

LAKE TAHOE

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TAHOE

National Forest

California—Nevada

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service—California Region

TAHOE

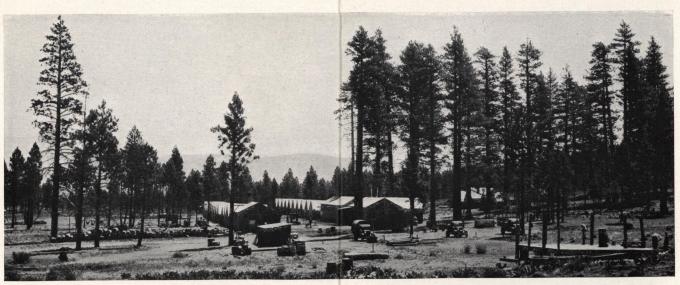
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C. C. C. CAMP IN THE TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

F-280849

Tahoe Forest Is Rich in History

The Tahoe National Forest offers many attractions to the tourist and camper. Its historical background includes old placer and hydraulic mines and the towns which grew up at the time of the gold rush. Across it the first railroad to the Pacific coast was built in 1865, and its lakes and mountains are typical of the scenery of the Sierra Nevada.

This national forest is situated in the northeastern part of California, mainly in Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties, and in Washoe County, Nev. Its boundaries include more than a million acres, of which 629,265 acres are national forest land. It lies on both sides of the Sierra Nevada, and includes many peaks along the Sierra summit which are more than 9,000 feet high.

The highest peak of the Tahoe Forest, Mount Rose, in Nevada, has an altitude of 10,800 feet. It is the site of an observatory maintained by the Nevada State University.

The east and west sides of the fore:t differ widely in general characteristics. The east slope, after an abrupt descent from the main crest, is mostly level or rolling hill country, while the west side is cut by a series of deep river canyons divided by ridges which sometimes broaden out into heavily timbered plateaus. The main rivers of the forest are the various branches of the American and Yuba Rivers and the headwaters of the middle fork of Feather River on the west, and the Truckee River on the east of the range. Sierra Valley, the largest agricultural valley at high altitude in the Sierra Nevada, is located in the northeast por-

tion of the forest at an elevation of 5,000 feet. It is approximately 30 miles long and 10 miles wide, and is noted for its extensive hay ranches and livestock resources.

MAIN ROUTES OF TRAVEL

The Auburn-Truckee-Reno route, a part of the transcontinental Victory Highway, and the Yuba Pass route from Auburn via Grass Valley and Nevada City to Downieville, Sierra City, and Sierraville, where it branches to Reno and Truckee, traverse the Tahoe Forest and cross the Sierra summit. These roads follow in a general way the paths of the emigrants who journeyed in the early days to California.

The Tahoe-Ukiah State Highway, now nearly completed, via Clear Lake and Marysville, connects with the Victory Highway in the vicinity of Cisco and affords a new route between Lake Tahoe and the coast redwood region.

The Lake Tahoe State Highway turns off from the Victory Highway at Truckee, following up the Truckee River to Tahoe City. There it branches, one section going around the west side of the lake to connect with the Placerville-Lake Tahoe route (Lincoln Highway) at Meyers, and the other around the north and east sides of the lake to connect with the Carson

Leave a clean camp and a clean record. Garbage, crippled game, and broken laws are poor monuments for tourists and sportsmen to leave behind them.

3

The Overland route of the Southern Pacific Railroad crosses the Tahoe Forest from Auburn to Truckee, with a branch standard gage line from Truckee to Lake Tahoe.

FOREST TYPES IN THE TAHOE

On account of varied altitudes, soil, and climatic conditions there are several distinct timber types on the Tahoe. On the west slopes, ponderosa pine is the most important species. This timber tree is found in pure and mixed stands with varying amounts of sugar pine, Douglas fir, white fir, and incense cedar.

At elevations of 5,000 feet and over the mixed conifer types are replaced by the sugar pine-fir types, which subsequently are superseded by mixed stands of white and red fir and pure stands of red fir. Lodgepole pine, western white pine, mountain hemlock, Jeffrey pine, Pacific yew, and California black, live, and tanbark oaks occur as pure stands or in mixtures within the main timber types.

