1917–1945

1. Linville Gorge from Wiseman's View in the Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina.
**Highlights**

World War I and World War II, during their course and in their aftermath, set into motion actions and produced events that were to profoundly affect American forestry and the operations of the Forest Service. Sentiment among foresters and the general public for some control over excessive cutting and fire damage on private timberlands increased after World War I, and the debate over Federal or State control or a combination of both raged for many years. The former Forest Service Chief, Gifford Pinchot, led the forces favoring strong federal controls over private harvesting methods. His successor, Henry Graves, favored action by the States under federal guidance.

William Greeley, who became Chief in 1920, developed the landmark Clarke-McNary Act of 1924. This Act greatly expanded Federal-State cooperation in fire control and reforestation on State and private forest lands, including cooperation in growing and distributing tree seedlings. It broadened the authority of the Federal Government to purchase private forest lands for National Forests. It provided for studies of forest taxation intended to encourage private forestry, and for cooperative educational work in farm forestry with farmers. However, it left out controversial provisions for Federal regulations over cutting practices on private lands.

State forestry developed rapidly under the impetus of both the earlier Weeks Law of 1911 and the Clarke-McNary Act. States began to revise their timberland tax policies, to regulate private timber cutting, and to set aside State forests. Timber producers gradually improved their harvesting practices, and formed more fire protection associations. The American Forestry Association carried on a grass-roots educational campaign against wildfire in the South. The Forest Service greatly expanded its lookout system and began aerial fire patrols. Many more National Forests were set up in the East, Midwest, and South. Oregon became the first State to regulate private timber cutting (1941), soon followed by Maryland, Massachusetts, and Minnesota (all in 1943), and California and Washington (both in 1945).

A comprehensive program of forest research was put into effect with the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928, and the first complete forest survey was conducted during the 1930’s. More regional Federal forest experiment stations were established to pursue all phases of forest and range land research, including studies in timber, range, wildlife habitat and watershed management, and in fire, economics, and utilization of wood products.

The 1677-page Copeland Report of the Forest Service offered in 1933 a comprehensive plan for more intensive management of all forest lands, more public forests, and more regulation of private forests.

The Civilian Conservation Corps program began in 1933. It helped to relieve the economic distress of the Depression years and brought vast improvements to the Nation’s natural resources. During the 9-year life of the CCC, 2 million men planted over 2 billion trees in 8 years, fought fires, cleared trails, built campgrounds, and improved public recreation facilities.

In 1945 the Forest Service’s famous Smokey Bear symbol appeared. The Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign was organized earlier during World War II when it became vitally important to the war effort to protect the Nation’s supply of lumber. It was decided that if people could be reminded to be careful with fire, some forest fires would be prevented. Smokey Bear was born out of the need of the campaign for a symbol. Smokey soon became familiar to every adult and child in America and has been phenomenally successful in preventing fires caused by human carelessness.

The Forest Service grew up in the period between 1917 and 1945, meeting the challenges of America’s rapidly growing needs and demands. The men and women of the Forest Service were now managing and developing the precious natural resources in their charge.
During World War I, many Forest Service men traded their forest green uniforms for olive drab, as members of the 10th Engineers (Forestry Battalion), U.S. Army (later merged with the 20th Engineers). They served at home and abroad in many forestry, engineering, and allied fields.

1, 2, & 3. In early 1917, the Army’s Forestry Battalion went into training and was headquartered at American University in Washington, D.C.
1917-1945

1. At home, Forest Service women packed Christmas boxes in 1918 for the men of the Forestry Battalion.

World War I created a great need for wood. Some 1918 wartime scenes included:


4. The Forest Products Laboratory was called into action in 1918 to design wooden propellers for fighter airplanes.
Then as now, what one saw in the National Forests was as varied as the number of National Forests.

1. Flowering dogwood in bloom in Macon County, North Carolina, in April 1941.

2. The trunk and bark of an Alpine fir in western Montana, September 1935.

3. Damaged by the September 1938 hurricane, this 65-year-old spruce stand was on the Gale River Experimental Forest in the White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire.

Sidelights (1917–1945)

The Forest Service and the War Department joined forces in 1920 when Army pilots began to patrol the California forests, spotting fires while still small. Such cooperation led to massive aerial mapping programs and later to the Forest Service’s smokejumping activities. During World War II, among many special duties, the Forest Service opened up logging of Sitka spruce in Alaska for fighter aircraft, coordinated supplies of forest products nationwide, and helped farmers in California grow guayule plants for rubber.

The State Foresters formed an association in 1920 to further cooperation among States and with the Forest Service.

In 1921 a National Forest district was set up in Alaska and two forest experiment stations were opened in the South.

The Forest Service, in 1927, undertook the unusual job of rescuing the famous Texas Longhorn cattle breed from possible extinction.

Millions of trees were blown down as the Great New England Hurricane of September 1938 swept over the Northeast. The Forest Service was called in to head the salvage operations and worked closely with the State forestry agencies in the giant task of keeping fire out of the blown-down timber. In 3 years the Northeastern Timber Salvage Administration was able to save 700 million board feet of timber for market.

