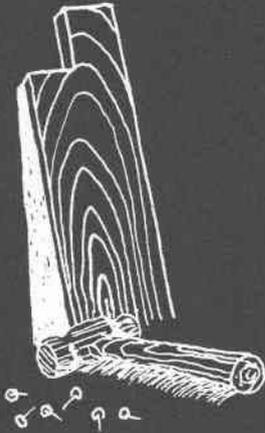
In the Monongahela National Forest, the most significant land purchase made with President Roosevelt's \$20 million allocation was from the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company, a little more than 153,000 acres. Here was practically an entire ranger district made available in one fell swoop, and it cost only \$2.50 per acre.

From the beginning of the acquisition program in 1916 until 1932, the total acreage purchased was 261,968. From 1933 to 1942, the total acreage acquired was 544,000 acres, bringing the total Government-owned acres on the Monongahela to about 806,000, and making it one of the largest National Forests in Eastern America. Extension of the purchase area to the south and east had increased the gross area of the Monongahela from 665,900 to 1,644,240 acres. Of course, much land within this gross area, more ideally suited for agricultural than timber purposes, would remain in private hands.

In connection with this expanded acquisition program, it is of interest that the Forest purchased the entire town of Neola, West Virginia. This tract was purchased from the Huntley Lumber Company in July 1936. It had been owned first by the Huntley Lumber Company, but in 1927 was sold to the Wood Auto Parts Corporation. The Depression, along with the changing to steel wheels for autos, had a serious impact on the Wood Auto Parts Company. Their finances suffered so the property reverted back to Huntley Lumber Company who sold it to the Forest Service. Neola included 28 residences, a factory building, 1 dry kiln, 1 boiler house, 1 power house, 1 sawmill building, 1 machine shop, 1 office and garage, 1 18-room hotel, and 1 store. These buildings were disposed of within a few years after purchase, with the exception of the large factory building. A CCC camp (Camp Anthony) was established on the area during the CCC program. The old factory building served as a garage for housing equipment and as a repair depot during the existence of the CCC. On December 24, 1954, fire from an overheated stove destroyed the building. Thus ended the only town ever purchased by Weeks Law funds on the Monongahela.



Chapter 3



Building Programs

The severe economic depression of the 1930's had its effect on the youth of the land. In 1932 it was estimated that of those between the ages of 15 and 24 who were in the labor market, about one-fourth were unemployed. Nearly a quarter million young Americans were wandering about the country with no work and no prospects for the future. It was a serious social situation that needed to be corrected.

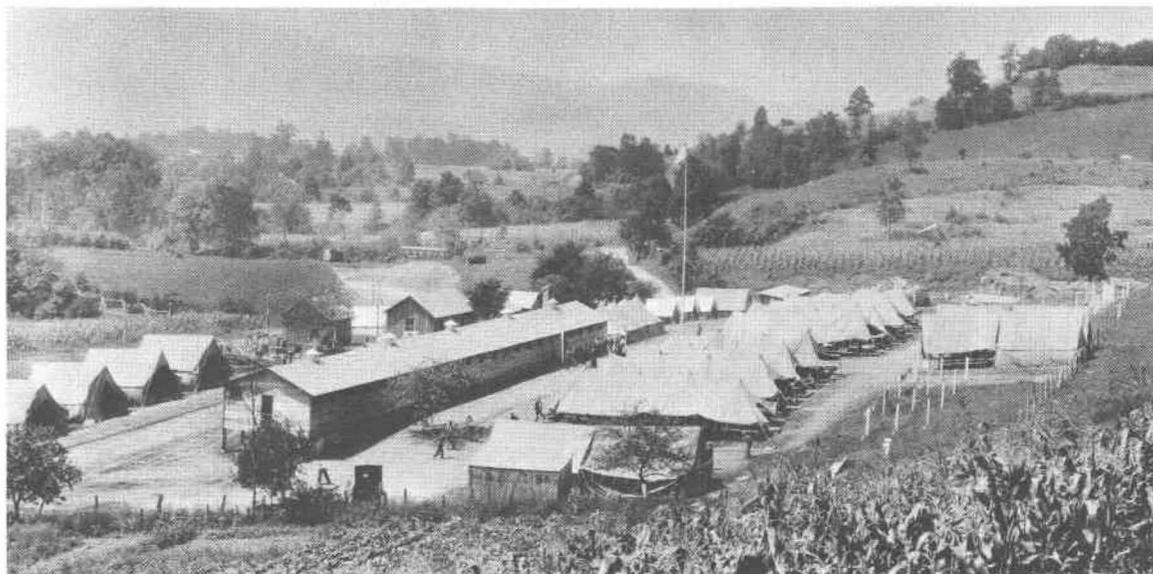
There was also the other grave problem that needed correction, that of land abuse which we have already touched on. Much of the land in America had been laid bare. With this destruction came severe erosion on the slopes and pollution of the streams and lakes by siltation. Each year uncontrolled water was washing billions of tons of the best top soil away from American fields and pastures.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was meant to weld both problems together and solve them mutually and simultaneously. Young men needing work were recruited into the program of saving America from the ravages of exploitation which had unloosed the forces of land destruction. America needed to heal her wounds, both socially and ecologically.

The CCC bill became law on March 31, 1933, with President Roosevelt's signature. It was Major Stuart, Chief of the Forest Service, who suggested the Army be recruited to build and operate the camps, feed, transport, and discipline the men, while the technical agencies such as the Forest Service and the Park Service, be responsible for the work project and for the men during the working hours. This was the plan accepted for operating the CCC camps. The word "civilian" was, however, stressed, and the Civilian Conservation Corps remained an organization dedicated to civilian pursuits rather than those of the military.

West Virginia and the Monongahela National Forest played a major role in the CCC. The first camp was established on the Monongahela in April, 1933, very soon after the CCC was established by law. The young men were quartered in army tents until the regular camp buildings were constructed. The Monongahela had as many as 12 camps actively operated at one time between the beginning of the program in 1933 and its termination in 1942. Following is their total number and location of the camps on the Forest:

F-1 at Davis	F-9 at Elkins
F-2 at Alpena	F-10 at Leadmine
F-3 at Parsons	F-11 at North Fork
F-4 at Glady	F-12 at Richwood
F-5 at Circleville	F-13 at Cranberry
F-6 at Thornwood	F-14 at Black Mountain
(F-7 and F-8 were located on the George Washington National Forest in West Virginia)	F-16 at Cowen
	F-17 at Frost



Dry Fork CCC Camp.

F-18 at Anthony (this was the location of the town of Neola which the Forest Service had purchased some months earlier, and it was to become the location of the Anthony Civilian Conservation Center during the Job Corps program of the 1960's)
F-19 at Minnehaha Springs
F-20 at Onego
(F-21 was cancelled before it became operable)
F-22 at Hutton (summer camp only)
F-23 at Cheat-Durbin (summer camp only)
F-24 at Scott-Petersburg

The CCC had a marked effect on the economy of West Virginia and accomplished much needed work on the Monongahela National Forest. The following is taken from the 1934 Mountain State Forest Festival program booklet:

"Since the first of May, 1933, 6,500 to 7,000 youths from West Virginia and Ohio have been in the CCC work camps of this state.... Not only have the families of enrollees been afforded needed relief but farmers and others have materially benefited from the presence of these camps. Forty-five thousand pounds of potatoes were purchased monthly from local farmers, the bread consumed, if each loaf were placed end to end, would extend 17.1 miles each month. The approximate estimate of money spent in the operation of these camps is about \$300,000 per month.

"Twenty permanent camps using local labor for their construction and costing from \$15,000 to \$17,000 per camp have been completed. Five percent of the enrollees have a rating which allows them \$45.00 per month, 8 percent \$36.00 per month and remainder receive \$30.00 per month, \$25.00 of which is sent home to needy dependents."

The impact of these young workers on the Monongahela National Forest was great. They planted millions of trees on the denuded slopes, fought forest fires courageously, and prevented others by their vigilance in fire prevention and detection, and accomplished much needed improvement work, building roads and trails and buildings, providing wildlife management work, and watershed improvements, which regular forces and funds could not begin to accomplish.

World War II, of course, brought other priorities, and the CCC was terminated by Public Law 647, enacted July 2, 1942.



Getting a shave at CCC Camp, Dry Fork, 1933.

By 1942, thanks much to the impact of the CCC program, the Monongahela National Forest had become an important part of the picture in the West Virginia economy, and as a physical asset for the State it could scarcely be equalled. Not only had the Forest grown physically in size, but also in scope of work.

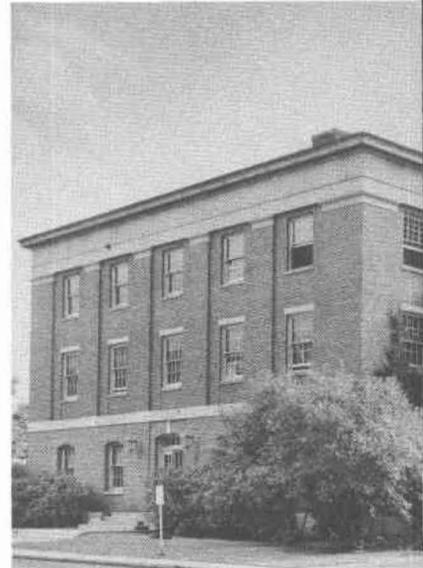
The first office occupied by the Forest Supervisor was in the Scott Building located at the corner of Randolph Avenue and Scott Street in Elkins. When the new post office building was completed in 1918, the Forest Service was assigned one large room for the Supervisor's headquarters. By 1926 the Forest had grown so much one room could no longer suffice because of increased staff.

United States Judge William E. Baker, a native of Randolph County who made his home in Elkins, was a cooperative friend of the Forest Service. He allowed the Forest Supervisor to use rooms assigned to the Court during periods when the Court was not in session. Court was held in Elkins at two periods during the year, causing the Forest Supervisor and his staff to squeeze into the one room for periods of about six weeks twice a year.