On the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada the same transition of timber types occurs, except that the ponderosa pine is replaced by Jeffrey pine around the 6,000-foot elevation, and yew and oak species are replaced by juniper and mountain mahogany.

California's most northern grove of bigtrees (Sequoia washingtoniana) is found on the Foresthill Divide of the Tahoe National Forest. This grove



SMALL LAKE IN PARADISE VALLEY NEAR SIERRA SUMMIT



SARDINE LAKE AND SIERRA BUTTES

F-237990

consists of seven individual trees, five standing and two down, ranging from 30 inches to 12 feet in diameter. There are no seedlings or reproduction. The grove is surrounded by a dense mature forest of mixed conifers.

RESOURCES OF THE FOREST

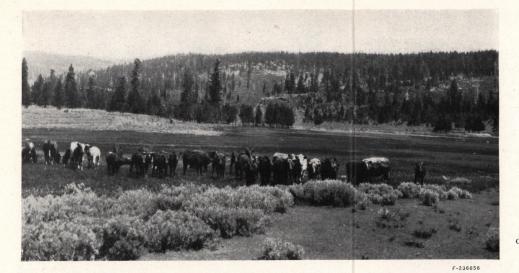
WATER AND POWER

Conservation of water for irrigation and for power development, and prevention of soil erosion by protecting the forest cover are the chief functions of the Tahoe Forest.

The hydraulic mining of the early days laid the foundation of the systems of reservoirs and ditches which are in use today. The waters of the middle and south forks of the Yuba River were stored in reservoirs and distributed to the many different mining centers. The south fork was the site of the first hydroelectric power development in California. At present two power companies use these streams for hydroelectric power and irrigation. The north and middle forks of the American River are in process of development, and already water from these streams develops power at Folsom and irrigates land in the Sacramento Valley.

The waters of the Truckee River, which rises in Lake Tahoe, are extensively used for power and irrigation on the Newlands reclamation project at Fallon, Nev.

Power is transmitted from the Tahoe Forest to the San Francisco Bay region. Water from this forest irrigates thousands of acres of intensively farmed fruit lands in the foothills of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties, and supplies the towns of the Sacramento Valley. Thirteen lakes and reservoirs are used by one



COMMUNITY RANGE IN JONES VALLEY

company alone. The Nevada County irrigation system uses five lakes and reservoirs on Canyon Creek and the middle fork of Yuba River.

SHEEP AND CATTLE GRAZING

Within the Tahoe Forest, on both sides of the Sierra Nevada, are numerous ranches. Because of situation, climate, and soil conditions, the successful operation of many of these ranches depends on the production of livestock. Few of them furnish sufficient forage to feed their stock the year long. The ranches are, therefore, dependent on the use of forest ranges for summer forage until such time as rains start fall feed in the foothills.

The Tahoe National Forest is so managed as to take care of as much stock as possible without damage to the range. The ranges of the forest, including Government land only, now furnish forage for about 11,000 head of cattle and 32,000 head of sheep from dependent ranches situated in the foothills bordering the Sacramento Valley on the west, and in Sierra and Long Valleys and around Reno, Nev., on the east.

LUMBERING AND TIMBER

The Tahoe National Forest is estimated to contain 7 billion feet of saw timber and pulpwood and 600,000 cords of firewood. There is about an equal amount of timber on private lands within its boundaries.

This forest includes a region that was one of the first in California to be logged and was probably logged more extensively than any other. The first cutting was done in the early fifties when the active

mining industry in the foothills of the west slope called for flume lumber and for building material for the rapidly growing communities.

In the sixties, silver mines were opened on the Comstock lode in Nevada and timber for them was obtained from the eastern side of the Sierra in the Tahoe region.

In 1865 the Central Pacific was constructed and new sawmills were built along its route. From that date until 1875, the Lake Tahoe region was the largest producing lumber center in the State, with a maximum output of 21 million board feet per year.

In this forest about 20 mills operated on the east side of the Sierra and 10 or more in the mining districts on the west side. Mining and building operations within the forest consumed several billion feet of timber, and the amount which went out of the forest to supply the Nevada mines must have been even greater, since the early developments cut over a very large part of the great open pine forests which originally clothed the hills.