Under legislation of 1936 and later, the Forest Service began working with the Soil Conservation Service and other Federal agencies on flood control and river basin plans and programs to conserve soil and water resources.

In 1944 an international forestry organization under the United Nations was started in a committee headed by former Chief Henry S. Graves. It had been proposed by Gifford Pinchot who enlisted the strong support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Forest Service still provides leadership for the United States forestry delegation to this unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Widespread overcutting and disastrous fires running wild, unharnessed smelter fumes, improper land use generally—they all took their toll. The Forest Service, through its public forest management, research, and cooperative forestry activities, became involved. As part of its statutory responsibilities, it was, and has remained, involved in a nationwide effort to bring such lands back to productivity and stability.

2. Gully undermining a homestead in Mississippi in 1919.

3. Erosion on a treeless homestead in the Copper Basin Area of Tennessee in 1931.

4. Improperly cut over area in northern Michigan.

"... the public for its own protection should prohibit destructive cutting by law."

Henry S. Graves (1910–1920)

(Shortly after World War I, Col. Graves, who succeeded Gifford Pinchot, began to press for public regulation of timber cutting on private land. Many lumbermen were allowing their devastated, logged, and burned-over lands to revert to the counties for unpaid taxes. Few operators, at that time, were managing their lands to produce continuous crops of timber, called "sustained yield." However, Graves resigned early in 1920, and his successor, William Greeley, pursued a program of voluntary cooperation instead of regulation.)
The national forests are no longer primeval solitudes remote from the economic life of developing regions, or barely touched by the skirmish line of settlement. To a very large degree the wilderness has been pressed back. Farms have multiplied, roads have been built, frontier hamlets have grown into villages and towns, industries have found foothold and expanded. Although the forests are still in an early stage of economic development, their resources are important factors in present prosperity."

William B. Greeley (1920–1928)
1. Following a prescribed procedure, the Forest Ranger or his timber sale assistant cruised the sale area (estimating in board feet the amount of timber to be sold), marked the trees to be cut, and supervised the sale operation to prevent unnecessary damage to the remaining trees and to the soil and to prevent other irregularities. As a final official act, after scaling, he stamped the “U.S.” with his marking hammer or axe on each log before it left the National Forest. (Payette National Forest, Idaho, 1925).

2. Through the years foresters have burned the logging slash after large timber sale operations in the West, when weather conditions were favorable, to reduce the fire hazard and aid reforestation. This snow burn took place on the Stanislaus National Forest, California, in 1924.

3. One of the forest’s most precious gifts—the Christmas tree. Special areas in many National Forests have for years been designated for the production and sale of Christmas trees, as here on the Pike National Forest, Colorado, 1924.

4. Until a permanent, living tree was selected for such use in 1974, the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., often came from one of the National Forests (December 1939).
1917–1945

The Clarke-McNary Act (1924) greatly improved forestry practices on State and private lands, especially fire protection and reforestation.
1. Promoting good farm forestry, 1930.
2. Lumber company reforestation effort in California in 1924.
1917–1945

1. Trees were tamped into the transplant beds like this in 1927 on the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia.
1917–1945


The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began in 1933 and, for 9 years, gave needed employment to hundreds of thousands of idle young men, aided in the recovery of the national economy, and served

conservation and the cause of practical forestry in tremendous measure. Participating were the Departments of Labor, War, Agriculture, and Interior, as well as many State forestry agencies.

2. Clearing land for planting pine seedlings was one of the CCC activities on the Klamath National Forest, California.

3. The camps were self-contained communities. The contributions to the natural resource areas made by the men living and working in these camps were many—in Alaska (then a territory), Idaho (view shows snags that were being felled as a hazard reduction measure), Minnesota, and many other States.

"Our fundamental concern is to have forestry fit into the place that belongs to it, in the national scheme of sound land use."

Robert Y. Stuart (1928–1933)
1917–1945

It has been estimated that the CCC men performed over 150 different kinds of work. The tasks varied with the type of landownership (whether park or forest, National or State, for example) and with the purposes for which the land and its resources were being managed and/or protected.

2. And CCC men found time for recreation after the day’s jobs were through. These men in a Pennsylvania camp had their own jazz band.
3. They built portable stoves for picnic areas in the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon.
4. They put down a stone base for a road in Pennsylvania.
5. They learned Morse code in Utah.
6. And mopped up a fire in the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas.
The most popular conception of the CCC was related to its work in reforestation. The following photo sequence illustrates the effectiveness of that particular phase of the CCC's contribution to American forestry—the planting of trees. These photos also illustrate that, with the proper attention, care, and protection, forests can and do come back!

1. Logged in the early 1930's, acquired by the Forest Service in 1938, and planted with western white pine trees by the CCC in 1939 and 1940 (1938 photo).
2. Six years later, the young trees are doing fine (1944).
1917–1945

3. After 11 years (1949).
The leaving of seed trees is an alternative to planting in reforestation work. This series of photos shows how seed trees insured a future stand of timber on a cutover area on the Bitterroot National Forest, Montana.