Early in the 1930's an extension to the post office building in Elkins was constructed. During this construction period, the Supervisor's office was moved into rented quarters of the Wilt Building at the corner of Davis Avenue and Third Street. The new addition was completed in 1932, giving the Federal Judge additional offices and also providing space for the Randolph County Agriculture Agent as well as the Forest Service.

For the Forest Service, this was adequate for only a short time. When the CCC program started, the scope of the work and the need for much increased staffing became apparent. Space was now rented in the Y. M. C. A. building across the street from the post office.

Action was taken by Congressman Jennings Randolph (later elected to the United States Senate) to have a new building erected for the Forest Service. Congress finally approved and made the necessary appropriation. The lot on which the building was built was purchased from Davis Elkins and Mary R. Elkins, his wife.

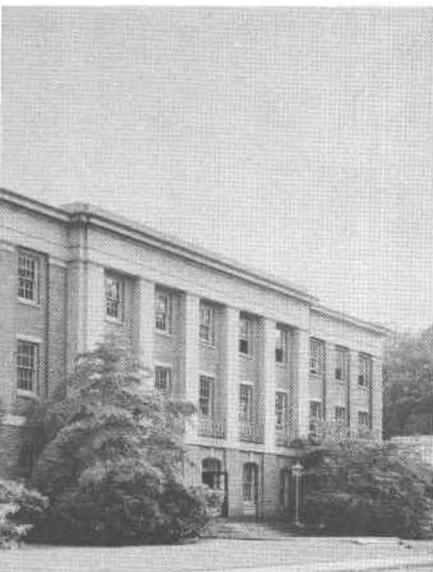


After World War II began, with the cessation of the CCC and a cut in the regular appropriations of the Forest Service, the Monongahela Forest Supervisor's force dwindled to a skeleton of the previous organization. During 1943 and 1944, the Army established a maneuver area on the Monongahela National Forest. A headquarters company was assigned several offices in the Forest Service building as well as the entire Repair Depot area on Yokum Street.

After the War, the Ration Board went out of business, and the State Department of Public Assistance took their space for a regional office in Elkins. It was effective January 1, 1947, until 1963.

During the 1950's, especially beginning in 1958, there again came a sustained growth, necessitating more staff and manpower with its accompanying need for more space in the Forest Supervisor's headquarters. This made it necessary to ask the Forest Festival Association to vacate. The Forest Service program is still growing and the need for additional space is a continuing one. Within a few years the Forest Service Building will have to be enlarged, the agencies other than Forest Service relocated, or the Forest Service will have to spread out into other buildings.

The first ranger district headquarters at Gladwin served as office and home for District Ranger Long. Ranger Long moved from Gladwin to Hendricks in 1925, being replaced by Ranger William P. Dale. Dale moved to Parsons in 1926. Ranger Dale also had his office in his home.



Forestry Building, Sycamore Street, Elkins, W. Va. Headquarters of the Monongahela National Forest.

During the summer of 1930, when Lewis R. Smith served as Ranger at Gladwin, office space for him was rented by the Forest Service in the Tucker County Bank Building.

Ranger Don Gaudineer (called Gardineer by many), on the Greenbrier District at Thornwood, also maintained his office in his residence until 1929. At that time space was rented from S. H. Hiner Hardware Company, on the second floor of their building. S. H. Hiner was also a funeral director and stored coffins and rough boxes on the second floor. (He was the father of John Hiner who is presently Lands Staff Assistant on the Monongahela.) It was necessary to walk by these grim reminders of man's mortality when visiting the Ranger's office. Thus ended the era of offices located in ranger residences.

Ranger headquarters on the Monongahela National Forest have been in small towns. These small towns did not have office buildings as such. A district office generally turned out to be a room or two over a store building. Lights, heat, water, and toilet facilities were sadly deficient. The rental of residences by rangers was another problem. Rangers being subject to sudden transfer made it difficult for a new ranger to find living space.

In 1938 it was decided to construct both rangers' offices and residences. It has been a long struggle. Slowly progress has been made even though it has taken nearly thirty years. The following tabulation shows the progress by locations and dates:

Cheat District

Office constructed fiscal year 1938 at a cost of \$6,156, and the residence constructed fiscal year 1937. They were built at the Parsons Nursery. Their office is now located in the town of Parsons in the Post Office Building.

Greenbrier District

Office constructed fiscal year 1939 and the residence constructed fiscal year 1939. In 1969 the office was sold and they moved temporarily into a new house built by Job Corps corpsmen.

Gauley District

Office and Warehouse (combined) constructed fiscal year 1960 at a cost of \$28,306, and the residence constructed the same year.

Marlinton District

Office constructed fiscal year 1962 (includes warehouse) at a cost of \$33,681. Residence constructed fiscal year 1959 at a cost of \$31,195.

Potomac District

Office constructed fiscal year 1964 at a cost of \$23,269. Residence purchased in two of Petersburg, fiscal year 1963, at a cost of \$16,800, and an Assistant Ranger's home built on station site during the APW program.

White Sulphur District

Residence constructed fiscal year 1960 at a cost of \$21,971. No office constructed; space is rented in the Post Office.

In late 1961, President John F. Kennedy presented "A Development Program For The National Forests" to the Congress. This was a carefully drawn blueprint to guide National Forest development over a period of about 10 years. Shortly after that an Accelerated Public Works program was launched. Besides putting unemployed men to work, this program accomplished many useful projects on the Monongahela National Forest which fit into the long-range development plans, but which could not otherwise be accomplished with regular funds. It was, in fact, a program which was able to do the first major "face lifting" on the Forest since the CCC days.

The Districts received money here to hire people on forest improvement projects, but the bulk of the work was organized and supervised by Mr. M. J. (Jack) Moore. Jack, the Construction and Maintenance Foreman, coordinated the construction projects, and they were many. All major campgrounds were rehabilitated, and Lake Sherwood Recreation Area was essentially built. Twenty-eight miles of roads and 35 miles of trails were reconstructed, plus many miles of road resurfacing. As a result of this sudden impact, Jack landed in the hospital with a case of mononucleosis and was out of work for six weeks.

When the Job Corps program started in 1965, the Monongahela was selected as one of many National Forests to participate in the program which was similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps but differed in some important respects. In Job Corps, young men spent half their time in the classrooms getting the basic education they had lost out on, and the other half of their time on useful work projects on the Forest where they learned basic work skills and disciplines.

The one Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center on the Monongahela was at old Camp Anthony, the site of the town of Neola which the Forest Service had purchased so many years before. Economic cuts in domestic spending forced a closure of it in June, 1969, after four years of operation. But during these several years, the young men of Anthony completed many useful work projects on the Forest, most notably perhaps the expansion of Blue Bend, one of the most popular recreation areas on the Monongahela. The Job Corps program was very beneficial to the Forest and to the young men enrolled in it.



Laying flagstones at Lake Sherwood.

Chapter 4



Servants of the People

We have seen why this National Forest came into being, how it evolved, and how it grew to be the important property it is today. Now, with a continued eye on the past as well as the present to put all things in proper perspective, we need to examine the many ways the National Forest serves the people. Many people have devoted their careers to preserving and improving the Monongahela. The following are men who have served as Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela. It is these men who have directed the management and protected the interests of the Forest.

Henry L. Johnson was a graduate of Cornell University, with a master's degree from Yale. He was in charge of the Monongahela Purchase Unit from 1918 until 1920. When the Unit was proclaimed the Monongahela National Forest on April 28, 1920, he was given the official title of Forest Supervisor at that time. He left the Forest Service in 1923, remaining in Elkins where he operated a florist business. He also operated a forest nursery. After the Gladwin Nursery was abandoned by the Forest Service, he took it over on a special use permit. He used it for forest tree production for several years. In 1939 he donated 26 acres of land to the local American Legion Post in Elkins to be used as burial ground for veterans. Mr. Johnson died on May 25, 1948.



The second Forest Supervisor, William E. Hedges, was a native West Virginian. There is no other individual connected with the land purchase program who did so much to further the program and to make friends for the Forest Service. When the purchase area of the Forest was first extended to what is known as the Smoke Holes, the people in that area were suspicious of strangers. Hedges established a camp in the area for his land examination crew and they were well received by local residents. In 1933 he was assigned to Kentucky for the purpose of creating a new purchase unit in that State. The result was the creation of the Cumberland National Forest, now known as the Daniel Boone National Forest. From 1935 until his retirement, he was a staff officer in the Lands Section of the old Eastern Region headquarters. He made his retirement home in Philadelphia.



Carlton L. Perkins, the third Forest Supervisor, was a graduate from the University of Maine in 1918. After serving in the Army during World War I, he entered the Forest Service on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, and was promoted to Forest Supervisor of the Cherokee in July, 1923. In 1924 he was transferred to the White Mountain National Forest as Acting Supervisor, then in 1925 became Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela. Perkins' intense interest in reforestation is evidenced by the many acres of tree plantations made possible by the Parsons Nursery which was established during his assignment on the Forest.



Early in 1931 Perkins went to work for R. B. Mellon on his Rolling Rock Estate in Pennsylvania. He later was employed by the Massachusetts State Forest Service, heading up the reforestation on State Forests and Parks during the CCC program. After the close of the CCC program, he became a consulting forester. He died on May 9, 1945.

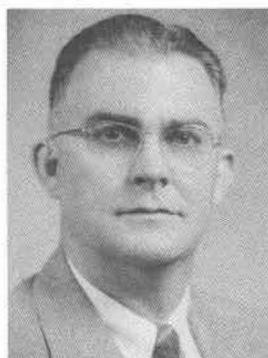


The fourth Forest Supervisor was R. W. "Jimmy" Shields. He served as interim supervisor in 1931, after the resignation of C. L. Perkins and pending the arrival of Arthur A. Wood. A short time after returning to duty in the Eastern Region headquarters, Shields became Forest Supervisor of the George Washington, then called the Shenandoah National Forest. He was promoted to Assistant Regional Forester in charge of Operation for the Eastern Region in 1935. He passed away on March 12, 1964.