Thousands of acres of cutover land were swept by fire in this area before it was made a national forest, and this entirely destroyed or greatly retarded the regeneration of the forest growth. Today, this region produces little or no lumber, but under the present Forest Service fire protection system a new and vigorous stand of young timber is gradually returning.

On the east side of the summit, tree growth is slow, but on the west side, where there is more moisture, dense stands of second growth pine are coming in, some of them 60 years old and ready to furnish sawlogs. These forests are very valuable; they serve to regulate the flow of water for power and irrigation,



DERBY DAY-TRUCKEE DOG TEAM RACES

prevent soil erosion, and are an assurance of a perpetual source of lumber to supply the local communities. The proximity of a transcontinental railroad adds to their economic importance.

The present cut of timber from the Governmentowned land in this forest, under scientific forestry practice, varies from 3 million to 20 million board feet a year. All trees are marked for cutting, and about 20 percent of the stand is left to form a second cut in approximately 50 years. Brush and debris resulting from logging operations are piled and burned in winter, as a precaution against forest fires.

RECREATION POSSIBILITIES

The recreational values and possibilities of the Tahoe National Forest are probably greater than those of any other forest in California, ranging from hunting and fishing to points of historic interest.

Much of the forest lies along the high summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains, with unsurpassed scenic values. Glaciated granite peaks with numerous lakes, well stocked with trout, stretch from Lake Tahoe on the south, to Gold Lake on the north. A large part of this area is accessible to automobiles. Parts of it have been set aside to be reached only by foot or horseback. These values are recognized by the motion-picture industry, many scenes being taken around Lake Tahoe and other well-known areas.

The highway via Donner Lake and Donner Summit is one of the three main routes for tourists entering or leaving California, and most of these people visit Lake Tahoe, since this side trip means only a few extra miles.

CAMPS AND CAMPING

There are a number of Forest Service campgrounds with essential camping facilities and sanitary conven-

iences. Tahoe Camp at the northwest and Incline Camp at the northeast corner of Lake Tahoe can accommodate from 100 to 200 parties. On the Donner Summit Highway, the Cold Spring, Hampshire Rocks, and Big Bend Camps serve several thousand overnight campers during the travel season.

On the Yuba Pass Highway are the Oregon Creek Camp on the Middle Yuba, and the Indian Valley, Ram's Horn, and Wild Plum Camps on the North Yuba River.

There are 26 fully or partially developed campgrounds in the forest. Where the travel demand is heavy, it is necessary to limit the time one party may occupy a camp site.

SITES FOR SUMMER HOMES

In addition to the campgrounds, there are a few areas that can be used as locations for summer homes, thus affording an opportunity, for those who wish to do so, to return year after year to some recreational area of special appeal, generally in groups or communities. The Forest Service has opened up tracts subdivided into small lots of about one-fourth acre each for the use of those who wish to construct summer homes.

