

Preserve

HISTORY OF THE  
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

1933-1946

## HISTORY OF WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

To 1938.

The history of the Willamette Forest, or the Cascade Forest Reserve as it was originally called, prior to its establishment as a National Forest, is largely a history of the Willamette Valley. Numerous books have been written on this subject, all of which are very interesting, but none can arouse the human interest as stories do when told by old pioneers and descendants. In this we have been singularly fortunate for it is still possible to get first hand information on the struggles and privations suffered by the pioneers who first settled in this section of the Willamette Valley.

No attempt will be made in this historical summary to bring in facts regarding early history except as it pertains to the present Willamette Forest, as to digress too far would result in conflict with histories of other National Forests as now created.

The Cascade Range Forest Reserve was created by proclamation of President Cleveland on September 28, 1893. The area of the Reserve was 4,883, 588 acres or 7254 square miles, extending from the Columbia, on the north, southward nearly to the California boundary. During the next twelve years or until 1905 this area was under the control of the General Land Office, Department of the Interior, when by Act of February 1, 1905 jurisdiction passed to the Department of Agriculture.

In 1905 the Cascade Reserve was made up of two divisions, the northern and southern. That part of the southern division north of the North Fork of the Willamette River was known as the Willamette Division. In March, 1907, an addition to the Forest was made on the east, and in this year the change of name from Forest Reserves to National Forests was made. Later, in May, 1908, it was deemed advisable to readjust the Forest, and the whole of the Cascade Reserve became four separate National Forests.

The northern division, except its extreme southern portion, became the Oregon National Forest. One portion of the southern division became the Crater National Forest, the other the Umpqua; and the Willamette division and the southern portion of the northern division became the Cascade National Forest, an area of 1,767,370 acres with the Forest Headquarters established at Eugene.

On July 1, 1911, further changes were made. Approximately 180,160 acres were transferred from the Umpqua to the Cascade; from the Cascade to the Deschutes 527,360 acres; and to the Paulina 162,560 acres. Also approximately 208,640 acres of the northern portion of the Cascade was combined with the southern portion of the Oregon and proclaimed as the Santiam Forest, embracing a total area of 719,983 acres. These changes left a gross area of 1,097,700 acres in the Cascade Forest.

No further changes took place until 1933 when the entire Santiam Forest was combined with the Cascade, and by presidential proclamation the name was changed to the Willamette National Forest, then embracing a gross area of 1,798,336 acres, headquarters remaining at Eugene. Small areas were added

from time to time under current exchange procedure, and in 1935 the Blue River addition added 19,075 acres, so that by the close of 1938 the gross area of the Forest totaled 1,817,839 acres with 172,067 acres of alienated land.

As the Cascade National Forest was established in 1908 and the Santiam National Forest in 1911, both being combined as the Willamette National Forest in 1933, separate histories would appear necessary in order that a brief record of the Santiam might be preserved.

Nelson F. Macduff was appointed the first supervisor of the Santiam with headquarters at Albany. He was followed in 1912 by F. H. Brundage, and in turn followed by C. C. Hall in 1916. Mr. Hall remained as supervisor until 1933 when he was retired. Additional personnel in the Albany office during the period 1911-1933 is being listed in order that the record may be complete.

E. B. Starr		1911
W. L. Bishop	Chief Clerk	1911-1912
C. W. Kitchen	" "	1912-1915
A. R. Wilcox	Forest Examiner	1913-1917
W. H. Levo	" "	1914
<u>Bon Irving</u>	Chief Clerk	1915-1917
J. W. Siegel	" "	1917
E. S. Hoeck	" "	1917-1919
Francis Downes	" "	1919-1920
Ivy I. Boeck	" "	1920-1933
<u>H. G. White</u>	Asst. Supervisor	1922-1933
H. R. Spellman	Technical Assistant	1924-1925
R. S. Bacon	" "	1924
H. E. Macfner	Forest Examiner	1931

*Co Engineer  
Dwyer Co.*

The Santiam Forest was divided into two ranger districts, the Cascadia and Detroit Districts. In 1911 when the Forest was created from the Cascade and Oregon Forests, Fred W. Stahlman, formerly ranger on the Oregon Forest, remained in charge of the Detroit district and Archie Knowles, former ranger on the old Cascade, remained in charge of the Cascadia district.

The Cascadia Ranger District has a gross acreage of 329,000 acres with 69,000 acres of alienated land, is located in the eastern parts of Linn and Lane Counties, and its boundary extends through Townships 11 South to 15 South (inclusive), Ranges 2 to 8 East (inclusive) of the Willamette Meridian.

The Ranger district headquarters, Cascadia, was first located in Section 34, Township 13, South, Range 3 East. In 1930 the Ranger Station was moved to a point one and one-half miles below the town of Cascadia, in Section 36, Township 13 South, Range 2 East, where it is still located.

Personnel on the district has been as follows:

Archie Knowles	District Ranger	1911-1912
Clark	" "	1912-1912
Jesse M. Mann	" "	1913-1918
Roy A. Elliott	" "	1918-1921
John Thayer	" "	1921-1922
Frank A. Davis	" "	1922-1926
Roy O. Blake	" "	1927-1934
Don Stoner	" "	1934-1935
Lawrence E. Frizzell	" "	1936-1937
Roland C. Burgess	" "	1937- present

The Detroit District with a gross area of approximately 363,000 acres with 39,000 acres alienated is located in the eastern parts of Clackamas, Marion and Linn Counties with a small acreage in Jefferson County. Its boundary extends through Townships 3 South to 7 South (inclusive), Ranges 4 to 8 East (inclusive).

The Ranger District headquarters is at Detroit.