Arthur A. Wood was appointed the fifth Forest Supervisor following a hearing with local citizens at Elkins, attended by R. Y. Stuart, Chief of the Forest Service. A public relations problem had developed on the Forest. A native West Virginian, Mr. Wood's record as Forest Supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest in South Carolina made him a good choice to head up the Monongahela. Mr. Wood had an ability for getting along with people, especially West Virginians. He got this ability from his father, "Squire Wood", a father confessor, judge, and jury to a large population of the Lost Valley and other valleys. Disputes were brought to Squire Wood first, and very seldom did they go beyond him to the courts. Arthur Wood served as Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela longer than any other man, a total of 18 years. During his tenure the Forest realized its greatest growth, increasing from slightly over 250,000 to over 800,000 acres. Many structures, roads, trails, and telephone lines were added. He retired from the Forest Service, June 30, 1949, continuing to make his home in Elkins until his death in January, 1952.



Alfred H. Anderson became the sixth Forest Supervisor by the recommendation of Mr. Wood. Anderson, following graduation from Penn State in 1928, became a Ranger on the Natural Bridge National Forest. He served as a staff officer on the Cumberland National Forest before becoming Assistant Forest Supervisor under Mr. Wood on the Monongahela in 1941. In 1943 he was promoted to Acting



Forest Supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest, and in 1945 was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operation in the Eastern Region headquarters. In 1946 he became Forest Supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest until he became successor to Mr. Wood on the Monongahela. During his assignment to the Monongahela as Forest Supervisor, the first long term timber sale was made. He was transferred to the George Washington National Forest in 1952 and served as Forest Supervisor of that Forest until his retirement in 1965.



Ephe M. Olliver, the seventh Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela, served nearly as long as Arthur Wood. A native of Pennsylvania, he graduated from Penn State in 1931. In 1933 he was a Ranger on the Cumberland National Forest, and served as Ranger of the Greenbrier District, Monongahela National Forest, in 1938 and 1939. In 1939 he was assigned to the Northeastern Forest Emergency Project in the New England States to take care of hazard reduction and salvaging of timber following a severe hurricane. During World War II he was assigned to training German war prisoners in timber and pulpwood production. Then he was loaned to the American Pulpwood Association to train pulpwood operators in the production of pulpwood.

Next he was assigned as Fire Control Inspector for the Eastern Region until he came back to the Monongahela as Forest Supervisor. Mr. Olliver organized and was a charter member of the Mountaineer Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in 1956, and, thanks to his wise leadership, the Chapter purchased a farm near Beverly, West Virginia, which is used to improve fish and game activities. Olliver has also served as a National Director of the Izaak Walton League and was awarded a life membership for his meritorious work. Mr. Olliver continues to live in the Elkins area and continues his broad conservation interests, being also active in the Brooks Bird Club.

The eighth and present Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest is Frederick A. Dorrell, better known as "Tony". Tony Dorrell is, like several of his predecessors, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University where he received his forestry degree in 1954. He was first assigned to the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho, becoming Assistant District Ranger, until his transfer in 1962 as Ranger on the Gallatin National Forest in Montana. In 1965 he was promoted to the position of Center Director of the Curlew Civilian Conservation Center on the Colville National Forest in the State of Washington. The following year



he was transferred to the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D. C., becoming Job Corps District Field Supervisor for the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. In 1967 he was again promoted, establishing the Job Corps Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, serving a seven-State area with 14 Civilian Conservation Centers. In 1968 he was transferred back to Washington, D. C., Office of the U. S. Forest Service, where he became Staff Assistant in the Division of Information and Education, administering the Job Corps Community Relations Program. He came from this post to that of Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela in February, 1969. Though a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dorrell made his home at Wheeling, West Virginia, from 1935 to 1941. His father, Fred Dorrell, is a native of Morgantown, West Virginia; thus Tony Dorrell's roots are deep in the State where he is now privileged to serve in his challenging post as Forest Supervisor.

The following is the list of District Rangers who have served on the six Ranger Districts of the Monongahela:

Cheat Ranger District at Parsons

Charles E. Long from 10/1/18 to 9/22/25
William P. Dale from 9/23/25 to 9/15/29
Lewis R. Smith from 9/16/29 to 6/30/31
Donald W. Beck from 7/1/31 to 2/12/34
Donald R. Gaudineer from 2/13/34 to 4/28/36
Ralph O. Smoot from 4/29/36 to 5/31/38
Ralph L. Rowland from 6/1/38 to 1/14/52
John N. Ballantyne from 1/15/52 to 3/9/57
William D. Johns from 3/10/57 to 10/4/58
Jack A. Godden from 10/5/58 to 10/12/60
Floyd L. Wiles from 11/13/60 to 6/8/61
Paul R. Natale from 6/23/63 to 7/15/67
Harry B. Mahoney from 7/16/67 to present

On July 5, 1937, a new fire tower on the Randolph-Pocahontas County line on Cheat Mountain, was dedicated in memory of Donald R. Gaudineer. Mr. Gaudineer met tragedy on April 28, 1936, and lost his life attempting to rescue his children in their burning home. Ranger Gaudineer's wife was the only survivor.

Gaudineer was a well liked man and his 6'7" frame commanded much respect. He was a graduate of the New York Ranger College and served in positions in Maine, New Hampshire, and was promoted to Ranger at Parsons. The tower dedicated in his name is still in use at this time.

Greenbrier Ranger District

Roscoe Arbogast from 4/1/22 to 1/31/26
Donald R. Gaudineer from 2/1/26 to 2/12/34
W. Clement Percival from 2/13/34 to 8/13/34
William L. Maule from 8/20/34 to 5/31/38
Ephe M. Olliver from 6/1/38 to 5/21/39
William L. Maule from 5/22/39 to 6/29/44
Peter J. Hanlon from 6/30/44 to 9/19/48
William M. Stiteler from 9/20/48 to 1/14/56
Gerald E. Finney from 1/15/56 to 10/4/58
Edward B. Vinoski from 10/5/58 to 7/12/69
Gaylord C. Yost from 7/13/69 to present

Gauley Ranger District

Milford C. Howard from 12/1/33 to 2/7/35
Gilbert L. Varney from 2/8/35 to 11/15/35
Bernard A. Eger from 11/16/35 to 9/26/36
Clare R. Carr from 9/27/36 to 5/29/48
Ralph O. Smoot from 5/30/48 to 1/16/59
Richard E. Mullavey from 1/18/59 to 8/4/62
Richard W. Finley from 8/5/62 to 1/29/67
Jack A. Weissling from 1/30/67 to 1/24/70
Merle L. McManigle from 2/22/70 to present

Marlinton Ranger District (part of White Sulphur District until 1957)

William A. Dedesy from 7/1/34 to 5/10/36
Mason B. Bruce from 5/11/36 to 5/31/38
William L. Maule from 6/1/38 to 5/21/39
Gordon G. Mark from 5/22/39 to 7/10/44
Harold H. Bush from 7/11/44 to 5/29/48
Carl E. Burgtoff from 5/30/48 to 1/31/53
Gerald L. Finney from 2/1/53 to 1/14/56
Leroy K. Kelley from 1/15/56 to 10/5/57
Robert D. Deemer from 10/6/57 to 9/17/60
Richard K. Kennell from 9/18/60 to 6/20/64
Robert L. Phillips from 7/5/64 to 1/15/66
Vearl L. Haynes from 1/16/66 to 2/7/70
Gary W. Lytle from 2/8/70 to present

Potomac Ranger District (part of Cheat District until 1938)

Walter B. Averill from 5/16/38 to 8/21/41
Kenneth P. Butterfield from 8/22/41 to 6/30/44
Carl E. Burgtorf from 7/1/44 to 5/29/48
Clare R. Carr from 5/30/48 to 2/1/64
Joseph E. Tekel from 2/2/64 to 2/21/70
Thomas K. Hubbard from 2/22/70 to present

White Sulphur Ranger District

William H. Arnold from 9/22/57 to 5/2/59

Lewis J. Beyea from 5/3/59 to 10/15/60

Charles C. Elsbree from 10/16/60 to 4/4/70

William T. Svensen from 5/3/70 to present

Many others, well known to local residents on the Forest, have served and in some cases continue to serve in key staff positions. We shall have occasion to mention some of them as we take up the various functions on the National Forest.

Chapter 5



Protection and Development

In the beginning there was very little in the way of improvements on what is now the Monongahela National Forest. Only a few roads wound through portions of the rugged country, and about the only trails were those made by fishermen along some of the favored streams, or by wild animals. Any National Forest, to best serve the people, must have these and other types of improvements. We have already detailed physical improvements as far as Forest Supervisor and Ranger Station headquarters are concerned. Now we turn our attention to the other types of improvements, including roads and trails, telephone lines, and fire control structures.

Improvements go hand in hand with offering adequate protection to a National Forest, and, of course, the most serious job of protection is that of fire control. In this regard, communication is of utmost importance.

In the early years of the Monongahela, communications with the interior of the Forest were practically non-existent. Roads were poor and telephone lines were few. Records show there were a total of 6 miles of Forest Service telephone line in 1916. In 1918 there were 17 miles, and construction continued each year as funds became available.

The Government lines in those early days did not connect up with commercial telephone company switchboards. They were connected to the Rangers' homes and to the Supervisor's office at Elkins. Since at that time the Rangers' offices were located in their residences, wives of the Rangers acted as telephone operators, and, in times of forest fire danger, acted as dispatchers, all without pay. In those days a Ranger's wife, besides being a housewife, served as assistant ranger without benefit of pay check. They are the unsung heroes of the early days of the National Forest.

The Supervisor's office telephone in those days also doubled as a free "party line". There was no other way to get messages to such points as Bowden, Evenwood, Wymer, Job, and Whitmer than through Government lines. Hardly a day passed that someone living in those areas did not come in and ask to telephone a message to their friends or relatives. Many calls concerned illnesses of their families who had been brought to the hospitals in Elkins. The Forest clerk was always up to date on the latest gossip, illness, or family troubles out in these remote areas.

In 1931 the Forest Service lines were connected through the switchboard of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, and this improved the situation. It was also about this time that the Rangers moved their offices from their homes to separate quarters.