1. Note the brush piled up for burning in this cutover area (1909).
2. Reproduction on the area after 16 years (1925).
3. And in 1927.
4. And the young timber in 1937.
1917–1945

1. Ferdinand A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service, 1933–1939.

The Prairie States Forestry (Shelterbelt) Project, started by the Forest Service in 1935, proved to be an outstanding government-individual cooperative effort of continuing effectiveness.

2. For Kansas farm homes such as this one, extensive tree planting built a fine protective barrier against the hot winds of the prairie.

3. & 4. In one severe blow-sand area south of Neligh, Nebraska, 52,000 cottonwood trees were planted in the spring of 1938.

4. In 8 years one Nebraska shelterbelt grew 35 feet high, affording prime protection for the corn and potatoes on the north side of the belt.

"Civilizations have waxed and waned with their material resources; dwindling means of livelihood have set rolling great tidal waves of migration and have been a prolific cause of domestic disorder, class uprising, and international war; but never before have the people of a great country still rich in the foundations of prosperity sought to forestall future disaster by applying a national policy of conservation—of which planned land use is the central core."

Ferdinand A. Silcox (1933–1939)
1917–1945

1. Shelterbelts planted in the spring of 1939 protected farms against damaging north and west winds. In just 2 years the protection helped this Kansas field produce an excellent crop of wheat (August 1941).
The Great New England Hurricane of September 1938 left a mark on the land, not easily erased nor quickly restored.

1. The small lettering read: “Please do not injure trees or other plants or scatter rubbish.” (Public picnic area near Petersham, Massachusetts.)
1917–1945

1. Totally destroyed were the large pine trees which once shaded this lovely home near Petersham, Massachusetts.
2. Following the hurricane, this maple orchard near Peacham, Vermont, held little hope for high yields of maple syrup in 1939 and immediately beyond.
3. Farm woodlot owner in New Hampshire inspecting his damaged timber to assess his loss.
1. Discovery of this 7-year-old, 12-foot-high longleaf pine in an old field in South Carolina in 1927 stimulated research on tree growth. Tree strains with remarkably fast growth are now growing throughout the South, as a result of this work.

2. Snow surveys have always been an exceedingly important part of research, especially in the mountain forest areas that are the source of water for the agricultural and industrial valleys below. In 1930, this particular project was undertaken by the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, headquartered in Ogden, Utah.

3. Flammability of forest fuels (Idaho) and

4. Fire behavior studies (Mississippi) occupied the scientists in the 1930's no less than today, and they probably will for a long time to come.
Fast growth is desirable, but good quality is even more essential. An important study has involved controlled pollination for improved growth and quality. Here, in 1959, developing pine cones, following controlled pollination, were protected from squirrels by canvas sacks.

Box testing in the 1920's and the continuing development of such testing machines proved helpful in solving World War II crating and shipping problems. Working with wood pulp for better use of available tree species and for improved paper products have occupied FPL scientists through the years. A 1925-1926 study involved a process especially suited to hardwoods.

Wood species identification at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), Madison, Wisconsin, 1921.
... scarcity of natural resources and their control by the few may pave the way through widespread human misery to despotism and dictatorship; while an abundance of natural resources, accessible to people generally, makes for democracy and freedom.

Earle H. Clapp (1939–1943)

2. The first all-wood prefabricated house erected on FPL grounds was built in 1937.
3. In the middle 1930's, FPL researchers developed the earliest glued-laminated arches made in the United States. The arches had to undergo exhaustive tests for durability and strength. They soon became widely used commercially.
1917–1945

1. In World War II, to make up for enemy-held sources of rubber, the Forest Service supervised conversion of areas in the Salinas Valley, California, to grow guayule, a desert shrub, for rubber production.
In forest fire detection and the control of wild fires, there was also dramatic evidence of "growing up."

1. Lookout tree on Turkey Knob, West Virginia, 1919.
Almost a quarter of a century passed between the start of a pony blimp fire patrol over the Angeles National Forest, California, September 1921, and fire detection by plane over the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, September 1945.

3. The 1924 San Gabriel Fire on the Angeles National Forest, California (Mt. Wilson Observatory in the foreground).
1. Fires in the western forests can be very spectacular and are tough to control, especially in dry weather. They often make the headlines. This was the Malibu Fire of 1935 on the Angeles National Forest, California.
Less dramatic, generally, are the wildfires in our Eastern and Southern States, but in larger numbers, they have caused great damage through the years. This fire was in a shortleaf pine stand in Mississippi, 1933. To fight the fire...

2. Shovels and a blessed drink of water (Washington 1919).

3. Horsepower and axes, saws, shovels, and other equipment (Montana 1932).

4. The limb of a tree (Louisiana 1917).

5. A bloodhound to track down the fire-setter (Arkansas 1930).

6. A cool head, calm manner, and dispatching skill (Montana 1941).
1917–1945

Forest fires can kill more than trees...