Personnel on the district has been as follows:

Fred W. Stahlman	District Ranger	1911-1915
Henry G. White	" "	1915-1921
Roy A. Elliott	" "	1921-1935
Geo. P. McClanahan	" "	1935-1936
Glenn C. Charlton	" "	1937- present

On the Cascade Clyde R. Seitz became the first supervisor serving until 1919 when he resigned. R. S. Wallace followed him for a short time as Acting Supervisor until 1920 when Nelson F. Macduff was placed in charge. Mr. Macduff died in 1930, and Perry A. Thompson was transferred from the Colville as his successor. Mr. Thompson remained in charge until 1938 when he was transferred to Region 1, and John R. Bruckart was transferred from the Olympic as his successor.

Additional personnel working in the Supervisor's office during the period 1908-1938 is listed below:

J. Roy Harvey	Deputy Supervisor	1908-1911
Louise Yoran	Clerk	1908-1914
H. D. Foster	Forest Assistant	1909
E. B. Starr	" "	1910-1911
<i>200</i> <i>about</i> <u>B. Frank Heintzleman</u>	" "	1911-1917
F. B. Kellogg	Deputy Supervisor	1911
Wm. Gibbons	" "	1912
Horace G. Whitney	Chief Clerk	1914-1919
R. S. Wallace	Forest Examiner	1915-1919
T. J. Starker	Forest Examiner	1917
W. E. Naylor	Chief Clerk	1919-1920
Geo. P. Lang	Chief Clerk	1920-1921
Harvey Vincent	Deputy Supervisor	1920-1923
E. H. Hall	Forest Examiner	1920-1924

A. T. Moses	Chief Clerk	1921-present
Wm. R. Shoemaker	Technical Assistant	1924
C. R. Lockard	" "	1924-1925
L. A. Carter	" "	1925
R. F. Grefe	Supt. of Construction	1925-1930
Foster Steele	Ranger	1928-1933
C. C. Olsen	Supt. of Construction	1930-1934
M. L. Holst	Forest Assistant	1930-1931
H. G. White	Supt. of Construction	1933-present
H. E. Haefner	Assistant Forester	1935-1936
Roy A. Elliott	Adm. Assistant	1935-present
John P. Hough	Assistant Forester	1936-present

The Cascade Forest was divided into three ranger districts. The McKenzie District is located in the eastern part of Lane County with a small area in the eastern part of Linn County. This district borders the Cascadia district on the south and extends through Townships 14 to 20 South inclusive) and Ranges 3 to 8 East. The original ranger district headquarters was constructed at Paradise Ranger Station, two miles east of the present station. In 1916 the station was changed to McKenzie Bridge and became known as the McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station. This district has a gross area of 386,213 acres with 29,921 acres alienated. In addition it exercises fire protection control over 69,890 acres outside the forest boundary and adjoining the ranger district.

The personnel on this district since 1908 has not been very large. In 1908 Smith L. Taylor was appointed Forest Ranger and served until 1934 when he retired. He was followed by Raymond Engles who is still handling the district. Axel G. Lindh, Harold Bowerman, and Rolfe E. Anderson served briefly as assistants on the district.

A great many changes took place from 1908 to 1938. These can not be better brought out than to quote from a brief write-up by former Ranger Taylor.

"After taking the Rangers examination in the spring of 1908 the man was sent as a Guard to McKenzie Bridge which was about the center of about 500,000 acres of land that was all his to look after.

"It took two days of hard riding with saddle and pack horse from Eugene to the Station. Now one can go down over the same route in an hour in perfect safety.

"The Station consisted of a low log hut with a T, made out of 1 x 12, built across the end and the squirrels ran in and out of the cracks. A low squatty, log barn with a door you couldn't get anything through but a very small pony and there was only room for two small ponies and a thousand pounds of hay inside. The saddles were hung outside.

"The house had one cook stove, very small, and one heating stove and a table, home made, and some benches to sit on. And a toilet with no door. Water was carried from the river up a thirty foot bank.

"This is being written in a modern office with a swivel chair, a glass topped desk, electric lights made by their own hydro electric plant, a modern switchboard and a typewriter with some one to run it.

"Looking out of the window one can see a well kept lawn with shrubbery along a concrete walk, and just beyond modern homes for the Ranger and his assistants. And a spacious barn with a neat saddle room, concrete watering trough with an automatic feed."

As stated above, Ranger Taylor served twenty-seven years in charge of this district, which is not a record, but probably no other one man had more to do with the life and destinies of the McKenzie settlers than Ranger Taylor. After retirement he continued to reside at McKenzie Bridge where he and Mrs. Taylor have built a modern home. After completion of the new McKenzie Bridge across the McKenzie river the old historic wooden structure was allowed to stand in order that "Smith" might have a short way to the office where his desk is still held for him.

The West Boundary Ranger district is the smallest in area, covering approximately 162,538 acres with 14,150 acres of alienated land. The district is located entirely in the eastern part of Lane County extending through Townships 17 to 21 South (inclusive) and Ranges 1 to 4 East (inclusive). The district headquarters is still at the same place where originally located-- about one and one-half miles east of Signal on the railroad. However, here also many changes have taken place and the old station, consisting of a three-room house, a very small office, and a small barn, has been replaced by an up-to-date six-room residence, modern barn and equipment sheds, bunk-house, office, electric lights, water system, and the entire station landscaped with lawn and shrubs.

There have been a considerable number of personnel changes in this district. Between the years of 1908 to 1912, M. T. Cannon, James Furnish, James Landis, and C. T. Beach were in charge. In 1912 C. B. McFarland took over, serving until 1924. He was followed by the following:

Harold J. Engles	1925-1926
H. C. Hiatt	1927-1928
Raymond Engles	1929-1931
Frank K. Lightfoot	1932-1934
W. R. Anderson	1935-1936
A. J. Briem	1937-present

The Oakridge Ranger district was formally established in 1909. It is located in the southeastern part of Lane County and the northeastern part of Douglas County, being largely in Lane County. Its boundary extends through Townships 18 to 25 South (in part) and Ranges 2 to 6 East.