After the Civilian Conservation Corps entered the picture in 1933, telephone line construction was speeded up. A southern extension to the Forest increased telephone requirements. The number of miles of Government-owned lines reached a total of 728 miles in 1941. Today, with increased development of radio communication, the total number of miles of telephone lines now owned by the Forest Service on the Monongahela National Forest is 6 miles, a reduction of some 722 miles from the peak. Each Ranger's office now has dial system telephones and extensions running to the desks of various members of his staff. This is certainly a far cry from the situation during the early days.

The first lookout structure on the Monongahela was Backbone Tower, located on Backbone Mountain near the highway running from Parsons to Thomas. It was constructed by the State of West Virginia in 1922. This was reputed to be the oldest lookout tower in the State. It was transferred to the Monongahela National Forest by the State and was used until 1963, when it was sold for salvage of the metal. It was replaced by a new structure, now named Olson Tower.

The first lookout structure constructed by the Forest Service on the Monongahela was the Canaan Mountain Lookout. It was a cabin lookout constructed on a large rock. At the time there were no trees to obstruct the view on Canaan Mountain, and the large rock gave the necessary height for good observation of the country. This lookout was abandoned for fire control purposes in 1943 when the Bearden Knob Lookout Tower was constructed about two miles from the old cabin location.



Two lookout towers were constructed during fiscal year 1928. One was the Mozark Mountain Lookout on the Cheat District and the other was Smoke Camp Lookout on the Greenbrier District. Both of these towers were used until 1950. A tower was constructed on Dolly Sods in 1931. It was later moved to Bell Knob. A record of the construction of other lookout structures follows:

- Bickle Knob Tower in 1933
- Red Oak Tower in 1934
- Paddy Knob Tower in 1934
- North Mountain Tower in 1935
- Hopkins Mountain Tower in 1935
- Sharp Knob Tower in 1936

Gaudineer Knob Tower in 1936
Red Spruce Lookout in 1940
Mikes Knob Tower in 1941
Olson Tower (Backbone) in 1963
Red Oak Tower in 1964

The Beaverlick Tower was acquired from the State of West Virginia on November 15, 1948. During the days of the Army Maneuvers on the Forest during 1943, two temporary towers were constructed with funds supplied by the Army. These were the Niges Cliff Lookout and Pigeons Roost Lookout. Both of these structures were transferred to the State of West Virginia, one in 1944 and the other in 1948. The Gaudineer Tower was named in memory of Donald R. Gaudineer, as previously discussed, and the Olson Tower was named for Ernst B. "Pete" Olson, a fire control assistant on the Cheat District.

By 1936, there were so many CCC camps on the Monongahela it became a problem to maintain the many items of heavy equipment being used in the program. It was decided to establish a central repair depot at Elkins. An option to purchase 1.83 acres of land on Yokum Street just outside the Elkins city limits was offered by E. A. Bowers and E. W. Channell on June 12, 1936. The price paid was \$850. In 1966 land in this general area was selling at \$10,000 per acre. Two large buildings were constructed on this land, at a cost of \$48,640. The area was fenced and a concrete driveway and parking area were installed. The construction was completed in 1938.

The depot was first put into operation under the supervision of the Monongahela. Later it was operated by the Regional Office and repair of equipment of State CCC camps was handled by the depot, in addition to National Forest camps. In 1940 the operation of the depot was taken over by the office of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who later turned the depot over to the War Department, Quartermaster Corps, in April 1942. After the War, the depot buildings and land were transferred back to the Monongahela, and it is still used by the Forest.



Construction of roads was one of the first improvement developments undertaken after the establishment of the Monongahela National Forest. The areas where land had been purchased were sparsely populated and scattered. Roads were very few and those that did exist were poorly constructed and poorly maintained.

Forest fire control was the major problem in those early days of the Monongahela. The road construction centered on providing for getting men and equipment into the remote areas for forest fire control.

Regular appropriations for the protection and utilization of the National Forests are not available for road construction. Funds for road construction are provided for the most part through three different appropriations each year. These funds were very meager for several years. A few of the old records still available show the following allotments for road work in the early years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
1921	\$ 1,126
1922	1,175
1923	2,340
1924	7,917
1925	34,823

The work on road construction was done by Forest Service employees for a number of years before the policy of contracting for such work was adopted. The work was seasonal, beginning in late spring and shutting down in the fall.

The first road foreman assigned to the Monongahela was Stephan M. Ripley. Mr. Ripley's stay was for only one season, that of 1926. He was replaced by Joseph Schmidlen who had been the first Forest Guard employed on the Monongahela. He continued to serve as Road Foreman until his retirement on June 30, 1941.

C. N. Strawn, who had come to the Monongahela in November, 1925, as Transitman on land acquisition surveys, became the first Forest Engineer in June, 1926, when he was assigned to improvement construction work on a full time basis. The position was then called Superintendent of Construction. Strawn was transferred to California in 1928. He was succeeded by Berlin Eye who transferred to the Monongahela from the George Washington National Forest (then the Shenandoah).

Prior to the purchase of a tractor in 1925, grade was broken by the use of a horse drawn plow and a Martin ditcher. The plow was first used to loosen the soil and then the ditcher was used to push the dirt over the bank. This procedure was repeated until the road was wide enough to use a horse drawn road grader. The bulldozer was invented and developed on the Western National Forests during the early 1930's, and was used to build forest fire control lines as well as roads.

The first roads were generally referred to as truck trails and always followed the contours of the ground, since this was the least expensive way, and no equipment was available except horse drawn scrapers for making fills. Most of the roads prior to the CCC were one lane, 9-foot wide, with turnouts located approximately 500 feet apart. Old logging railroad grades were used wherever possible in the construction of some of the roads. This accounted for some 50 miles on the Greenbrier Ranger District.

Berlin Eye resigned as Superintendent of Construction in 1930 to accept employment with the State Forest Service of Virginia with headquarters at Charlottesville. He was replaced by Edward R. Conrad who had been engaged on surveying land being purchased under the acquisition program. Conrad continued in this position until his retirement on June 30, 1944. The position had been changed from Superintendent of Construction to Forest Engineer in 1942.

Road construction was one type of project that lent itself to putting many men to work in a short time. The Forest was badly in need of roads, so it was only natural that much of the CCC effort was concentrated in this direction. Many miles were constructed during the life of the CCC. Forest Engineer Conrad retired in 1944. His assistant, Ernest F. Smith, replaced him—"Smitty", as he was familiarly known.

During World War II special appropriations were made available for constructing timber roads. Construction of these roads was the responsibility of the timber operator. Specifications for their construction were made a part of the timber sale contract.

In 1962, President Kennedy felt that the national economy needed some stimulus. He asked Congress to appropriate funds for an Accelerated Public Works Program. The Forest received allotments from this fund in 1962 and 1963, and they were used mostly for putting crushed stone on many roads that needed it to make them fit for all-weather use. Smitty retired in December, 1963, and Ray Powell was transferred from the Regional Office to fill the Forest Engineer's position.

For many years, there had been talk of the desirability of a scenic, highland road extending in a north-south direction the length of the Monongahela.

In 1961, Senator Robert C. Byrd asked the Forest Service for report on a possible route for a scenic highway. Both Senator Byrd and Senator Jennings Randolph worked energetically to make such a highway a reality. Senator Randolph, as a member of the Senate Public Works Committee, was instrumental in obtaining the first funds for the highway through the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962. Subsequent allocations from the Federal Highway Administrator for fiscal years 1963-1965 totaled \$4.5 million dollars.

On July 10, 1965, the official groundbreaking ceremonies were held for West Virginia Route 150—The Highland Scenic Highway. The first contract was for 4.4 miles of the Highway, beginning at Route 39 near the Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center and proceeding north along Cranberry Mountain.

The Highland Scenic Highway has a two-fold purpose. First, to provide a scenic drive that will allow the traveler to enjoy the beauty of the West Virginia Virginia Highlands. Second, to provide access to additional areas of the Monongahela for multiple use management

of its natural resources—water, wildlife, recreation, wood, and forage. The route of the Highland Scenic Highway begins on Cranberry Mountain, crosses Williams River at the Mouth of Sugar Creek, and then heads east to a meeting with U. S. 219 atop Elk Mountain. Heading north again, the Highway proceeds along the top of Cheat Mountain, crosses U. S. 250 near Barton Knob, crosses the Shavers Fork near Yokum Run, then climbs to the top of Shavers Mountain. From here it follows the Pendleton-Pocahontas County line easterly along the Lynn Divide. Reaching the vicinity of Cunningham Knob, the Scenic Highway turns to the north again along Rich Mountain to a junction with U. S. 33 and the planned Appalachian Corridor "H". The desirability of a Highland Scenic Highway beyond U. S. 33 is now being studied by the Forest Service.

The 1916 financial plan listed 66 miles of trails, 6 miles of telephone lines, and 2 dwellings to be maintained. Presumably the trails were constructed by early workers on the Monongahela Purchase Unit. Trail construction in the early days was a haphazard occupation at best, being done by workers incidental to their other duties, and to facilitate their travel about the Forest. Hunters also built a number of miles of trails through the Forest, and in some cases merely followed the game trails long in existence. Today, of course, trail construction is part of the engineering picture, and trails are well planned and carefully built. The Forest has approximately 708 miles of trails today, and planned additions to the trail system consist of another 205 miles. Much of this additional trail mileage will be located within the National Recreation Area which we shall detail in a later section. Trails initially were used largely for fire control purposes. Today their main function is for recreation.



Chapter 6

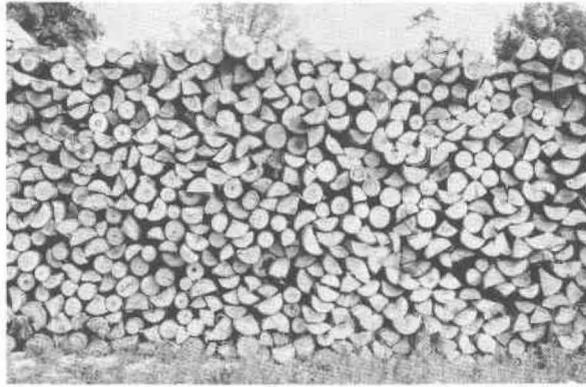


Timber

Sale of National Forest timber on the Monongahela was a very minor activity during the 25 years following its establishment. Most of the purchased land had been heavily cut-over, leaving very little, if any, sawtimber. Large lumber companies were still cutting timber on private land and were able to supply the market demands from these sources. This resulted in little demand for National Forest timber.