1. Wildlife.
2. People, too. Seven men died at this spot during the Blackwater Fire in the Shoshone National Forest (Wyoming, August 1937).
HERE ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 21, 1937, THIRTY SEVEN ENROLLEES OF CCC COMPANY 1811 IN CHARGE OF RANGER POST AND JR. FORESTER TYRRELL WITH SEVEN BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS EMPLOYEES INCLUDING FOREMAN DAVIS AND FIRE COOPERATOR SULLIVAN IN CHARGE, TOOK REFUGE FROM THE FIRE. FIVE MEN ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE FIRE AND FOUR OF THEM - LEA, ALLEN, SEELKE, AND SHERRY, PERISHED. RANGER POST AND ALL OF THE FORTY WHO REMAINED WITH HIM RECEIVED BURNS OF VARYING SEVERITY AND THREE OF THESE - JR. FORESTER TYRRELL AND ENROLLEES WHITLOCK AND GARZA DIED LATER.
1. The Forest Service had graduated to metallic (two lines) telephone communication by 1926 on the White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire.
2. Portable radios were in wide use throughout the Service by the 1930's.
1. Horse power—Supervisor Kirby used the traditional pack outfit for his 1939 travels on the Tonto National Forest, Arizona.

2. This is how Virginia & Rainy Lake Co. General Superintendent Gilmore and Forest Service District Two Fire Protection Officer John McLaren made their way, in 1917, using the company’s logging railroad (Superior National Forest, Minnesota).

3. Helen Dowe didn’t spare the equipment as she started on a 1921 surveying trip into the Montezuma National Forest (now part of the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre and San Juan National Forests, Colorado).

4. Leg power—Forest Guard Perry Davis making his rounds on the Pisgah National Forest (North Carolina 1923)
1917–1945

Roadbuilding in the 1920’s:

1. California, 1921.
5. The Diablo Dam on the Skagit River was under construction in September 1930. Diablo Lake is on the Mt. Baker National Forest, Washington.
1917–1945

Enough food to go around...

1. After spending the summer grazing in the National Forest, the cattle were driven back to the ranch in the fall (Sequoia National Forest, California, 1941).
2. After shedding his horns, the bull moose made his way without difficulty through $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of snow. (Absaroka National Forest, now part of the Lewis & Clark and Gallatin National Forests, Montana, March 1923).
4. In this shepherder’s camp, the packer did the cooking (Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington, 1930).
1917–1945

Recreation—camping has always been popular.

1. Cleveland National Forest, California, 1922.
2. Cibola National Forest, New Mexico, 1924.
1917–1945

1. Deschutes National Forest, Oregon, September 1922.

4. Steelhead trout lured former President Herbert Hoover to the Klamath National Forest, California, in 1933.
1917–1945

1. Wasatch National Forest, Utah, 1930.
2. Superior National Forest, Minnesota, 1921.
Let's Treat 'Em Rough - By Tige Reynolds

1917–1945

1. Alaska—land of totem poles...
1917–1945

2. Timber . . In 1930, Forest Ranger J.M. Wyckoff and Regional Forester B.F. Heinze-
   man.
3. This ingenious waterwheel was used in 1926 on the Flathead National Forest, Montana, to pump water and operate a grindstone.

1
2
3
Interesting people, places, and posters...

1. Iowa State University forestry students camped with Professor Jeffers in the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, in 1923.

2. A hot time out in the Umpqua National Forest, Oregon, September 1930.


4. Young man with a whistle on a sunny day in 1919, in the village of Kake, Alaska (Tongass National Forest).

5. At the 1917 National Farm and Livestock Show in New Orleans, Louisiana, Aviatrix Ruth Law found the Forest Service exhibit of special interest.
1917–1945

1. The 1938 Women's Logrolling Championship competition at Bloomer, Wisconsin.
2. The Sierra National Forest, California, served as an outdoor laboratory for students of the Fresno Normal School in 1923.
3. When the Forest Service photographer "shot" these hardy mountain men in 1922, somewhere on or close by the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, he had no way of knowing this photograph would turn out to be the all-time pinup favorite in Forest Service offices. Or did he?
1917–1945

1. Forest resident and staunch cooperator, Chief Little White Cloud is shown in August 1940 on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota, on the Chippewa National Forest.
1917–1945

1. In 1926, the Forest Service “Showboat” stopped at Mount Lebanon School in the Cherokee National Forest (now part of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia), to show slides and present forest fire prevention materials. The school was within the old Blue Ridge Ranger District of Forest Ranger Arthur Woody, shown with arm pointing to old-style poster over the door. Ranger Woody, a colorful individual and a legend in his lifetime and since, typified many of the early-day forest rangers. They were the Forest Service’s “self made” and dedicated pioneers, guardians of the public forests, meriting the respect and appreciation of their fellow workers and forest users alike.
1917–1945

1. Toward the end of the "growing up" period, Smokey Bear came into being as the nationwide symbol of forest fire prevention. This was the first Smokey Bear poster, issued in 1945 as part of a continuing Federal-State cooperative effort with the sponsorship of the Advertising Council, Inc. Purpose: to reduce the number of forest and range fires caused by carelessness.