There were several changes in boundaries after its establishment in 1909 until at the present time the district covers 535,920 acres of National Forest land and 39,467 acres privately owned.

District headquarters are located at Flat Creek some two miles east of the town of Oakridge, while the office is located on Salmon Creek on the old Willamette road one mile nearer Oakridge.

Prior to 1908 several rangers roamed the district, probably the best known one being Cy J. Bingham. Cy must have traveled with a scribe in his hand for his initials have been found far and wide. In 1908 a Mr. Hill became the ranger in charge. Additional personnel since that time is as follows:

Charles T. Beach	District Ranger	1909-1910
James L. Furnish	" "	1911-1913
Claude R. Jones	" "	1913-1921
Roy C. Parks	" "	1921-1923
Leonard D. Blodgett	Asst. District Ranger	1922-1923
J. F. Campbell	District Ranger	1923-1924
W. R. Farnham	Asst. District Ranger	1924
Harold J. Engles	" " "	1924-1925
C. B. McFarland	District Ranger	1925 - present
Wm. M. Reinhardt	Asst. District Ranger	1925-1926
Paul S. Pieper	" " "	1927-1929
Frank K. Lightfoot	" " "	1930-1931
Axel G. Lindh	" " "	1932
John Wilkinson	" " "	1933-1934
Emil Norgordan	" " "	1935
Willis O. Shambaugh	" " "	1936-1937
Wm. N. Parke	" " "	1938

From the above it will be noted that this district has served as a training district since 1921. All men are still living except W. R. Farnham and possibly Mr. Hill. All are still in the service who worked after 1921 except Parks, Reinhardt and Lightfoot, and all have moved on to important positions.

Ranger McFarland or "Mac" as he is known has now been in charge of the district for fourteen years and even though he cannot hope to equal Ranger Taylor's record of twenty-seven years in one district before retirement, yet some of the stories about Mac and his pet "dynamite" mule will probably far outlive the present generation.

In 1923 one of the largest timber sales on the forest was made in this district to the Western Lumber Company--some 585,000 M.B.F., covering a prospective cutting period of 15 years. This timber laid along the North Fork of the Willamette. By 1936 the company had cut out 360,290 M.B.F. of timber and 333,152 linear feet of poles with a value of \$766,764.00. In 1936 and 1938 new sales were made so that by the close of 1938 a total of 477,362 M.B.F. had been cut with a value of \$936,303.00.

At the beginning of the sale S. A. Moore and C. F. Allen served as scalers. In 1925 Henry E. Haefner took charge, remaining until 1929, when Frank A. Davis took over. Davis remained until 1938 when he was transferred and replaced by Lewis H. Neff. During this period most of the scaling work was handled by C. F. Allen, C. Otto Lindh, H. L. Holst, C. R. Jones, and Ivan Crum.

To summarize, at the close of 1938 the Willamette personnel is as follows:

John R. Bruckart	Forest Supervisor
Roy A. Elliott	Administrative Assistant
Henry G. White	Supt. of Construction
Arthur T. Moses	Executive Assistant
John P. Hough	Assistant Forester
Corley B. McFarland	District Ranger- Oakridge District
Wm. N. Parke	Asst. District Ranger- Oakridge District
Alfred J. Briem	District Ranger - West Boundary "
Raymond Engles	District Ranger - McKenzie District
Rolfe E. Anderson	Asst. District Ranger- McKenzie District
Roland C. Burgess	District Ranger - Detroit District
Glenn C. Charlton	District Ranger - Detroit District
Boyd Rasmussen	Asst. District Ranger - Detroit District
Lewis H. Neff	District Ranger, Westfir Sale.
Ivan H. Crum	Scaler, Westfir Sale

In addition to the above the following clerical personnel was employed:

Mrs. Isabelle H. George	W. L. May
Miss E. Myrl Olson	C. W. Godlove
Miss Margaret C. Grider	T. S. Zimmerman
Mrs. Grace Raycraft	J. S. McCool

The above gives briefly the organization and personnel of the forest to date. Each individual as they have come and gone has left his mark and done his bit to promote the ideals of the Forest Service.

In order to better cover the various activities of the forest since its creation each major forest activity will be taken up separately.

#### Timber Management

The first logging of record done in the Willamette Forest area was on the Middle Fork of the Willamette above Deception Creek, only sugar pine logs being cut. This was in the year 1875. All falling was done by axe with the logs being hauled to the river by oxen. The logs were then driven down the Willamette river to Springfield, some fifty miles, where they were manufactured in a small mill.

In 1905 an area on Grays Creek was logged by J. B. Hills, 14,000,000 ft. B. M. being cut and driven to Springfield by river, approximately fifty miles. The stumpage price paid was twenty-five cents per M., the logs bringing \$4.00 per M. delivered at Springfield. The average price paid for labor was \$1.25 per day and board for 10 hours work. On the river drives men were paid \$3.00 per day and board.



Various sales were made from that time on, the main ones being:

		M.B.F.
S. V. Hall	1907	10,294
Hoover Lumber Co.	1910	1,112
Fred Gooch	1910	2,779
Corvallis Lbr. Mfg. Co.	1914	8,608
The Potter Lbr. Co.	1917	2,385
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1920	68,750
Landax Lbr. Co.	1920	6,175
Oakridge Lbr. Co.	1920	7,115
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1922	7,157
Davis & Webber Lbr. Co.	1923	5,430
Westfir Lbr. Co.	1923	585,000
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1924	77,500
Burnett Mills & Timber Co.	1925	4,674
Signal Lbr. Co.	1925	2,207
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1926	30,396
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1927	2,648
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1927	2,464
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1931	11,580
Hammond Lbr. Co.	1934	1,665
Westfir Lbr. Co.	1936	176,860
Westfir Lbr. Co.	1938	140,000

In addition, many hundreds of smaller sales have been made covering cedar poles, posts, cordwood, yew wood, pitch, and Christmas trees.