Chestnut blight, caused by the germ Endothia parasitica, hit the Eastern United States about 1904 and spread rapidly. By 1928 there was hardly a live chestnut tree left in West Virginia. These dead trees did provide an excellent grade of lumber for a number of uses. The lumber was known to the trade as "sound wormy chestnut." Today there are still a few gaunt survivors still standing in the Forest, though they are lifeless.

Most of the Monongahela timber sales during the period 1916 to 1940 consisted of salvage sales of the dead chestnut. The larger timber was sawed for use in the frame portion of houses, bridge decking, etc. Some was used as paneling for antique effect in some rooms of homes. Many local residents purchased the material for fence posts, mine props, telephone lines, and fence rails.



The average timber sale receipts during the period 1916 to 1940 amounted to only slightly more than \$1,000 per year. Work on the Forest during this period was concentrated more on improvement, protection, and development, as outlined in the previous section. In 1940, however, there began a shift in emphasis. The timber had grown and had been protected. There was now more sawtimber ready for the market, and that market was expanding with the demands of the growing nation. The large lumber companies were running out of good timber on private lands, making an increased need for government stumpage. World War II greatly increased demands for National Forest timber. And there has been a steady increase in the timber sale activities on the Monongahela since that time.

The Monongahela's first venture into long term sale contracting came in May, 1951. A. H. Anderson, then Forest Supervisor, was instrumental in getting this sale prepared and advertised. The Mower Lumber Company of Cass, West Virginia, was the highest bidder. The contract was awarded and signed on May 29, 1951.

Timber cutting under this timber sale contract continued for 13 years. The sale closed on August 14, 1964. It was operated by Mower Lumber Company until November 21, 1961, when it was taken over by the Pioneer Lumber Company, who completed it. The timber was hauled to the Mower Company's mills at Dailey and Cass until 1960. The Cass mill then closed operations, and the remaining timber was sawed at the Dailey plant.

Under this long term contract, 11,000 cords of pulpwood and 50 million board feet of sawtimber were cut on 27,000 acres of National Forest. Approximately 60 miles of roads were built on National Forest land by the purchaser.

During the period this sale was being operated on the Greenbrier District, many other sales were made, setting at rest the dire prediction that the long term sale would put other small operators out of business for lack of Forest Service stumpage.



Annual sales of all timber on the Monongahela reached 35 million board feet by the early 1960's, and since then has increased a third that amount. Short-term contracts of one to three year duration are the general practice.

Since about 1964 an additional type of timber management has been practiced on the Monongahela along with the more customary method of selective cutting. Even-aged management is the common term used to describe the new method. It is not really a new method, since it has long been standard practice in the old European forests, and even in some parts of the United States, such as in the Douglas fir forests of Oregon. Studies by Forest Service research foresters on the Wayne National Forest in Ohio during the early 1960's proved that the even-aged silvicultural method was ideal in many of the more valuable species of hardwood forest, of which the Monongahela National Forest is typical. By harvesting trees in blocks, the new regenerated forest is even-aged, and these sun-loving species of hardwood have a better chance to achieve maximum growth during their early years. In a matter of 20 years or so they can be thinned to provide their first timber products. Meanwhile, the created openings make ideal habitat for deer and other species of game, as they favor browse species and other food the game depends upon for sustenance.

Clearcutting has generated more controversy in West Virginia than any other activity on the National Forest. This is unfortunate as much of the controversy is based on misunderstanding. Admittedly, too, when first applied on the Forest, there was some trial and error by timber management people. Methods of harvest have since been modified to answer some of the objections. Today this method of timber harvest finds greater acceptance by those who are concerned with providing the greatest possible benefits from the National Forest for all the people. The Forest is not being overcut. It still continues to operate on the sustained yield base enunciated by Gifford Pinchot for the National Forests so many years ago. Selective logging is still being practiced on more acres of land than is clearcutting, about 60% to 40%, and this ratio shall probably continue.

Foresters recognized the problem of the need for reforestation on the lands being acquired for the Monongahela National Forest. A report prepared in the fall of 1919 indicated that some definite action had already been initiated toward solving the problem. This was the "Nursery Report for 1919, Monongahela - Gladwin Nursery." The following data is taken from this report:

"The area of seedbeds constructed and seeded in the Spring of 1919 was 720 square feet. The total area under development during the first year was .94 acre. The total area, partially enclosed, which was available for nursery work was 10.5 acres. The seedbeds of the nursery constructed in 1919 would accommodate 150,000 seedlings. The nursery hoped to expand to a capacity of 450,000 seedlings by the Spring of 1921. Bone-meal was used at the rate of 6.5 pounds per bed. Sowing of European larch and Norway spruce was at the rate of one ounce to 8 square feet. A light mulch of hardwood leaves was used. Fair germination of Norway spruce was obtained, whereas the European larch was a complete failure. Weeding averaged once a month during the growing season. The beds were watered only three times. A poison spray was used to combat cut-worms, which were finally eradicated by using poisoned bait. There was no damping off, consequently no disinfectants were used."

It is evident that without adequate funds and a full time nurseryman, the development of the nursery at Gladwin was very slow. Records for 1925 show that several miscellaneous sample plots were planted with stock from this nursery. In the spring of 1925, stock from Gladwin was shipped to the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina.

The nursery was operated more or less as an experiment until 1927. That year J. A. Gibbs was employed as full time Nurseryman. However, he worked only a few months and resigned to accept a position with the University of Connecticut.

It was at this time that the Forest Service decided that in order to bring the Monongahela back to productivity and to reforest some 40,000 acres of devastated lands, a nursery with an annual capacity of 1,200,000 trees would be required. Gladwin, because of its inaccessibility was abandoned, and a site near Parsons was selected. The new site of 28.8 acres, located along the Black Fork of Cheat River about a mile from Parsons, was approved in 1928. It was purchased from George F. Griffith. This tract was the beginning of the Parsons Nursery which was operated by the Monongahela continuously until 1951. As the needs for nursery stock increased, additional adjoining land was purchased. The David Long tract of 18.85 acres was purchased in 1933. The J. W. and C. W. Minear tract consisting of 20.68 acres and the Alice M. and John H. Ford tract of 28.5 acres were purchased in 1936.

On March 2, 1928, Donald A. Oliver arrived to take over as the Nurseryman. He continued as Nurseryman until the nursery was discontinued by the Forest Service on November 27, 1951. The Parsons nursery, while it was in existence, provided millions of trees not only for planting in the Monongahela National Forest, but also such other Forests as Pisgah, Uwharrie, Allegheny, Cumberland, Jefferson, Green Mountain, Wayne, and Shenandoah. The nursery was capable of producing as many as 7.5 million trees in its beds at one time. Principal species raised in it were red spruce, white pine, red pine, white spruce, hemlock, European larch, Japanese larch, red oak, white ash, black locust, black cherry, and yellow poplar.

Donald A. "Sandy" Oliver
—in charge of Parsons Nursery
1928-1951.



By 1951 the Monongahela was no longer in such need for planting stock as much of the land had now been rehabilitated and was reseeding naturally. It was not considered economically feasible to continue the nursery as a government operation. West Virginia, however, did have need for the nursery, and the Forest Service turned it over to the State by a memorandum of understanding dated December 17, 1951. The Parsons Nursery then continued to serve as a State operated facility.

There are a number of examples that show the good investment of the nursery and the labor needed to put the trees in the ground. One of the best of these is the Clover Run project. The white pine on this area was planted by the CCC in 1933. By 1960, some of the trees were 70 to 75 feet tall and per acre volume averaged 17,000 board feet. A thinning was made at this time. The total volume marked for cutting was 39,750 board feet of sawtimber and 690 cords of pulpwood. Contracts were awarded to three small operators at average prices of \$19.78 per thousand board feet for the sawtimber and \$1.84 per cord for the pulpwood. It was interesting to see them cut ten-inch lumber from trees only 27 years in the ground. The next scheduled thinning operation for Clover Run was 1966. In February of that year the Forest sold 113 thousand board feet of sawtimber and 205 cords of pulpwood.

We cannot conclude this interesting history of forest tree culture on the Monongahela without telling the story of Max Rothkugel, and the story is best told by Hume C. Frayer, Assistant Forest Supervisor some years ago:

"It was in the year 1907, at Winterburn, in the Allegheny Mountain slopes of Pocahontas County. This bustling lumber town was the headquarters of the George Craig and Sons Lumber Company of Philadelphia. On the hills nearby lumberjacks worked at felling the timber. And almost in their midst, this strange, stalwart individual bent to the task of planting a new man-made forest. Probably no stranger sight than Rothkugel at work was to have been seen in all the eastern forests.... His fathers before him had practiced the art of planting forests for generations in their native land. But more uncommon at the time was the idea which had taken hold in industry that the thing to do was to manage its lands to continuously produce timber crops. And here, Max Rothkugel was laying the foundation as the Company forester.





"Not long before, George Craig and Sons had looked into the idea of applying forestry principles to their Allegheny Mountain lands. In 1905, the U. S. Forest Service had been called into consultation and a study was made by an early-day forest assistant, named A. B. Patterson. This was at a time when there were but few American-trained foresters in the whole of the country. Max Rothkugel had not only the wealth of European education and experience at his command, but recent schooling in 1902-03 at the first forest school at Cornell University. This was his background when he undertook the unique planting on Company land in 1907.

"The mountain slope selected by him had been logged clean the year before. It was clothed with a heavy stand of conifers and hardwood.... Rothkugel considered the first step...to be preparation of a suitable seedbed, by burning away the logging slash. He began then, with his woodsmen helpers. Seed spots were made with a rake, and seeds were carried by the planter in his pants pockets. One pocket was filled with Norway Spruce and the other with European Larch seed, obtained by Rothkugel from the Tyrolean Mountains of Austria. He had chosen these species to provide for a succession of the valuable softwoods.