2. Artist James Montgomery Flagg helped the national forest fire prevention cause with his famous "Uncle Sam" painting in 1937. With Mr. Flagg (left) and President Franklin D. Roosevelt (seated), who accepted the original work, were Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace and Associate Chief Forester Earle H. Clapp.
1946–1960

1. The old and the new way to travel into the National Forest—pack string and helicopter. (Bitterroot National Forest, Idaho).
Years Of Great Change, 1946–1960

Highlights

In 1946, engineers bounced a radar beam off the moon—the first successful human-induced intrusion into outer space. The same year, the Forest Service completed a postwar reappraisal of the forest situation in the United States. Twelve years later, as the first U.S. earth satellite, EXPLORER I, was launched into orbit, the Forest Service issued the results of a nationwide Timber Resource Review. This study was prepared over several years with the help of other Federal, State, and private agencies. A new age of technological adventure, economic growth, and international activity was at hand. The Forest Service endeavored to insure that the conservation movement could adapt to new times, in an age that increased the pressures on American forest resources.

The times demanded that the Service share its expertise, at home and abroad. Under the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950, the Forest Service strengthened its cooperative programs to give direct technical assistance to private forest land owners and operators and to processors of forest products. From the mid-1940’s, the Forest Service began to play a continuing, important role in international forestry activities and affairs. The Agency joined the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in establishing a permanent Forestry Committee during 1944–1946. American foresters played major roles at the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and the Utilization of Resources at Lake Success, New York (1949), and at the Inter-American Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources in Denver, Colorado (1948). In 1960, the Forest Service hosted the Fifth World Forestry Congress in Seattle, Washington. The Congress had as its theme, “Multiple Use of Forest Lands,” and participants included 2,000 representatives of 68 countries and 9 international organizations.

In 1953, the Forest Service was given the job of managing some 7 million acres of “land utilization project” areas acquired by the Federal Government during the depression years of the 1930’s. Some of these areas, renamed National Grasslands, were absorbed into the National Forest System in 1960, to be managed for multiple use and sustained yield as the National Forests are. Congress amended the mining laws in 1955 to curtail abuses which had interfered with management of the National Forests.

Recreational demands on the forests increased, and in 1957 the Forest Service launched Operation Outdoors. The 5-year program was designed to improve and expand the recreation facilities in the National Forests to meet the demands.

In 1959, the Secretary of Agriculture submitted to the Congress a “Program for the National Forests,” a long-range plan calling for further improvement and development of these public forests. This was a follow-up to the Timber Resource Review findings of 1958 which indicated that the Nation needed to grow more timber if expected future requirements were to be satisfied.

Forest Service Research also changed to meet the new needs. In 1946, a system of multifunctional research centers was established, each center with its own assigned geographic territory and a program aimed at solving the primary local forest and range problems. In 1953, the Forest Service assumed charge of research and control work on forest insects and diseases from other agencies of the Department of Agriculture. Then, in 1959, a major Servicewide reorganization of research focused on the basic unit, the research center,
which became a functional research project. The result was a strengthening of the scientific research capabilities in every field.

A memorable ending to an exciting period of great changes in Forest Service outlook, and National Forest activities in particular, came in 1960 with the signing by President Dwight D. Eisenhower of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act. This legislation specifies that the National Forests shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes—in such combination and in such a manner that they will best meet and best serve human needs. In effect, 55 years after Secretary of Agriculture “Tama Jim” Wilson stated the basic precepts, the Congress affirmed national policy to “develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield of their several products and services obtained therefrom.”

Throughout its history, the Forest Service has had to deal with clashes of interest as various individuals and groups competed for a share of the National Forest resources. With the passing of time, as the population of our country and the demands of our people for natural resources have dramatically increased, conflicts change but still continue to arise. This is a fact of life for the Forest Service as it continually works to balance the competition for the resources in order to meet the many present needs and allow enough for the future. In the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, it received a fundamental charter to insure that the basic purpose of forest conservation would remain valid in times of rapid technological and economic change. The forests would be used—and remain capable of supporting many uses—in perpetuity.
1. The offices of the Chief Forester and his staff were moved into the South Building (center) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1940. Here are located the national administration, planning, and policy-making headquarters for the Forest Service, a strongly decentralized agency.

2. In 1949, President Harry S. Truman honored the memory of the first Chief of the Forest Service, changing the name of the Columbia National Forest in Washington State to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Grandson Gifford Pinchot III looked on as the President signed the name-change proclamation.
1946–1960

Cooperation—State and Private Forestry. Here State and Federal foresters get together to study log grading procedures in Texas in 1951.


Sidelights (1946–1960)

The Third American Forest Congress was held in Washington, D.C., in 1946, under the auspices of the American Forestry Association. This meeting and the discussions of many interested people from the forest industries, labor, Federal and State forestry agencies, and various civic and conservation agencies resulted in a “Program for American Forestry.” This program called for expanded efforts in protecting forest and watershed lands from wildfires, insects, and diseases; for more research; for better timber cutting practices; and for increased technical help to small woodland owners.