### Grazing

While grazing has not been a major industry on this forest, yet the grazing areas available have been quite fully utilized mainly by ranchers from the east side of the Cascades.

In 1909 there were thirty cattle permits in effect covering a total of 2803 head. Fees averaged 5¢ per head per month. This number was increased in 1910 to 26 permits covering 2112 head, which is the maximum amount covered by permit any year. This number has gradually decreased until at the present time only about 350 head are grazed each year.

In the same year 19 sheep permits were in effect covering 44600 head at approximately 2¢ per head per month. Nearly the same amount were grazed for several years until it was determined the available grazing area could not carry this amount without overgrazing and the number has leveled off to about 23000 each year.

### Recreation

When the forest was first organized, recreation as we think of it now, was almost an unknown quantity. Roads were few and very poor, automobiles were still for the future, and trips to the forest represented several days journey by team and wagon. However, if any credence can be placed in stories which have been handed down through not too many years, recreationists always found an abundance of game and fish to reward them.

for their trip. Campgrounds were where you made them. This picture has gradually changed until today there are actually 161 improved campgrounds on the forest capable of taking care of 7000 recreationists at one time. Of these campgrounds the Paradise Forest Camp alone, developed in the past few years, can take care of 600 at a time, each party having his own individual camping spot with outdoor fireplace, tables and seats, and in fact everything possible to provide for the camper's comfort. In addition, huge strides are being taken to provide suitable and safe areas for winter sport enthusiasts, developments being undertaken in the Upper McKenzie country and in the Upper Santiam. Recreation has indeed developed into a major industry.

### Fire Control

Early records on fire control work show that this work was quite limited owing to lack of funds and shortage in personnel. One ranger or guard had a large area to patrol--sometimes hundreds of thousands of acres. This picture gradually changed as plans for detection developed and high points were occupied as fast as funds were provided. At the present time there are 57 lookout or lookout fireman positions located at strategic points, sheltered in standard lookout houses, as well as some 35 patrolmen and firemen scattered at points where they can do the most good in contacting the public, patrolling hazardous areas, and rendering other services as needed. The development of this detection system, all hooked up with ranger headquarters by telephone or radio, has undoubtedly served to prevent many large and costly fires, as the system has allowed prompt reporting and action on thousands of small fires.

For example, during the period 1916 to 1938 there occurred on the Willamette Forest 1643 fires, of which 1531 were less than 10 acres when suppressed. During this same period 50019 acres were burned over, so it appears that 112 fires accounted for nearly the entire burned area. What would have been the result if the small fires had not been reported promptly and suppressed? No one can say, but it is safe to assume that many more thousands of acres would have been burned.

Early records on fires are not too definite, and we have had to depend to some extent on reports of early settlers.

Briefly, some of the major fires which have occurred are listed.

Dead Mt. or Green Mt. as originally known first burned in 1883, reburned in 1898, and again in 1910. Area 16,700 acres.

1893	Coffin Mt.	3,000	Acres
1893	Wild Chest	1,000	"
1902	Sardine Mt.	1,000	"
1908	Battle Axe	5,000	"
1910	Bear Pass	900	"
1911	Seven Mile Hill	3,000	"
1912	Carpenter Mt.	1,000	"
1914	Breitenbush	2,000	"
1917	Oakridge	425	"
1918	Duval Creek	520	"
1918	Golden Cr.	400	"
1918	Little North Fork	400	"
1918	Lookout Mt.	560	"
1919	Augusta ✓	1,280	"
1919	Brock	250	"
1919	Death Ball	540	"
1919	Detroit	6,000	"
1919	Horse Lake	640	"
1919	Jeffries	320	"
1919	Johnson Meadows	420	"
1919	Koch Fire	250	"
1919	Portland Creek	6,680	"
1919	Rebel Creek	5,440	"
1919	Salmon Creek	470	"
1919	Stone Mountain	2,287	"
1919	Walker Creek	6,720	"
1919	Canal Creek	500	"
1919	Bear Creek ✓	2,400	"
1924	Canyon Creek	4,721	"
1924	Diamond Creek	500	"
1924	Sims Ranch	480	"
1925	Sims	1,715	"
1935	Seven Mile Hill	610	"
1936			

#### General

The main activities of the Forest have been briefly covered showing development over the past thirty years. Many small details have of necessity been omitted, but the whole picture viewed in its entirety shows development and progress--all pointing towards conserving the natural resources of this vast area, and furnishing wholesome recreation and employment for larger communities.

## HISTORY OF THE WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

1939

One of the main changes on the Forest during 1939 was the shifting of the Supervisor's office from quarters occupied in the old Post Office building to spacious quarters in the new Federal building in Eugene. The old quarters were occupied in 1914 and had become very cramped so this move was eagerly awaited. The shift was made on July 15. As a result of the move the direct telephone service between McKenzie Bridge, Oakridge and West Boundary and the Supervisor's office was eliminated, thus terminating a convenience service of some twenty-five years. All calls now go through the Telephone Exchange.

The Forest continued operation of two CCC camps, one at Oakridge and the other at Detroit, this latter being moved from Cascadia to Detroit in April, the Cascadia site being officially abandoned. The major developments during the year were the construction of a ski hut on the Santiam Pass by the Mary Creek Camp, the assistance rendered in the spring by the Oakridge CCC Camp in planting one million trees on the Westfir cut-over area, and the start of a four mile section of road running from the Box Canyon road to Camp 5 on the sale area.

### Personnel

The following personnel changes took place during the year:

Assistant Ranger Wm. N. Parke, Oakridge Ranger District, transferred to Mt. Baker as District Ranger. Replaced by Robert M. Beeman.

Assistant Ranger Rolfo E. Anderson, McKenzie Ranger District, transferred to Siskiyou, being placed in charge of the 40-man special fire suppression squad. Replaced by Hubert O. Wilson, a new appointee.