"Protection of his work had not been overlooked. Birds were too much in evidence, as well as cattle freely ranging the forest lands. Earlier, he had learned the futility of broadcast sowing, for the birds made fine food of his costly, imported seeds. Protection from cattle was sought by seeding the rapidly growing thorny black locust in wide strips through the plantation. Max Rothkugel planted over one hundred and fifty acres in this way.

"Unfortunately, business panic struck the industry widely the same year of Rothkugel's work. The progressive lumberman received a severe setback. Max Rothkugel was not heard of in the next few years.

"In 1921, the George Craig and Sons Lumber Company offered its lands for sale to the Federal Government as an addition to the growing public forest. Thus, in 1924, the Max Rothkugel plantation was acquired for all the people. From local reports collected by the first forest ranger in the area, D. R. Gaudineer, it appeared that the plantation had been partially and perhaps completely burned over a few years after Rothkugel's work. Between this fire and the causes of other earlier losses, Rothkugel's trees were found to occupy only about a fourth of the planted area. Following the fire, blackberries grew profusely. Then a heavy stand of native hardwoods appeared among the planted species. But, in 1922, while still a Company forest, the larch had grown to eighteen feet high in the stand!

"From 1933 forward to 1941, the Rothkugel Plantation, as it had become known, was the scene of frequent visits by silviculturally-minded foresters. Of prime interest was the release of the foreign tree species and the locust from competition by the less desirable native trees. Results were recorded in minute detail. As viewed now, the work of Max Rothkugel at that time had become a field laboratory for the development of native forestry skills. Today, the seventy foot high spruces are the progenitors of numerous second generation trees to be found growing widely over the West Virginia hills. For in the late summer the cones have been collected forthwith by nurserymen as the source of seed from which their planting stock has been grown.

"It was learned that Max Rothkugel entered the U. S. Forest Service following his West Virginia work. R. M. Evans, retired Regional Forester, worked with Rothkugel in the Pacific Northwest in 1911. He described Max as a powerful man physically, and a good forester. Much to the discomfort of Rothkugel's colleagues, he continuously smoked long, black, rat-tailed shaped cigars, imported by the thousand from Germany. Evans knew Rothkugel to be very self-sufficient, starting out on a month or six weeks trip afoot, for example, with a knapsack containing blanket, ground sheet, eight or ten pounds of cheese, and not much else.

"In 1913, one of the South American countries asked the Forest Service to recommend a forester to establish a forest organization in that country. Rothkugel was chosen. At the beginning of the First World War, he returned to New York because of his Austrian ancestry, which made him unacceptable in the South American country. It was rumored then that he established a tango dancing academy.

"Back in 1907, Max Rothkugel's writings drew attention to his experience in the management of similar stands in the Karpathians of Central Europe. His answer in West Virginia for a succession of the spruce forest was partial cuttings, saying that little or no reforestation by man would thereby be necessary. He saw the need for conversion from large stationary mills and from logging railroads. 'With a comparatively small investment tied up in mills and railroads, the forest can be constantly maintained in a productive condition and still a good interest percent on the original investment would be assured.'

"Today, the layman may see in the the Rothkugel Plantation only 'some pretty trees' but to the initiated, these tall, stately trees have many meanings, as they bend to the Allegheny Mountain breezes. They exemplify Max Rothkugel and what he undertook to do. They represent probably the first tree plantation in the mountain state, the first example of applied forestry by the lumber industry, the foresters' first field laboratory, and, again to the forester, the subject of a first treatise on forest management in the mountain state. West Virginia's heritage."

Chapter 7



Range

The Monongahela National Forest is unique among Forests in the Eastern United States in the number of grazing permits issued and numbers of stock grazed from the time the Forest was established to the present time.

The control of grazing was a real problem for many years. Some stock owners turned stock out on their unfenced land. In many instances, this stock drifted onto government land. This situation gave rise to the issuance of a number of free grazing permits "on account of private land" under Regulation G-4. Free grazing permits under Regulation G-2 for domestic use were also issued. There were many paid permits.

Despite efforts to bring all grazing under permit, there was still grazing trespass. This problem plagued the Forest until a couple of suits were filed in Federal court.

In the early days of the Forest the number of stock grazing on U. S. land is said to have reached 25,000 head at one time, but official records are not available for confirming this large total. The change in the forage supply by regrowth and planting on burns and timber growth on cutover areas gradually cut down the grazing range of the

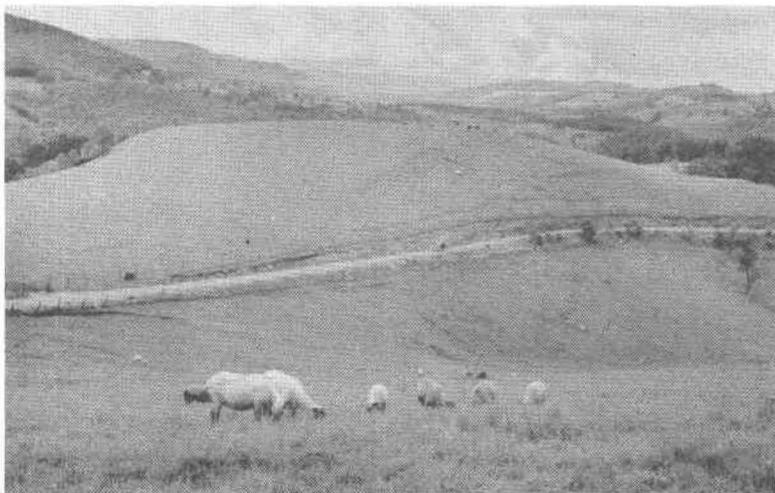
Forest. By 1937 the number of stock grazed was 10,548; of this total, 7,933 were sheep and 2,615 cattle. By 1952 the grand total had declined to 2,765, consisting of 1,327 sheep and 1,438 cattle. This decline continued, and by 1965, the number of stock was down to 819. By this date the number of usable acres for grazing was down to 2,940.

The Supervisor's report for 1965 has this to say concerning the status of grazing:

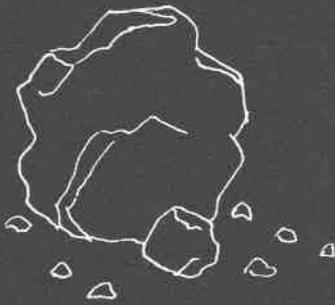
"Grazing and usable grazing areas continue to decrease as allotments are closed out because of encroaching forest land and permittees die off or move away. The trend may reverse, however, as a number of tracts containing over 1,000 acres of pasture land are being considered for purchase under Land and Water Funds, along the Scenic Highway and in the new National Recreation Area."

This statement is most significant. The Forest Service believes controlled grazing is a legitimate use on the Monongahela National Forest, and that, furthermore, there is much rustic charm and beauty in the peaceful scene of sheep and cattle grazing in the limestone valleys and the mountain meadows.

In recent years the Forest has carried on a modest range improvement program such as fences, water developments, liming, and other soil improvements.



Chapter 8



Minerals

The management of minerals during the early days of the Monongahela was no problem. There was no mining of Government minerals or those reserved and owned by others under Government-owned surface.

One of the first mining operations was on the J. A. Cunningham Tract No. 28. Cunningham had reserved the minerals on this tract when he sold the surface to the Government in 1917, with the provision that mining be done in strict accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. This excellent provision for protection of the land was quite unusual.

The Davis Trust Company of Elkins was executor of Cunningham's last will and testament. In 1936, the Davis Trust Company applied for a permit to mine coal under this tract. The mining was actually done by Enos Roy of Elkins, the operation ceasing in 1942. In July, 1939, the Davis Trust Company transferred the minerals to the Cunningham Land Company. On August 12, 1940, the Cunningham Land Company leased the coal to L. Wade Coberly who operated a mine doing business as the Shavers Mountain Coal Company. This company mined coal on the area from 1940 to 1948. All mining on the tract has been in strict accordance with the stipulations put forth in the will and testament of J. A. Cunningham.



During World War II the management of minerals of the Forest grew in volume and complexity. With shortages of manpower during the War, the development of heavy earth moving equipment, and the increase in price of coal, strip mining came into the picture. This brought significant problems. But by careful negotiation and strict adherence to good land management principles, the mining on National Forest land has been done in such a way that the land has been left in a healthy condition. However, there has been some trespass on the part of mining operators, and these have had to be prosecuted vigorously, with the courts giving the Forest Service restitution by the offenders.

A few of the early permits issued for minerals allowed strip mining where such action would not damage or pollute streams and where the surface could be restored substantially to its original position. These strip areas were small.

Judge Boreman's decision in the Bowden Coal Company case and Circuit Court Judge Watkins' decision in the case of the West Virginia Conservation Commission vs. D. S. Blount strengthened the hand of the Forest Service in resisting pressure to use strip mining methods until it is now an accepted fact that strip mining is now unlawful on many National Forest lands where the minerals were reserved when the surface land was purchased.

In late 1950, there arose interest in oil and gas on the Forest. Oil and gas companies started acquiring oil and gas leases from private landowners in the area of the Forest. Then it spread to National Forest land.

On August 8, 1957, a permit was issued to the Hope Natural Gas Company for a right-of-way for a gas transmission line. A line was built from the Glady gas field to the big pressure interstate gas transmission line of the Atlantic Seaboard Corporation. The Government received royalty payments for this, as well as the establishment of what was termed the "Blackwater Anticline" storage pool. This proposed storage pool was to consist of 43,194 acres of land in the Glady gas field in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties.

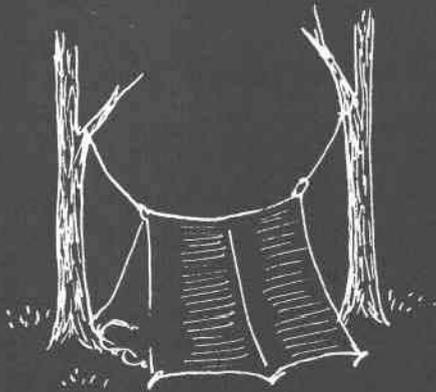
The sale of gas to the Hope Natural Gas Company for delivery to the line of Atlantic Seaboard Corporation commenced in February, 1958, and was discontinued in April, 1960. Royalties paid to the United States in this field were in excess of \$550,000. Such royalties are part of the total receipts derived from timber sales, grazing, and other uses, and 25% of these receipts go to local units of government for roads and schools. Many local communities derive a good share of their income from these receipts.