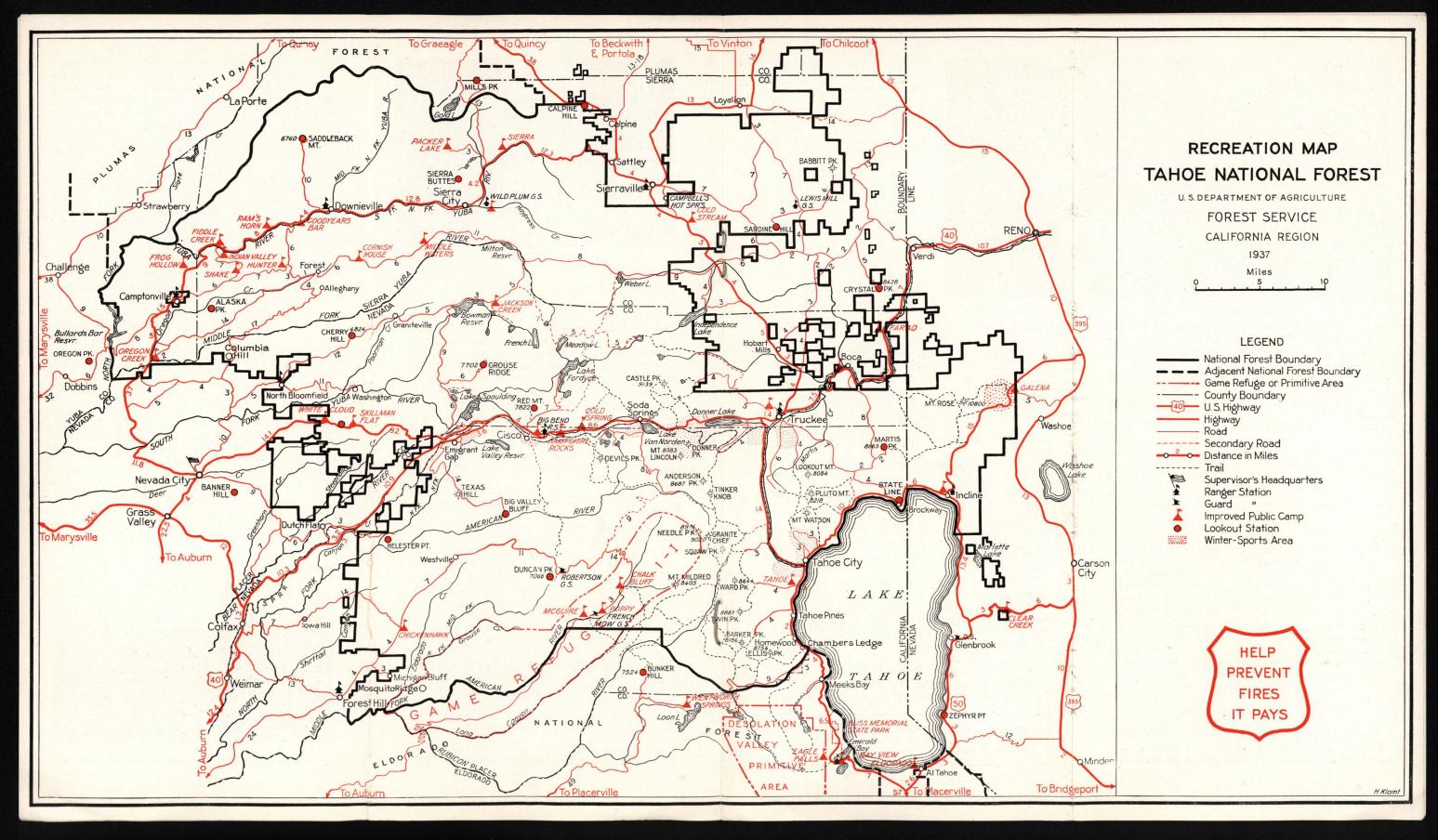
The Cedar Flat tract on Lake Tahoe has over 100 lots, most of which have now been leased, and on many of which beautiful homes have been built. The Donner Lake tract is only partly built up. The Big Bend tract is fully occupied. The Brockway tract is at the north end of Lake Tahoe, and has a large number of lots available.

Other tracts have been surveyed and opened to use at the following points: Jackson Creek, east of Bowman Lake, where the Graniteville-Weber Lake and Faucherie Lake roads fork; Ram's Horn, on the Nevada City-Downieville Highway about 3 miles west of Goodyears Bar, where Ram's Horn Creek crosses



DONNER LAKE FROM LINCOLN HIGHWAY NEAR SIERRA SUMMIT

Game and fish depend on forests and streams. Both are destroyed by fire





FISHING IN THE TRUCKEE RIVER

the highway; Goodyears Creek, north of the Nevada City-Downieville Highway up Goodyears Creek; and Sierra, on the Yuba Pass Highway about 2 miles east of Bassetts Station.

These summer home sites are rented at rates of from \$15 to \$25 a year. Application can be made to the nearest district ranger or to the Forest Supervisor at Nevada City.

Land for garages, service stations, and resorts, or recreational sites for private clubs, fraternal orders, Boy Scouts, and municipal and other organizations may be obtained, in a few localities, under special-use permit from the Forest Service. On all commercial permits an annual charge is made in conformity with the use to which the land is put.