Assistant Ranger Boyd Rasmussen, Detroit Ranger District, transferred to Siskiyou as District Ranger. Replaced by Jos. E. Elliott, a CCC Jr. Forester.

Arthur R. Wilcox, associate forester, transferred from the Siuslaw to the Willamette in the same position on January 1.

J. S. McCool of the Supervisor's warehouse staff, transferred to Portland Warehouse. Replaced by Albert O. Hanson.

T. S. Zimmerman, clerk, terminated.

Mrs. Grace Raycraft, clerk, terminated.

Miss Bertha Deckmann, clerk, transferred from Wenatchee to Willamette.

## Recreation

The Blue Pool Forest Camp was completed during the year, providing a needed development on the new Willamette Highway. Additional improvements were added to the winter sports development at Hand Lake in the upper McKenzie country, and considerable work was also done on the Hoodoo Butte Ski Area near the Santiam Pass in addition to the ski hut construction. The Forest was instrumental in the formation of the Willamette Central Ski Council composed of winter sports enthusiasts from Salem, Albany, Lebanon, Bend, Eugene and other smaller communities, thus linking this group into one organization.

## Timber Management

A considerable number of supervisor's pole sales were made during the year in the Detroit and Oakridge Districts.

In the Westfir area the Western Lumber Company shifted operations back to the North Fork Canyon, building their railroad on up to Christy Creek and building roads up Christy Creek where they will truck log to the railroad. The Company double shifted the mill for about six months during the year, thus increasing their yearly cut considerably over previous years. The Company cut 51,245 M.B.F. during the year.

## Grazing

No new developments occurred during 1939. There were 385 head of cattle and horses and 24,081 head of sheep grazed within the Forest.

## Fire Control

While the Forest exceeded the average in number of fires, some 74 being reported, the area burned and damage done was light. A considerable number of lightning fires occurred in July, but none got out of control. The most dangerous fire occurred on Blue River, starting from a logging operation, burning over 200 acres. Some outside CCC help was summoned as well as the 40-man suppression squad from the Siskiyou and a bad fire was averted. The Forest was called upon to furnish considerable help to the Siuslaw, Mt. Hood, Umpqua and Siskiyou.

## General

The South Santiam Highway was formally opened to traffic in September, thus eliminating the old Seven Mile Hill route between Cascadia and the Summit. The completion of this highway will help the administration of the Cascadia District a great deal. The last construction contract was let on the Willamette Highway, and 1940 should see this route opened to traffic.

In the Willamette Valley generally the greatest stir was made over the possible construction of several flood control dams at strategic points, one on the Long Tom river, one on the South Fork of the Willamette, one on the Middle Fork of the Willamette, and one part on the South and North Santiam rivers. A great deal of testing and other work was done on all these sites, and actual construction work started on the Long Tom site, which will be largely a dirt fill dam situated northwest of Eugene on the Long Tom River.

H I S T O R Y  
of the  
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST  
1940

No major changes occurred on the Forest during 1940. The Siuslaw headquarters were moved from Eugene to Corvallis July 1, and this terminated some 28 years of close association when both headquarters were located in Eugene. The willamette took over two additional rooms of those vacated by the Siuslaw in the Federal Building with the balance of the rooms being occupied by other government agencies.

The Mary Creek and Oakridge CCC camps continued in operation working on their usual numerous projects. One long felt need is finally being taken care of and that is the construction of a bridge across the Willamette opposite the West Boundary R. S., connecting this station and the settlers on the north bank of the Willamette up with the new Willamette Highway. The abutments, part of the approaches and some road work was done by the Oakridge CCC camp and the bridge proper is to be built by the County in 1941.

The Willamette Highway was opened to traffic in the spring of 1940, thus providing a fast route from Eugene to Eastern Oregon, Crater Lake, Klamath Falls, etc. Traffic has been heavy over this route and has undoubtedly increased the forest use considerably. Opening of this highway has also caused us to plan on moving the Flat Creek R. S. to the Highway and this will be a major development for 1941. The old Gold Lake G. S. will also be changed to the vicinity of Salt Creek Falls on the Highway.

Personnel

Not many changes in personnel occurred during the year. A. B. Everts, formerly associated with the New England project, was transferred to the Forest in November as Assistant Forest Supervisor.

Hubert O. Wilson, Assistant Ranger at McKenzie Bridge, was detailed to the Siuslaw during the summer and transferred to the Wallowa in the fall.

Miss Margaret Grider, clerk in the Supervisor's office resigned to get married.

Leonard D. Blodgett, from the New England project, replaced Lewis Neff in charge of the Westfir sale, Mr. Neff continuing on the sale as scaler.

## Recreation

Development continued at the Santiam Pass Ski Lodge, an addition to the present structure being built during the year, also a large garage and a road from the highway to the lodge. Snow started early but soon vanished and nearly a month of good skiing was lost before snow again fell. Other recreation activities continued about normal.

## Timber Management

A marked increase in the timber business developed during the year. The Westfir operation increased their cut to nearly 70 million. A considerable number of large pole sales were made increasing the Forest receipts by several thousand dollars.

## Fire Control

The capacity of the Forest was taxed several times during the year keeping up with the fire control work. Things started hot and heavy July 5 with the Blowout Fire in the Detroit District when 431 acres were burned over. This was followed by the Gate Creek Fire on the McKenzie District where 165 acres were burned and then the Cabin Creek Fire, again on the Detroit District where 225 acres were also burned. In between times the forest personnel found time to find and suppress some 110 camp fires, lightning fires, and various other kinds of fires. A total of 1008 acres was burned over during the year, which is way above the Forest average. A great deal of assistance was given in the suppression of the larger fires by the Willamette's own twenty-man Special Suppression Squad, and only on one was it necessary to call in outside CCC crews.