On August 12, 1964, the Atlantic Seaboard Corporation paid to the United States \$535,382.27 to cover the 1/8 royalty interest in Recoverable Gas Reserves underlying the land covered by the permit. The permit also provided payment of \$55,500 per annum for storage fees. The first yearly payment was also made on August 12, 1964. This is still more evidence of how the people have benefited by owning the land where mineral activity has occurred.

Considerable excitement was generated on the Cheat District when gold was discovered in 1927. Quartz which contained gold was found on Clover Run about 8 miles from Parsons. The U. S. Assay Office of Salt Lake City, Utah, ran an analysis which indicated the quartz would yield \$62.00 of gold per ton. Later a vein of the same type of quartz was discovered in Sissaboo Hollow, also near Parsons. The excitement finally died out without any mining or smelting ever having been done.

Coal mining continues to be the major minerals management activity on the Monongahela, and there is reason to believe it will become even more important because of the low sulphur-bearing quality of much of the West Virginia coal, which causes less air pollution than ordinary coal. Proper mining, carefully supervised, will need to be the watchword as far as National Forest lands are concerned.

Chapter 9



Recreation

The development of recreational facilities on the Monongahela was a slow though gradual process. In the early days of the Forest there was very little need for special recreation areas. Roads were poor and automobiles few. Recreation consisted mostly of those hardy souls who fished or hunted and camped out for the duration of their visit on the Forest. There was some swimming and picnicking along the streams close to the towns or small communities.

Lack of available funds for recreation was also a factor for a number of years. The first recreational development of record was the old Frank Mountain Campground on the Greenbrier Ranger District. It consisted of an improved spring and a toilet. It was not until the advent of the CCC program in 1933 that any substantial progress was made in the development of recreation areas. During the 9-year period of the CCC on the Monongahela, a major portion of the recreation areas were developed.

Herbert T. Stoddard of Cohasset, Massachusetts, was employed as the Recreation Staff Assistant to the Forest Supervisor in 1935. He was an excellent landscape architect and was responsible for the design and plans for all the recreation areas developed under the CCC program. The Alpena Gap Campground was one of the first. Then came Blue Bend, Horseshoe, Smoke Hole, and Stuart. By 1938 these areas were in full operation and the Monongahela issued its first recreation pamphlet.



Stuart, located only 5 miles from Elkins, has always been one of the heaviest used recreation areas on the Forest. During the CCC days when CCC enrollees were used to operate and maintain the Camp, records were kept of the number of users. It was not unusual to have as many as 3,000 visitors on Saturdays and Sundays during hot weather spells. Most of these visitors were swimmers and picnickers. This area also had a large unit for campers. In the early days, most of the campers used tents.

During World War II, recreation use at Stuart and the other areas dwindled to a trickle. The Army established an evacuation hospital at Stuart for training nurses and doctors during the 1943-1944 period.

After the War, the Forest was not financially able to pay lifeguards at the swimming area.

Prior to the War, this had been handled with CCC enrollees. Recreation management funds were insufficient to operate and maintain the Forest recreation areas as well as desired. This situation brought on a move to place certain recreation areas under concessionaire operation, but Stuart was the only area on the Monongahela where this system was tried. For the seasons of 1950 and 1951, E. J. Castonguay operated Stuart Recreation Area under a special use permit. The permit allowed the concessionaire to charge the public for parking privileges only. The other income he received for operating the area was the profit he made in selling food, soft drinks, souvenirs, etc. After operating the area for two years, Castonguay realized he couldn't make a profit and elected not to renew the permit.

In 1952, Professor David E. Warner of Davis and Elkins College operated the area under permit. This permit had substantially the same requirements as the Castonguay permit. Warner operated it as a college program for students in the School of Physical Education. The course included recreation, camping, physical education, and pre-forestry. This college operation lasted only one year.

It became evident that the area could not be operated and maintained by private parties at a profit. Since that time the operation and maintenance of the area has been handled by the Forest Service.



The Blue Bend Recreation Area was constructed on Anthony Creek at a point known as Blue Hole. The excellent swimming and the well shaded picnic and camping units made the use of this area very heavy. The use at this area continued to exceed the capacity until Lake Sherwood was constructed in 1959. Also, during the several years the Anthony Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center was in operation, the young men enlarged the facilities at Blue Bend, greatly increasing its capacity. During the flood of 1969, caused by the heavy rains associated with the hurricane that devastated the Gulf Coast, Blue Bend suffered some damage.

As recreation use continued to increase during the 1950's, new facilities were created on the Monongahela National Forest. Cranberry Campground was located on Cranberry River on the Gauley District, in the center of what is reported to be one of the top ten trout streams in the United States. The Woodbine Picnic Area is also located along the Cranberry River. These two facilities actually date back to 1942, and they have received heavy use since that time.

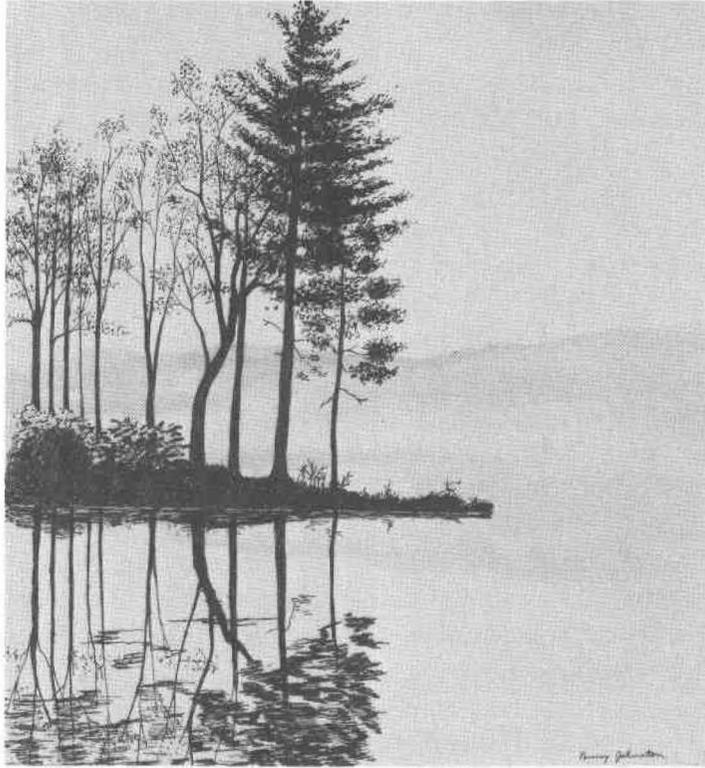
In addition to the Horseshoe Recreation Area on the Cheat District, the Horseshoe Organization Camp was also completed in 1940. The primary purpose of this organization camp is to provide vacation experience for those children or adults who would otherwise not be able to enjoy forest recreation. This organization camp was turned over to the Y. M. C. A. State organization by special use permit issued July 1, 1940. The Y. M. C. A. has operated it ever since. At least one two-week camping period each year is set aside for crippled children.

On February 4, 1952, a memorandum of agreement between the State Department of Natural Resources (then known as West Virginia Conservation Commission) and U. S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service was signed. It was under this agreement that the Monongahela obtained some water impoundments. These impoundments, constructed for improving fish and game, are also recreation activities of the Forest.

The first impoundment was near Spruce Knob, the highest point in the State. This impoundment created a lake of 25 acres, opened on June 6, 1953. The impoundment cost \$46,000. Even though this facility was constructed primarily for fish and game, it has become a very popular spot for campers who don't fish because of the large campground created there.



Spruce Knob Lake was first used by the public on the first day of fishing season in 1953, June 6. It was estimated that 10,000 people were there. People stood side by side around the entire lake with their lines in the water. The boats were so thick on the water one could almost walk across the lake on them. The picture tells the story very well. Since that time the fishing in West Virginia has become year-round, and this has removed pressure on opening day, though Spruce Knob Lake is still a very heavily used facility, and is today one of the most popular recreation areas on the Forest.



The next impoundment was on Coats Run on the Gauley District, creating a lake of 42 acres and named Summit Lake. It was opened to the public on April 28, 1956. Opening day there was similar to opening day at Spruce Knob Lake. Sanitary facilities and parking space were taxed beyond their capacity.

Summit Lake, in addition to its fishing and recreation use, also serves as a reserve water supply for the city of Richwood. In times of extremely dry weather, when the city's water supply is short, water from the lake is released to flow into the Cherry River and thus supplements the city of Richwood's water supply.

The third dam constructed with funds from the hunting and fishing charge was on Meadow Creek, White Sulphur Ranger District. This dam formed 165-acre Lake Sherwood. It is about 12 miles from Neola, and was opened to the public on April 25, 1959. The area lends itself to other recreation activities besides hunting and fishing. The Monongahela has developed campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat docks and sanitary facilities, taking care of the heavy overload of use at Blue Bend. Lake Sherwood has become one of the most popular recreation areas on the Monongahela.

Beginning in 1959, the Forest began a program of what was termed rehabilitation of its recreation developments. The steady increase in recreation use and the wear and tear on the areas had created a need to both refurbish and enlarge all of the areas under use. This was a large long-term program extending from 1959 through 1966.

On September 3, 1964, the President approved Public Law 88-578 which was termed the "Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965." The main purpose of this Act was to obtain more and better recreational land and facilities for the people. On February 26, 1965, President Johnson issued Executive Order 11200 setting up regulations pertaining to assignment of responsibilities, user fee criteria and standards, and designation of areas, issued in connection with the Act. Entrance and user fees collected under this law would go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

There was considerable confusion in getting this charge program under way on the Monongahela as well as other National Forests. Charge areas were new for the Monongahela. People began supporting the program, however, when they realized its good benefits. Entrance fees and user charges, both kept reasonably low, were in effect at only the better recreational facilities. Many less developed recreational areas on the Forest remained free, particularly those off the main roads and which were only lightly used. People also came to realize that the \$7 annual passport that would open all Federal recreation areas to them throughout the United States, was quite a bargain; it was even a bargain for those who remained on this one Forest throughout the recreation season.

