A FEW FOREST FACTS
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
WASHINGTON

Gifford Pinchot
1865 - 1946

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
1949
A Proclamation

President Truman signs the Proclamation
establishing the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Left to Right: Dana Parkinson, Chief, Div. of I&E, Forest Service; Wesley McCune, Executive Asst. to the Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture; Howard Hopkins, Asst. Chief, Forest Service; E. W. Loveridge, Asst. Chief, Forest Service; Richard E. McArdle, Asst. Chief, Forest Service; Christopher M. Granger, Asst. Chief, Forest Service; Raymond E. Marsh, Asst. Chief, Forest Service; President Harry S. Truman; Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot, son of Gifford Pinchot; Gifford Pinchot (nicknamed Sandy) age 6, grandson of Gifford Pinchot; Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brannan; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Mather, Secretary to Mrs. Gifford Pinchot; Lyle F. Watts, Chief, Forest Service.

June 15, 1949 — Washington, D.C.
By the President of The United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, who served in the Department of Agriculture from 1898 to 1910, was primarily responsible for the establishment of our national-forest system; and

WHEREAS he established many of the basic policies which guide our national-forest administration, today; and

WHEREAS he has long been recognized as the foremost forester and forest conservationist of this Nation; and

WHEREAS his life was spent almost wholly in the service of the public; and

WHEREAS it is especially appropriate to pay tribute to Gifford Pinchot by naming one of our great national forests in his honor:

Now, THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the act of June 4, 1897, 30 Stat. 11, 36 (16 U.S.C. 473), do hereby proclaim that the Columbia National Forest in the State of Washington, as defined by Executive Order No. 820 of June 18, 1908, and as subsequently modified by Executive orders and acts of Congress, is hereby designated and hereafter shall be known as the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-third.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

By the President:
JAMES E. WEBB
Acting Secretary of State
First American professional forester, first Chief of the United States Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot was the man who gave the first great impetus to the movement for conservation of natural resources in America. It was he, indeed, who brought the word "conservation" out of the dictionary into the American vocabulary. The conservation program that got under way largely through his crusading efforts may well determine the future progress and security of this Nation.
Mount St. Helens
With twenty-five miles of timber in the foreground
Lewis River Valley

The National Forests are administered to bring about “the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run”. In line with this guiding principle, the Forest Service manages the resources of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest by a multiple use system aimed at the coordinated development and use of all the resources and values of the land — Timber, Water, Range and Recreation.
Timber is harvested from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest by private operators, using the latest methods and principles of logging.
East of the Cascade Mountains, timber is cut under the “tree selection” system. Slow growing, mature and decadent trees are cut. This opens up the forest so that the remaining thrifty, young trees will develop more rapidly. The residual stand provides seed for natural reforestation in the openings caused by logging.
The Pacific Northwest is noted for its high quality lumber from old-growth forests. When the virgin forests have been cut out, logs like this will be a rarity. However, good forest practices such as selection cutting in the ponderosa pine type will aid in providing future crops of timber which can be made to equal or surpass the present harvest.
The volume of standing timber on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is estimated at 16.5 billion feet, board measure. Of this, the allowable annual sustained yield cut is approximately 200 million board feet.

Douglas-fir, silver and noble fir, Western hemlock, Western redcedar and ponderosa pine are the principal species. Western white pine, Engelmann spruce, Western larch, and mountain hemlock are present in smaller quantities.

The annual cut for the calendar year 1948 was 93 million board feet. There are eight working circles.
Area Selection Cutting of Douglas-fir
Iron Creek Drainage

Only patches or blocks of timber from 40 to 80 acres in size are being logged in the first cutting. The small clear-cut areas will have ample time in which to reseed and start new crops before the intervening strips of timber will be cut out. As a fire control measure this system of logging has many advantages over clear cutting large areas or leaving a continuous sweep of logged off land.
The Gifford Pinchot National Forest produces tall trees. Heavy equipment is needed to drag in, load and transport the logs. The picture shows a "high climber" limbing a tall Douglas-fir preparatory to topping it and rigging it for a spar tree for high lead logging and loading. Many operators now do prelogging or salvage logging to remove the smaller trees and broken logs or chunks that formerly were wasted in this type of logging — this waste often amounting to 40% or 50% of the timber. Where ground conditions are favorable, "cat logging" is now preferred to the high lead system.
Throughout the forest are stands of virgin timber where Douglas-fir and Western redcedar trees have withstood the ravages of time, fire, insects and disease for four or five centuries or even longer.