## General

During the year the plywood industry really moved into the Willamette Valley. New mills were built and started operations at Sweet Home, Springfield, and Eugene, providing work for many new families. Another large sawmill at Springfield built by the Rosborough Mill Company, also started operating, securing the majority of their logs from timber they bought up the McKenzie river. Other mills continued operating to capacity.

Eugene proper went modern during the year putting in parking meters, traffic control lights, and finished the year by voting funds for the construction of an outdoor swimming pool and for securing land for a modern airport. About 900 acres will be secured five miles north of Eugene adjacent to the Pacific Highway and work should get started early in 1941.

Good progress has been made by the Engineers on the Long Tom Dam and much progress is reported on the Cottage Grove Dam and site.

Altogether it has been a busy and prosperous year for the Willamette Valley and 1941 should see many more developments.

H I S T O R Y  
of the  
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST  
1941

The year 1941 saw the close of all remaining CCC camps on the forest. The Oakridge Camp was closed in June and the Mary Creek Camp in November. It seemed strange, indeed, to be without a CCC camp after having as many as eight camps at the beginning of the program in 1933. No longer can we say, "Let the CCC's do it."

The loss in camps was partly compensated by a large increase in the protection force, some 75 additional protection men being authorized during the summer under the "National Defense" program. This was a lucky move as it turned out because on the nights of July 15 and 16, lightning struck with great fury, starting some 244 fires in all parts of the forest. Man power was stretched to the limit and many hired fire fighters were recruited from cooperators and wherever they could be found. All fires were controlled in good shape except the Tumble Creek fire in the Detroit District. Some 2,000 acres were burned over in this area, mostly in an old burn thickly covered with snags. Rains came the latter part of August, terminating the fire season, the earliest the writer can remember.

Personnel

Arthur R. Wilcox, assistant forester, retired from the Service on April 30 after thirty-two years of active duty. This period of service was spent almost exclusively on timber management work, and many are the maps and timber stand tabulations which bear his name.

Ranger Roland C. Burgess of Cascadia was transferred to the Whitman in November, being replaced by Don Stoner from the Ochoco. Stoner formerly was in charge of the Cascadia District and was merely returning home.

Al Hansen, assistant warehouseman, was transferred during the year. W. L. May, clerk in the office for the past six years, transferred to the War Department in Seattle. Both of these changes were on account of CCC reductions. All CCC foremen were, of course, terminated.

Mrs. Vera Sovereign was appointed junior clerk-stenographer in the spring and was transferred to the Regional Office in the fall, being replaced by Mrs. Audrey Crow from the Regional Office.



Joe Elliott, the genial assistant ranger on the Detroit District, gave up his bachelor status in December by marrying Miss Edith Bruckart, the supervisor's daughter. Now Joe will have to move on somewhere else, but in the meantime, is on a throe-months' detail to Portland.

Ray and Harold Engles' mother passed away early in January. Mrs. Engles kept house for Ray at McKenzie Bridge for many years, and her Irish wit and cheery hello will be missed by all of us.

### Recreation

The Santiam Pass Ski Lodge and area continued to be very popular, some 9,750 users being reported for the season. A new development for winter sports was started on the Willamette Summit, most of the work to date being done by private parties, although Ranger McFarland, of course, was in on his share of it. This is a development for the future, if and when the opportunity presents itself.

### Timber Management

The Westfir sale continued heavy cutting during the year, and pole sales continued on the increase. A new sale on Blowout Creek was made to the Mill City Manufacturing Company involving some 36,000 M feet. Land exchange continued active. An exchange with the Oregon-Western Colonization Company, involving 13,971 acres with an approved exchange value of \$55,000.00, was approved, as well as a few small exchanges.

### General

Logging continued heavy to all mills located in the valley. No new mills of any size started up during the year. However, the normal increase in business in general in and around Eugene was very noticeable.

Traffic between Eugene and Springfield finally reached a point where the state had to do something about it and construction work started on rebuilding this section of the Pacific Highway. The Southern Pacific railroad tracks are being moved north along the river, eliminating many track crossings, and the new section of the highway will be laid out along modern lines.

The Eugene airport was rushed to completion. Some agitation arose over establishment of an army cantonment in this vicinity, but this did not develop.

The Long Tom dam was officially dedicated in the fall and was reported to have rendered good service during a minor flood period. Work has continued on the Cottage Grove dam during the year.

## 1941 Forest Information

### GENERAL

### TIMBER SALES

Cut of 70,578 M, valued at \$135,899.71. Total sold totaled 43,331.

### GRAZING

### FIRE

Major fire of the season was the Tumble Creek conflagration, covering 1,415 acres, located on the Detroit District.

### PERSONNEL

Regular personnel included Robert M. Beeman, Leonard D. Blodgett, Alfred J. Briem, John R. Bruckart, Rolland C. Burgess, Glenn C. Charlton, Ivan W. Crum, Bertha E. Deckmann, J. E. Elliott, Jr., Audrey W. Crow, Roy A. Elliott, Raymond Engles, Isabelle H. George, Ambrose B. Everts, Clinton W. Godlove, John P. Hough, Winifred L. May, Corley B. McFarland, Arthur T. Moses, Lewis H. Neff, E. Myrl Olson, Vera M. Sovereign, Henry G. White, Arthur A. Wilcox.

#### Changes -

Arthur Wilcox, Retired April 30, 1941.

Vera M. Sovereign, Transferred to R. O. 10/16/41.

Audrey W. Crow, Appointment (transfer) to Willamette 10/23/41

Donald J. Stoner, Transfer to Willamette 11/16/41.

## 1942 Forest Information

### GENERAL

### TIMBER SALES

This year timber sold totaled \$165,086.48, for 25,086 M sold, and 49,840 M cut.

Chief sale was the Westfir Lumber Company (Blythe & Company).