In 1954, the first pulpmill in Alaska began operations, the result of many years of Forest Service effort to bring about development of a pulp and paper industry in southeastern Alaska. The basis for this development was a sustained supply of wood from National Forest lands.

Dropping water and chemicals on active forest fires was successfully carried out for the first time in 1956. The Forest Service and cooperating California agencies used specially designed air tankers for the pioneering efforts which were destined to prove tremendously effective as a firefighting tool in years to come.

The Soil Bank program came into being as one of the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1956. Farmers were offered financial assistance in converting general cropland to conservation uses, including the planting of trees.

The year 1955 marked the 50th anniversary of the transfer of the Forest Reserves to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the renaming of its Bureau of Forestry as the Forest Service. Many of the Agency’s earliest members or “alumni” were still living. They recalled the early struggles of the Bureau to promote the then rather novel idea of managing forest lands for continuous production and, in the face of considerable misunderstanding and antagonism, to protect and develop the public forests for perpetual use.
1. Forest Ranger showing a Girl Scout patrol the proper use of compass and map in wilderness camping. This 1960 Girl Scout All-States Encampment took place in the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon.
3. Ranger Grant Williams checks enclosure set up by researchers for a grass-growing experiment in the Dixie National Forest, Utah (1953).
4. Reforestation... Proper planting is essential to the success of western white pine seedlings being planted on the Kaniksu National Forest, Idaho (1966).
5. Trees injured by wind in Oregon during a heavy blowdown.
1946-1960

1946–1960

1. Forest Service scaler measures logs in a raft at the Ketchikan Pulp Co. mill in the South Tongass National Forest, Alaska (1957).


3. Engineering—Surveys. Forest Engineer Bob Toney (second from right) briefs the crew surveying the right-of-way for a new road to an overlook point from which visitors can better enjoy the view of Mendenhall Glacier, Tongass National Forest, Alaska (1958).

2. Planting for the future! In 1938, Mr. Tipton was a CCC enrollee when he helped plant shortleaf pine trees in a plantation within the Clark National Forest, Missouri. Twenty years later he, as a pulp logging operator, purchased the timber he helped plant. This sale of pulpwood was the first commercial cutting in the plantation.

3. “Should auld acquaintance be forgot...” To celebrate this first sale in 1958, former CCC Camp Bradley members gathered at the planting area. From left to right: First Sergeant Charles Hawk, now Ripley County Sheriff; second man is unidentified; District Ranger Frank Kopecky; District Ranger, at the time of planting, Harley Thomas; Camp Commander Bill Kolbert, now a Doniphan, Missouri, hotel owner; and Camp Foreman Randolph Barrett, later with the Missouri Conservation Department.

"Forest conservation involves much more than the growing of crops on forest lands to supply raw material in one form or another for an ever-growing list of uses. Forestry must be coupled with the social and economic welfare of rural communities, especially in regions primarily dependent upon forest industries. Improving forest productivity should mean a great deal to rural America in augmenting the income of farm folk, maintaining pay rolls in small communities, and sustaining the tax base to support local government functions."

Lyle F. Watts (1943–1952)
1. In 1952, on the Chipola Experimental Forest, Florida, researchers studied different methods of site preparation for planting slash and longleaf pine seedlings. Various mechanical treatments of the soil and chemical control of the undesirable plant growth present were used as part of the experimentation.

2. Prescribed burning was used in 1958 in stands of loblolly pine in the Santee Experimental Forest, South Carolina, to reduce the amount of fuel present. (Prescribed burning remains a common practice in forests and woodlands of the South where the grass and other undergrowth, commonly termed the "rough," can accumulate to dangerous fire potential limits.)
The Cooperative State and Private Forestry activities of the Forest Service grew in numbers and variety after World War II. Reforestation programs became major joint cooperative efforts.

1. Forest Service crew planting Ponderosa pine on the Escudilla Mountain, Arizona, burn of June 1951. The reforestation work was taking place in August 1957.

2. Trees on the slope, row crops in the valley—an example of good land use. The farmers who owned this land cooperated with the YLT Project in planting 80,000 trees over several years (Mississippi 1954).

3. The Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie (YLT) Flood Prevention project in Mississippi, a cooperative activity of the Forest Service, served as an excellent educational effort over the years in bringing about improved land use. In one 1954 project, Boy Scouts planted trees on severely eroded land in northern Mississippi. They were brought to the site from Memphis, Tennessee, as part of a conservation program of private concerns and State and Federal agencies, including the Forest Service.
Fast-growing pines in the South contribute to a major pulp and paper industry which utilizes, in many instances, processes developed by Forest Service scientists at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.

1. Pulpwood en route to a plant in Jones County, Mississippi (1948).
2. Unloading at a pulpmill in Kingsport, Tennessee (1957).
1946–1960

On the National Forests, timber is managed on a sustained yield basis to produce a continuous supply of raw material to help meet the Nation’s economic demands. These public forest properties represent a vital reservoir of trees destined for commercial use as well as for watershed protection, for recreational purposes, and for wildlife areas.