HUNTING AND FISHING

There is some very excellent fishing in the lake region which follows the Sierra Summit from Gold Lake south across the forest. There is some good stream fishing, but many of the main rivers have been spoiled for fishing by hydraulic mining. To find good fishing it is usually necessary to leave the automobile roads and go into the more inaccessible areas.

There is good deer hunting for blacktail on the west slope and for mule deer on the east side. Considerably over 1,000 deer are killed on the Tahoe each year.

Hunting and fishing are permitted in the national forests subject to the State fish and game laws.

WINTER SPORTS FOR MANY

During the past 10 years the winter recreational use of the forest has had a phenomenal growth. The Donner Summit Highway, or U. S. 40, has been kept open during the winter, and this gives the San Francisco Bay region and the Sacramento Valley quick access to the heavy snow belt of the Sierra summit. Here, from Christmas to the end of March, 100,000 people come for winter sports.

The Forest Service has cooperated with the winter sports organizations in the construction and signing of ski trails for cross-country trips. For the more experienced, there are large areas of smooth open slopes, stretching to the north and south of the highway.

PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST

There are many places of outstanding historic interest. They include Donner Lake, the main "Forty-Nine Trail", and numerous other trails and roads of the gold-rush days, with many ghost towns, deserted placer diggings, and old mining ditches. Along the Downieville Highway the Joubert Placer can be seen operating with a hydraulic giant, from February to May.

Many of the deep mines have run continuously since their discovery, and the rise in the price of gold started many more. A great many unemployed people moved into the river canyons during the depression and made at least a partial living by reworking the old gold-bearing gravel beds.

FISH AND GAME

Wildlife is one of the important resources of the Tahoe Forest. Estimates by forest officers place the

Throwing away lighted matches or tobacco, or other burning material, from an automobile or other moving vehicle is prohibited by State law.

number of game and predatory animals at 10,000 deer, 800 bears, 4,000 coyotes, 1,200 wildcats, 1,800 foxes, 63 mountain lions, and a considerable number of smaller fur-bearing animals.

The French Meadows State Game Refuge No. 1–I) in the Foresthill region in Placer County, covers 34,800 acres and was established to protect the deer in their breeding grounds. Hunting within this game refuge is forbidden.

The Division of Fish and Game, State Department of Natural Resources, has a fish hatchery on the north fork of Yuba River in Indian Valley, and Forest Service officers assist each year in the planting of trout fry in the important streams and lakes of the Tahoe Forest.

WILDLIFE REFUGES

For the protection, propagation, and conservation of wildlife, areas may be closed to fishing and hunting temporarily or permanently established as game refuges. The Federal Government establishes refuges for migratory wild fowl. The State establishes refuges for game birds or game animals and may declare certain areas closed to fishing. Certain areas may be a combined wildlife refuge in which neither fishing nor hunting is allowed. Usually fishing is permitted in a game refuge and hunting may be allowed in an area closed to fishing. The sportsmen should inform themselves of the location of refuges and their restriction.

DOGS

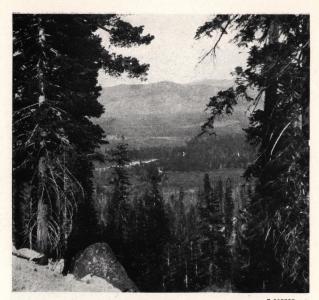
Dogs are not permitted in national park areas but are allowed in national forests. Owners are expected to exercise the same control over them as in towns and communities. California State laws make it unlawful to permit or allow a dog to run, track, or trail a deer during the closed season. In the open season the law permits one dog per hunter to assist in taking deer.

FIREARMS

Firearms are allowed in national forests, but no shooting is permitted in or near any campground or summer-home colony. In game refuges it is unlawful to carry or discharge firearms. Firearms may be transported through a game refuge on a public road when they are taken apart or encased and unloaded.

CLOSURES

In areas of extremely high fire hazard where watersheds of great economic value are involved, the Forest



VIEW OF SIERRA VALLEY, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

Service may close such areas to hunting during the fire season. Although these areas are closed to entry for fire protection, they act as refuges in many cases where the fire season and the hunting season coincide.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

The Tahoe National Forest, one of the 18 Federal forests making up the California Region, is administered by a forest supervisor with headquarters in Nevada City.