Pictured above are two forest veterans at the site of the dedication of the Gifford Pinchot Forest. A bronze plaque commemorating this event will be mounted on a large rock at the base of the trees.
Saw logs enroute to the mill. The renewable timber resource accounted for most of the 1948 income of $647,071 turned in to the Treasury of the United States from timber sales, grazing permits and special uses on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Twenty-five per cent of the national forest receipts are given to the counties in which the national forests are situated. Six southwestern Washington counties received $161,767 from the Gifford Pinchot forest in 1948 in lieu of taxes. This money must be spent for road and school purposes.
Water, lifeblood of the land, is absorbed by the forested slopes of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and slowly returned to the streams and lakes to be used by the citizens of the Pacific Northwest for power, domestic use and irrigation.
Brush, weeds, flowers and grasses — the under story of the forest and the ground cover in the open glades and meadows — provide food for 1,200 head of cattle and 6,600 sheep within the boundaries of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Sharing this summer range we find deer, elk, moutain goat and other native four-footed residents of our mountainous areas.
Meat for food, wool for clothing, leather for shoes, timber for homes and scenery to refresh the spirit of man — multiple use in practice on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
Scenery, clear streams and invigorating air bring thousands of vacationists to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest each year. In 1948, 163,500 persons visited the national forest.
A system of highways and roads, both federal and state, provides access to the recreational resources. The White Pass Highway is one of the many projects on the State Highway system constructed in part with Forest Service funds.
Part of a system of timber access roads being built to make accessible the timber resources of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Constructed by Skate Creek Logging Company in 1948.

More access roads are needed to open up inaccessible timber stands and enable the Forest Service to harvest annual timber crops up to the allowable sustained yield cut of 200 million board feet for this forest.
Here one finds ideal camping spots, some on prepared campgrounds, others in remote areas. Except for limited areas which are closed because of extremely high fire hazard, the forest is open to the public. All that is asked is proper consideration for other forest users — good sportsmanship — and a clean camp and a dead fire when you leave.
Fishing at Bird Lake

Fishing is encouraged under State of Washington license as is hunting in season. National forests are for use — your choice — from picnicking in prepared recreation areas to . . .
Mount Adams, elevation 12,307 feet, and Bird Creek Meadows

... hiking, mountain climbing and exploring in the remote and wilderness areas.
Campers at Killen Creek Meadows on the north side of Mount Adams, gather around the evening campfire.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest offers a wide variety of out-of-doors recreation — motoring, horseback trips and hiking on the back country trails, mountain climbing, skiing, fishing, hunting with guns or cameras, or just camping or picnicking.
Indian Picking Huckleberries

The huckleberry fields of the Twin Buttes area provide recreation and food to many thousands. Each season tons of berries are picked by the citizens of our nearby cities and by descendants of the original users of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
Constant vigilance on the part of the 60 year-long employees and the 200 seasonal employees is necessary to prevent the entrance of the red wolf FIRE into the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
Modern lookout buildings, radio network and 843 miles of telephone lines assist the detection force in locating and reporting fires.
The 1949 Packwood Burn

This burn was caused by fire which started at a sawmill near Packwood, Washington and swept through reforesting cut-over land before it was controlled. It could have been much worse. Some of the largest and most destructive forest fires in the history of the Northwest, such as the Yacolt fire in 1902, occurred on and adjacent to what is now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Only eternal vigilance and the cooperation of the forest using public, plus an adequate, well trained and well equipped fire control organization can prevent such disastrous fires.
Thirty-one years ago fire swept over this mountain leaving it bristling with snags. These were cut to open up the view from the lookout and to provide a fire break. Natural reforestation has not occurred because the fire impoverished the soil and killed all the sources of seed over a large area.
This nursery was established in 1909 to provide seedlings to reforest denuded areas in the national forests of Oregon and Washington. Its capacity is 5 million two-year-old seedlings per year. Douglas-fir is the principal species grown here.

Because of the large areas deforested by early conflagrations such as the Yacolt fire of 1902 and subsequent fires, the Gifford Pinchot forest has had and still has a big tree planting job. To date, 21,560 acres have been planted with seedlings from the Wind River Nursery.
Gifford Pinchot was primarily responsible for the establishment of our national forest system. Shortly before his death in 1946 he said, "I am a forester all the time — have been, and shall be to my dying day."

Here he is shown with Lyle F. Watts discussing his favorite topic — trees — and their products.
Gifford Pinchot National Forest Statistics

Volume of standing timber ...................... 16.5 Billion Ft. B. M.
Allowable annual sustained yield cut ............ 200 Million Ft. B. M.
Annual cut calendar year 1948 ..................... 93 Million Ft. B. M.
Number of working circles ....................... 8
Annual production of Wind River Nursery
   near Carson, Washington ....................... 5 Million Trees

Number sheep grazed annually .................... 6,600
Number cattle grazed annually ..................... 1,200

Number improved forest camps ...................... 82
Number recreationists — campers, picnickers
   and hikers visiting forest in 1948 .............. 163,500
Number summer homes built under special use permits .............. 40

Net receipts fiscal year 1948 ....................... $647,071
Expenditures fiscal year 1948 (appropriated funds) .................. $348,000
Receipts distributed to 6 southwestern
   Washington Counties in 1948 ................... $161,767

Number yearlong employees ......................... 60
Number yearlong and seasonal employees .......... 260
Number ranger districts ........................... 6
   (Mt. Adams, Lewis River, Randle,
   Wind River, Spirit Lake, Packwood)

Forest roads ........................................ 655 miles
Forest trails ........................................ 2,101 miles
Telephone lines ..................................... 843 miles

National Forest Area:
   Net area ....................................... 1,263,328 acres
   Alienated area .................................. 158,220 acres
   Gross area ...................................... 1,407,791 acres