A major milestone in recreation management of the Monongahela, as well as other National Forests, occurred on September 28, 1965. On this date the President signed Public Law 89-207 establishing the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. This was the first National Recreation Area established on any National Forest by Act of Congress. The following is taken from the Act establishing the National Recreation Area on the Monongahela:

"(1) designate as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area within and adjacent to, and as a part of, the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, not to exceed in the aggregate one hundred thousand acres comprised of the area including Spruce Knob, Smoke Hole, and Seneca Rocks, and lying primarily in the drainage of the South Branch of the Potomac River, the boundaries of which shall be those shown on the map entitled 'Proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area' dated March 1965....

"Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary shall acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by gift, exchange, condemnation, transfer from any Federal agency, or otherwise, such lands, waters, or interests therein within the boundaries of the recreation area as he determined to be needed or desirable for the purposes of this Act....

"Sec. 4. (a) After the Secretary acquires an acreage within the area designated pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 2 of this Act that is...in his opinion efficiently administrable to carry out the purposes of this Act, he shall institute an accelerated program of development of facilities for outdoor recreation. Said facilities shall be so devised to take advantage of the topography and geographical location of the lands in relation to the growing recreation needs of the people of the United States."

Establishment of this large National Recreation Area on the Monongahela National Forest was much needed. Its boundaries included some of the greatest of the natural attractions on the Forest. By having these in an area set aside primarily for recreation, but where other compatible uses could be applied, they are better protected. United States Senators Byrd and Randolph, Representative Harley Staggers, and other members of the West Virginia U. S. Congressional Delegation, gave their strong support to the measure and were instrumental in having this needed Act passed.

One of the first benefits to the National Recreation Area has been the construction of a magnificent observation tower on the top of Spruce Knob, West Virginia's highest mountain. The new observation tower makes a visit to the top of Spruce Knob a memorable occasion now, enabling the viewer to see over the highest trees, and with a legend that describes the surrounding country for him.

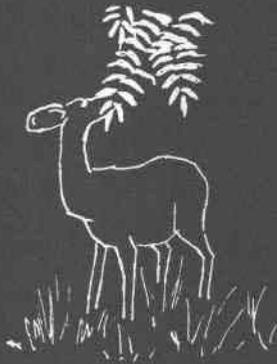


Nearby, rambling over the mountain top, is the Whispering Spruce interpretive trail. This new facility was dedicated by Senator Robert Byrd on a beautiful September day in 1969 with a large crowd of people on hand to enjoy the scenery and the ceremonies. Creation of this National Recreation Area has focused increased attention on the Monongahela National Forest throughout Eastern America. There are within a day's drive of the Forest some 50 million people. To better accommodate increased visitor days of use, more recreational facilities are planned, not only within the National Recreation Area but also throughout the entire Forest.

Another milestone in the history of the Monongahela was the construction of its first Visitor Center. The Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center was completed in the spring of 1967 and dedicated on July 29, 1967, again with Senator Robert Byrd as dedication speaker. Senator Byrd was largely responsible for getting the Congressional appropriations for both the Cranberry Mountain facility and the observation tower on Spruce Knob.

Visitor Information Services are becoming increasingly important in connection with recreation on the Monongahela. Soon to be completed will be the second Visitor Center at the Mouth of Seneca in the National Recreation Area. There will also be more interpretive trails laid out in the more popular areas so that visitors to the Forest may gain a maximum of pleasure and information while they are vacationing in this mountain wonderland.

Chapter 10



Wildlife

The control of fish and game on a National Forest has always been considered the responsibility of the State. The Forest Service as managers of the National Forests recognized its responsibilities in the management and improvement of the habitat for fish and game.

The Monongahela National Forest has made every effort to carry out its responsibilities in this activity. On March 15, 1935, the first staff assistant for game management was added to the staff, and he remained on the staff until May 17, 1939. His name was Sterling S. Dietz.

Charles S. MacIntire was employed as staff assistant for fish management on May 15, 1935. He remained in this position until October 25, 1937. Both of these men made a great contribution to the wildlife management program on the Monongahela. They were later employed by the Fish and Game Commission of the State of Ohio.

Cooperation between the West Virginia State Fish and Game Commission and the Forest Service has been very close. Cooperative agreements have been entered into to implement their programs.

The first cooperative agreement on record between these agencies covered the establishment of the Otter Creek Game Refuge of 18,000 acres of February 24, 1925. It was a sanctuary for game to propagate unmolested and in which no hunting of any kind was allowed. The overflow of game could be hunted outside the refuge boundary lines in accordance with State laws. Later, in 1929, the Beaver Dam Game Refuge was established. It was similar to the Otter Creek Refuge.

The West Virginia Legislature enacted a law in 1951 requiring an additional fee of \$1.00 for the privilege of hunting or fishing on a National Forest within the State. A special stamp is issued upon payment of the fee. The stamp is to be attached to the regular hunting or fishing license. This is a rather unique situation and it has proved to be of great benefit to the hunter and fisherman as well as the wildlife resource. Details as to the use of the funds received from this additional fee for water impoundments are given elsewhere in this history. The cooperative agreement of February 4, 1952, between the Forest Service and the State provides for management of the game and fish habitat on both the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests.

Until the year 1939, the total deer kill per year for the entire State was less than 1,000 deer. In 1939, the total was 1,116, the first time it exceeded 1,000. In 1965, several individual counties on the Forest had more than a thousand deer killed. It is very convincing proof that the joint effort of the State and Forest Service in game management is paying off. Funds collected for the National Forest fee are used by the State to carry out the program as jointly approved by the Forest Service and the State Conservation Commission.

Prior to 1934, there were no beaver within the Monongahela National Forest. In 1934, two pairs were stocked on the Forest. This was the start of an experiment by the West Virginia Conservation Commission. The story of this experiment is best told by the following item which is quoted from the Elkins Inter-Mountain in its issue of August 21, 1937.

"ELKINS, Aug. 21. —West Virginia may have a million dollar fur trapping industry by 1947 if the present plan of the State Conservation Commission and the U. S. Forest Service is continued along present lines.

"The animal to supply the fur for this industry? The busy beaver, he of the broad tail and razor-sharp teeth who builds the picturesque dams at which humans marvel and which defy reproductions by the most skilled human engineers.

"Today there are some 300 beaver in West Virginia streams, carefully guarded by a closed season and mostly in game refuges where hunters and trappers are barred. This number grew from a small start in 1934, at which time the Conservation Commission was criticized for spending \$75 for animals for what the critics considered 'wild experimentation'.

"There may have been a few beaver in West Virginia in centuries past but none could be found in recent years. The first report of any was in 1923 when A. B. Brooks, then state naturalist, reported finding one pair which he believed had migrated from an overflowing colony in Pennsylvania. It was not until 1934 that two pairs were stocked on the Monongahela Forest and since that time 28 more have been added.

"It is now estimated by S. S. Deitz, game technician for the Forest Service, that there are 140 beaver on the forest area at seven stocking points—Beaver Dam refuge; Laurel Creek, Lindy Run, Red Run, Williams river and Little river—covering a wide area in Randolph, Tucker and Pocahontas counties. There are more than that in state forests.



"They are the original 'upstream engineers' and their work in flood control is readily appreciated by men engaged in this work. Fish culturists likewise recognize their aid for the dams prevent the washing away of food and provide ideal spawning grounds. This is apparent in Otter Creek, near Gladly Fork CCC camp. There C. S. MacIntire, fish culturist for the U. S. Forest Service, said trout lived for several years without growing more than six or eight inches long. Since the beaver colony has been established, trout up to 12 and 14 inches have been taken from the stream."

The prediction that there would be a big fur harvest by 1947 proved true. In fact, the beaver became a nuisance in some areas. At the time the article was prepared, it had become necessary to move a colony from Leading Creek. Later it became necessary to trap and move colonies at a number of different areas. This was due to the colonies growing in such numbers that they soon had run out of food. Then, through cooperation with the West Virginia Conservation Commission, it was decided to allow beaver trapping each year. This beaver trapping was done under special permit. The State issued a special beaver trapping license, and the Forest Service issued a special use permit for trapping on National Forest land.

Chapter 11



Conclusion

Many more stories could be told of the Monongahela, how it came into being and evolved into the great public property it is today; a National Forest that belongs to all the people, and managed and administered so that it may serve all the people in many different ways. Producing now, after these fifty years of progress, crucial raw materials in ever increasing amounts, it remains the outstanding mountain country it has long been, able to accommodate millions of visitor days of use each year, and actually in all seasons of the year, for even winter can be a delightful time of the year in this mountain wonderland. With year-round fishing now in effect, there is scarcely a weekend along the favored streams when there are not hardy fishermen out fishing for the wily trout. And this forest land remains ideal habitat for deer, turkeys, squirrels, and other small game, and abundant harvests are made of them under good wildlife management principles.

The Monongahela National Forest is today one of the most important in Eastern America, in many respects a last refuge for those who want to get off the beaten track and enjoy the isolation of rugged country, long the heritage of the American people. Management policies are designed to keep it that way, while at the same time bringing about an increased production of harvestable materials that will continue to contribute to the wealth of West Virginia and all of America.

Fifty years is a good time to look back and see where we are. It is also interesting to see where we have been. We are proud of the achievements made on this National Forest. Many people, both within and outside of the regular organization of the U. S. Forest Service, deserve credit for them. The people themselves can take a good measure of pride in this, their National Forest, for the people made all these good things possible through their support of the measures necessary to bring them to pass.

Because of these fifty years that have passed and brought us to the point we have reached today, the Monongahela National Forest can look ahead to even greater accomplishments in the years to come. We are glad to be able to close on that clear note of confidence.