### FIRE

~~Major fire of the season was the Tumble Creek conflagration, covering 1,415 acres, located on the~~

No "C" or larger fires occurred this season.

### GRAZING

A total of 412 cattle and horses, and 22,448 sheep were grazed on the Forest this season.

### PERSONNEL

Regular personnel included Robert M. Beeman, Leonard D. Blodgett, Alfred J. Briem, John R. Bruckart, Roland C. Burgess, Glenn C. Charlton, Audrey W. Crow, Ivan W. Crum, Bertha E. Deckmann, J. E. Elliott, Jr., Roy A. Elliott, Raymond Engles, Ambrose B. Everts, Isabelle H. George, C. W. Godlove, John P. Hough, Edwin Loners, Lester J. McPherson, Marion N. Nance, Winifred L. May, Corley B. McFarland, Arthur T. Moses, Lewis H. Neff, E. Myrl Olson, Verma M. Sovereign, Clyde L. Quam, Boyd L. Rasmussen, Donald J. Stoner, Henry G. White, Spencer T. Moore.

See over for personnel changes -

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Bertha E. Deckmann, transferred to War Department 1/12/42.  
Edwin Loners, Appointment to Willamette 3/24/42  
Joseph E. Elliott, Jr., Military Furlough 4/8/42  
Boyd L. Rasmussen, Appointment to Willamette 4/24/42  
Transfer to Umatilla 11/1/42  
Marion N. Nance, Appointment to Willamette 6/16/42  
Clyde L. Quam, Appointment to Willamette 6/16/42, from Siuslaw  
Winifred L. May, Resignation 11/30/41  
John Hough, Resignation 12/9/42  
Juliet R. McClaren, Appointment 6/16/42  
Lester J. McPherson, Appointment from Deschutes 10/16/42  
Spencer T. Moore, Appointment to Willamette 11/1/42

## 1943 Forest Information

### GENERAL

Mr. J. R. Bruckart, and Mr. Roy A. Elliott served as presidents of the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, respectively.

Santiam Lodge was closed to recreational use this winter, for the duration of the war emergency. The usual close supervision and maintenance of all recreational areas had to be abandoned because of severe personnel shortages. Gasoline and tire rationing accounted for greatly reduced utilization of recreational facilities.

### TIMBER SALES

1943 marked the opening of the Fall Creek drainage to buyers. Major sales were made to Fall Creek Lumber Company, C. W. Guerrier Lumber Company, Rosboro Lumber Company, and Yellow Fir Lumber Company. Value of timber sold this year was \$245,604.00. Timber sold totaled 190,079 M, and timber cut totaled 88,262 M.

The dominant sales on each district were as follows:

Detroit: Mill City Manufacturing Company, Idanha Lumber Company, and Seitzinger Lumber Company.

McKenzie: Giustina Bros. Lumber Company, and Skelton-Mitchell Lumber Company.

Oakridge: Westfir Lumber Company, and Whipple & Kirk.

West Boundary: Fall Creek Lumber Company, C. W. Guerrier, Rosboro Lumber Company, and Yellow Fir Lumber Company.

### FIRE

Major fire was on the Oakridge District, entitled Alpine Trail. This fire was caused by train crews, on the right-of-way running through National Forest land. Acreage at time of control amounted to 135.

### GRAZING

No new developments. A total of 312 head of cattle and horses were grazed, also 11,642 sheep. This number is somewhat a reduction over past figures and may be accounted for by lack of men to place in charge of livestock.

### PERSONNEL

Regular personnel this year included Leonard D. Blodgett, Louise M. Brazil, Alfred J. Briem, John R. Bruckart, Audrey W. Crow, Ivan W. Crum, Roy A. Elliott, Raymond Engles, Isabelle H. George, C. W. Godlove, Carl Hildman, Edwin Loners, Juliet McClaren, C. B. McFarland, Lester J. McPherson, Spencer T. Moore, Marion N. Nance, Lewis H. Neff, E. Myrl Olson, Clyde L. Quam, Donald J. Stoner, Henry G. White, and Hazel C. Jessen.

Personnel changes were as follows:

Louise M. Brazil	- Separation by limitation on 9/7/43.
Carl Hildman	- Appointment on February 1, 1943.
Hazel C. Jessen	- Appointment on November 1, 1943
Juliet McClaren	- Resignation effective November 22, 1943.

## 1944 Forest Information

### GENERAL

"Matty" Mathews retired on September 30 of this year. He will be missed but his excellent work as evidenced on the Forest, will be a constant reminder of service.

From November 9 to 15, a regional fire control meeting was held at Santiam Lodge. Fire staff men from all Region 6 forests attended. Lindh and Colvill represented the Regional Office. Slash disposal problems, fire control planning, and related activities, held the spotlight.

Use of recreational facilities continues to show a reduction, this due to rationing and press of war activities.

### TIMBER SALES

Value of timber sold this year totaled \$403,938.54. Timber cut amounted to 144,818 M, and timber sold amounted to 134,399 M. Larger sales this year were Westfir Lumber Company, on the Oakridge District; Mill City Manufacturing Company, on the Detroit District; Fall Creek Lumber Company, C. W. Guerrier, and Rosboro Lumber Company, on the West Boundary District.

### FIRE

We were comparatively fortunate this year in respect to fires. We experienced one "C" fire on the Forest, the Bald Butte fire on the Detroit District, covering 60 acres. Our season was considered successful in view of manpower shortages, with emphasis upon lack of trained supervision.

### GRAZING

A total of 370 head of cattle and horses, and 8,124 sheep were grazed this year, representing approximately the same number as 1943 for cattle and horses, and a noticeable drop in the number of sheep. This may be accounted for by the manpower shortage.