1. Typical managed timber stands in the South during this period included shortleaf pine in South Carolina (1957). . .
1946–1960

1. A virgin stand of Delta hardwoods (redgum) in Mississippi (1948).
1. In forestry terminology, this is "clearcutting by staggered settings" in old-growth Douglas-fir on the Willamette National Forest, Oregon, in 1953. This logging method is considered desirable for the continued production of this and certain other species. It is designed to obtain full crop utilization and to provide for regenerating the cutover area with seed from the adjacent trees, artificial seeding, or planting. Through the years, clearcutting has aroused considerable opposition, largely from those who decry the temporary disrupted appearance of the cutover area before new tree growth becomes established.


3. The same area 10 years later is covered with a healthy stand of Douglas-fir.

1946–1960

1. This large Sitka spruce was ready for harvesting. Note the springboard used by the “faller” as a place to work from above the butt swell of the tree (South Tongass National Forest, Alaska, 1957).


3. The St. Regis Paper Company drivers worked from dawn to dusk an entire day to break up a log jam that had about 1 1/2 million board feet of logs tied up in the Machias River (Washington County, Maine, April 1951).
An Agency of the American people, the Forest Service has been working since 1905 to maintain and increase the productivity of forest lands throughout the country. "Out of its three-fold activities—cooperation with the States and private land owners, forest research and its stewardship of the National Forests, has come a service to America that is in the best tradition of democratic action; unique among Forestry organizations throughout the world. On this, the 50th Anniversary of its establishment, the Forest Service salutes the State Forestry Departments, Forest Industries, Forestry Schools, Conservation Organizations and all forest land Managers, private and public alike, who have helped to make progress in Forestry during the past half century."
1946–1960

1. Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, 1952–62. Forage in the National Forest System has always been an essential crop maintained for harvest each year, under paid permit, by thousands of head of livestock. This constitutes an important contribution to the Nation’s food basket as well as to the local ranchers, farmers, and communities. Countless wild creatures also depend upon public rangelands for their food.

2. These lambs in prime condition and averaging 95 lbs. each after a summer in the high mountain meadows of the Targhee National Forest, Idaho, were on their way to market in Los Angeles (1951).

3. Navajo Indian boys herding sheep in the Kaibab National Forest, Arizona. The round sack contained a watermelon (1946).

"... Farm woodland and other small private forests hold the key to this Nation’s future timber supply. These lands, generally in poor condition, are the greatest potential source of wood fiber. Producing more wood on these lands requires concerted effort by State and Federal foresters, forest industries, and the landowners."

Richard E. McArdle (1952–1962)
1946–1960

2. Sparks Lake Meadow, South Sister Mountain in the background, Deschutes National Forest, Oregon (1959).
3. A key range management research study in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s helped determine methods to restore rundown land to grass production, and the proper range management practices to follow after restoration. Much of this work was done in the Manitou Park Experimental Range on the Pike National Forest, Colorado (1951 photo).
4. Forest Service programs and activities are carried out with the cooperation of State fish and game agencies. Here, in 1959, a Game Warden of the North Carolina State Wildlife Resources Commission is shown stocking fish in the Davidson River on the Pisgah National Forest.
1946–1960

1. National Forest road in Hocking County, Ohio.
It takes a vast transportation system of forest roads and trails in the National Forests to provide access for recreation, hunting and fishing, timber management and harvest operations, as well as for grazing, mining, control of fires, insects and diseases, and forest administration generally.

2. Through the years, road and trail construction has been a major Forest Service engineering effort (Ochoco National Forest, Oregon, 1951).
3. The camera reed off in 1960 on this unusual special use area (open to the public) in the cool mountains of the Sitgreaves National Forest, Arizona.
4. Various special uses have been permitted in the National Forest System, providing public benefits while conforming to multiple-use principles in the management of these public properties (Heart's Content Observatory, Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, 1958).
From a humble, but daring, experimental start in the Chelan (now Okanogan) National Forest, Washington, in 1938, Forest Service smokejumping activities progressed rapidly in the early 1940's and thereafter into a full-fledged segment of the total forest fire-control program. The smokejumping program has grown from just a few crews of relatively untrained men jumping to fires from Ford Tri-motor and Travelair planes to today's hundreds of well-trained jumpers in modern aircraft playing a major role in battling forest fires. Through 1975, nearly 129,000 jumps had been made throughout the country by Forest Service smokejumpers with only one jump-related fatality.

They call this a "featherbed landing." The jumper lowers himself to the ground by rope (Montana 1944).
1. Proud Smokejumpers, "Class of '53," included future Astronaut Stewart Roosa as a member of the group (top row, fourth from left).

2. In September 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower honored the Smokejumpers by dedicating the Forest Service Aerial Fire Depot, just west of Missoula, Montana.

3. One man has jumped clear; the other is just outside the door (Okanogan National Forest, Washington, 1957).
1946–1960

Aircraft have played many roles in helping the Forest Service meet its responsibilities and goals, and the use of aircraft assumes increasing importance as time goes on.