### PERSONNEL

Regular personnel this year included Alfred J. Briem, John R. Bruckart, Audrey W. Crow, Ivan W. Crum, Roy A. Elliott, Raymond Engles, Isabelle H. George, C. W. Godlove, Carl Hildman, Hazel C. Jessen, C. B. McFarland, L. J. McPherson, Spencer T. Moore, Marion N. Nance, Lewis H. Neff, Clyde L. Quam, Donald J. Stoner, Henry G. White, Ross W. Williams, Marian L. Green, William F. Cummins, William O. Benecke, and K. Elaine McCliment.

Personnel changes were as follows:

Ross W. Williams	-	Transferred from the Olympic Forest 2/1/44
Marian L. Green	-	Transferred from Regional Office 2/10/44
Marion N. Nance	-	Transferred from Siskiyou Forest 4/16/44
William F. Cummins	-	Appointed 4/26/44, from Region 2 4/26/44
William O. Benecke	-	Appointed - from Olympic Forest 7/15/44
K. Elaine McCliment	-	Appointed 11/6/44.



## 1945 Forest Information

### GENERAL

New Ranger Station sites were planned for Detroit and West Boundary, since proposed flood control dams will flood present locations.

Mr. O. F. Ericson gave our Forest a general inspection this summer. The Navy Department used our Santiam Ski Lodge for a rest and vacation center this summer.

For the benefit of ski and winter sports enthusiasts, the Santiam Lodge was re-opened on December 1, after having been closed for three seasons. New facilities planned include night skiing and instruction on slopes by the Lodge.

High water in late December caused damage to the extent of \$30,000 on the South Fork of the Willamette. The Hines Lumber Company dam at Westfir was washed out and the Swede gang mill was undermined.

### TIMBER SALES

1945 was an important year for timber. Two new plywood lathes were installed; one in Springfield, and the other on the Detroit District. For the Fall Creek operations, a new 8' x 22' combination scaler's office and quarters was constructed. A new scaling platform, accommodating two trucks, was also built at this operation. Log traffic over the Fall Creek Road has averaged 5,000 M per month.

In August the Edward Hines Lumber Company of Chicago, purchased the Westfir Lumber Company, a transaction involving well over \$1,000,000.00. The Hines people carry on extensive operations in Eastern Oregon, with headquarters at Hines, Oregon.

A strike, starting in October, tied up the timber business until about the first of 1946. Our strike-bound timber sale men completed several cruising jobs and launched some extensive snag-falling projects on cutover land.

### FIRE

We relied heavily on 16 and 17 year-old boys this season, and we're proud of the way they served.

We experienced four "C" fires: Swamp Mountain, on the Cascadia District covering 20 acres; Kelsay Ridge, Pryor, and Kitson Ridge fires on the Oakridge District, totaled 154 acres.

### GRAZING

Number of animals grazed on the Forest showed a sharp decline over two preceding years. This figure will continue to drop, until war is ended.

Cattle and horses grazed totaled 273; sheep totaled 5,447.

#### PERSONNEL

Regular personnel this year included William O. Benecke, Alfred J. Briem, John R. Bruckart, Audrey W. Crow, Ivan W. Crum, William F. Cummins, Roy A. Elliott, Raymond Engles, C. W. Godlove, Marian L. Green, Carl Hildman, Hazel C. Jessen, C. B. McFarland, Lester J. McPherson, Spencer T. Moore, Lewis H. Neff, Clyde L. Quam, Donald J. Stoner, Henry G. White, Ross W. Williams, K. Elaine McCliment, Josephine E. Nerbovig, Jean Goodwin, Mary Lee Steel.

#### Personnel changes -

Ross W. Williams, transferred to Mt. Hood Forest on May 1, 1945.  
Josephine E. Nerbovig, from Regional Office 7/16/45, to LWOP 11/14/45.  
Marian L. Green, Resignation 8/6/45 - on wae basis on November  
Hazel C. Jessen, Resignation 9/20/45  
Jean Goodwin, Appointment 11/4/45  
Mary Lee Steel, Appointment 11/4/45

#### TIMBER (Contd.)

Value of timber sold totaled \$490,754.24. Timber cut totaled 113,950 M,  
timber sold - 166,636 M.

## 1946 Forest Information

### GENERAL

Among guests of the Willamette were M. Pierre Terver, Chief of French Colonial Forestry; K. C. Gulati, Forester from India; and Enrique Valenzuela, Antonio Fernandez, and Paul Ducci of the Chilean government's forestry branch. These men were all here for the purpose of studying forestry, particularly utilization, as practiced here in the Northwest.

The highlight of the year 1946 was the retirement of "Big Mac" McFarland, district ranger on the Oakridge District, and the division of his district - now the Oakridge and Rigdon Districts.

### TIMBER SALES

During the year 132,370 M ft. of government timber was cut. 62,983 M ft. was sold with a value of \$393,902.76. The Fall Creek Lumber Company installed a semi-portable log gang mill to utilize small logs and are splitting out sound bolts from cull material to yield box shooks.

### FIRE

150 fires occurred during the year - 125 Class A, 20 Class B and 5 Class C. The East Fork Fire on the McKenzie District, a lightning fire, was the largest - 99 acres.

### GRAZING

140 head of cattle and 3,234 head of sheep were grazed on the forest during the year, indicating considerable decline over 1945.

### PERSONNEL

This year we welcomed back many veterans, including Carl Ball, Bill Branson, Joe Elliott, Merton Roemhildt, Harold Plank, Elmer Surdam, Bob Beeman, Al Wiener, Jim Izett, Otto B. Hanell, Dan Olin and T. Albert Davies.

The following changes in personnel took place: Jack Saubert transferred from the Rogue River to become district ranger at Cascadia Feb. 10, 1946. Brittain Ash transferred from the Siskiyou to become district ranger on the McKenzie District in May. Wilbur N. Henderson was appointed as Communications Assistant April 15. William Benecke transferred to the Umpqua April 20. Lester McPherson transferred to the Malheur in April. Donald Stoner transferred to Rogue River in February.