2. Laying firehose from the air (Angeles National Forest, California, 1959).

3. The Wheeler Springs Fire on the Los Padres National Forest in 1948 was the largest fire of the year in the National Forests of California. It burned more than 25,000 acres of National Forest and private land, destroyed 22 homes in Ojai, caused one death, and ran up damage and suppression costs in excess of $400,000. Helicopters scouted the fire, transported men to the fire line, and brought hot food to the firefighters.
1946–1960

1. By the late 1950's, air tankers were routinely dropping fire retardants (borate slurry in this instance) to slow down or extinguish forest fires (Angeles National Forest, California, 1958).

1. Fire is no respecter of time. When fuel and weather conditions are right, it will burn day or night (Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, 1953).

2. Fire makes no distinction between single homes, as in the Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon (1953) . . .

3. And groups of homes, as in the Maine Forest Fires of 1947, which burned over 240,000 acres, took 16 lives, destroyed 800 homes, and left 2,500 people homeless. There was a great loss of timber and other forest resources; property damage was estimated to exceed $32 million. As a result of these disastrous fires, an International Commission, the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission, came into being. This was a cooperative effort of the Forest Service, the State Forestry Departments, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick calling for coordinated action to avoid a similar future holocaust.

4. Fire crowning at the Bear Forest Fire in the San Bernardino National Forest, California.
In controlling forest fires and putting them "dead out," there will always be need for the "ground troops."


3. Power saws made it easier to fell trees along the fireline (Lolo National Forest, Montana, 1953).

4. The Forest Service has employed American Indian firefighting crews for many years to help battle wildfires in the West and elsewhere. Several Indian reservations have set up training programs and firefighting organizations where skills and endurance necessary for good firefighting crews are developed. This Santo Domingo, New Mexico, firefighter was busy on the Sitgreaves National Forest, Arizona, in 1956.
1. It was in 1950 when 4-year-old Judy Bell, daughter of a New Mexico Game Warden, helped nurse back to health a badly burned brown bear cub, after he was rescued from a forest fire on the Lincoln National Forest near Capitan, New Mexico. The cub was destined to attain fame as the living symbol of Smokey Bear.

2. On the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Theodore Roosevelt, May 8, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented a golden Smokey Bear statuette to Judy Bell in recognition of the "fine cooperation the children of America have given forest fire prevention."
1. Smokey Bear's fame and reputation grew, and with it intensified forest fire prevention efforts on radio, television, in films, and in the Nation's newspapers and magazines. Popular country singer Eddy Arnold added his talents to the nationwide program in 1955.

2. It was 5 years after Smokey Bear initially appeared in poster form (1945) that the living symbol of Smokey from New Mexico took up residence in the Washington, D.C., National Zoological Gardens. One of his first visitors in 1950 was cowboy star Hopalong Cassidy (Bill Boyd), shown here with Assistant Forest Service Chief Chris Granger and the little bear.

3. A favorite use of Smokey Bear has been in the forest, along the forest roads and highways ( Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin, 1960).
The 5-year program, "Operation Outdoors," launched in 1957, represented the Forest Service response to a growing public need for improved and expanded recreation facilities in the National Forests. These public forests offer a great deal—beauty, space, timeless interest.

2. Weaver's Needle, in right background, dominates the desolation of the Superstition Wilderness Area, Tonto National Forest, Arizona (circa 1960).
1946–1960

2. That's a rain squall to the east, viewed from the base of Mt. Withington Fire Tower (elevation 10,297 feet), Cibola National Forest, New Mexico (August 1960).
1946–1960

1. The Sierra Crest and the Palisade Glaciers (southernmost glaciers in the United States) are an inspiring sight when viewed across Summit Lake. Peaks in the Crest are all close to 14,000 feet high (Inyo National Forest, California, July 1958).

2. Buck Mountain Lookout (elevation 4,768 feet) and the Blue River Lookout and McRae Creek Drainages in the Willamette National Forest, Oregon (1960).
1946–1960

Something for everyone—for the sightseers, strollers, hikers, and riders . . .

1. Famed mining town of the last century, Silverton, Colorado, had become practically a ghost town by 1957. It has since experienced a considerable revival as a tourist town. McComber Mountain, in the background, is one of the many 12,000- to 13,000-foot peaks that surround the town (San Juan National Forest, Colorado).

2. The Sosbee Cove stand of yellow poplar in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, was set aside by the Forest Service as a memorial to Forest Ranger Arthur Woody (1957, see page 104).

3. High Sierra Wilderness hikers admired this view of the Palisade Glaciers (Inyo National Forest, California, 1958).

4. Packing into the Pecos Wilderness Area, Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico (1957).
1946–1960

... for the outdoor cooks, swimmers and sun bathers, old shavers, and the hunters.

1. This mule deer dressed out at 210 pounds (Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, October 1950).


1946-1960

1. A chore, not regularly done, during the 10-day American Forestry Association Trail Riders Canoe Trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Superior National Forest, Minnesota (1948).