The forest is divided into seven ranger districts, each in charge of a district ranger.

District Headquarters

Foresthill...... Foresthill, Calif.
Emigrant Gap..... Big Bend (P. O. Cisco, Calif.).
Camptonville...... Camptonville, Calif.
Downieville.... Goodyears Bar, Calif.
North Bloomfield... North Bloomfield, Calif.
Sierraville... Sierraville, Calif.
Truckee.... Truckee, Calif.

Additional information with regard to the Tahoe National Forest will be gladly furnished by the officers listed.

Telephone lines connect the headquarters of all these officers, and may be used by the public in emergencies. Travelers are invited to register at any of

If you don't know—ask the U. S. Forest Ranger



F-239293

THE PONDEROSA WAY—A THOUSAND-MILE FIREBREAK—

these stations in order that they may be located in case messages are received for them.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The average American citizen thinks of a forest ranger as a "fire guard" or "fire lookout", while in reality the forester is the administrative and executive manager of a large going business concern employing many people and furnishing many commodities for public consumption.

Forestry is primarily a job of land-use management; in other words, a scientific farm on a large scale. The Tahoe National Forest might be compared to a million-acre ranch producing, instead of the conventional farm commodities, the following crops: Timber, forage, wildlife, recreation, and water.

I. Timber.—To help maintain for the Nation an adequate supply of lumber. In order that the timber crop may be harvested properly it must be managed upon a sustained-yield basis so that the same area can be cut over time and time again. This not only gives a sustained crop of timber but maintains industry and stabilizes local communities.

2. Forage.—The forester himself does not raise cattle and sheep. However, he has the responsibility of

so managing the mountain ranges that the cattle and sheep permittees secure the maximum amount of forage value for their herds during the summer season. The high mountain ranges are indispensable to the livestock industry of the Sacramento Valley and the western part of the State of Nevada. It is on these summer ranges that the stockmen make their lambs and beef cattle for the market. Here we find the economic stability of agricultural communities dependent upon the proper management of the national forests.

3. Wildlife.—Our mountain ranges must be handled not only for the stabilization of the livestock industry but must, also, be so handled that there will be adequate forage for our wildlife, both big game and mountain birds. If the mountain ranges are not properly administered, they soon become overgrazed, thus reducing their capacity for both livestock and wildlife, as well as increasing erosion and subsequent flood damage. Expenditures for fishing and hunting in the State of California run into millions of dollars; therefore we find economic and social stability of thousands of our citizens directly and indirectly dependent upon the proper administration of the wildlife in our national forests.

4. Recreation.—Each year sees an enormous increase in the number of people using the national forests for summer vacations, week ends, and holiday trips. The Tahoe National Forest offers many ideal vacation sites, ranging from the low foothill country to many high mountain lakes with excellent fishing and hunting in season. During the winter months one can find ideal skiing conditions along Highway No. 40. Here ski trails have been brushed out and marked for those who desire cross-country trips. Ski clubs have developed excellent ski jumps, where most any week end one can get the thrill of watching expert jumpers. Skiing conditions are perfect, not only for the professional but for the amateur as well. On the Nevada side of the forest are found ideal winter sport grounds in the vicinity of Mount Rose and a large ski shelter to accommodate the winter sports enthusiast.

5. Water supply.—One of the most valuable resources found in the Tahoe National Forest is the abundant water supply, which is utilized by many major irrigation districts and municipalities for irrigation and domestic water supply, both in the Sacramento Valley and the State of Nevada. Here we find the lifeblood of the agricultural industry flowing from forest-covered mountains; here the forest watershed retards run-off of rains and melting snows so that the many streams flow steadily throughout the year.

When you pass a ranger station, it is a good plan to stop and give the ranger your name and destination so that important messages may be sent to you. Without this abundant water supply our valleys would soon revert to deserts. This water is utilized many times over, in the generation of hydroelectric power, on its way down the mountains to the ranches and cities.

These are merely some of the many important activities which constitute a forester's job. Many of the crops mentioned can be produced by one and the same piece of land. In some cases, however, certain activities must be restricted in preference to a use which will serve more people to better advantage.

One of the most difficult jobs that a forester has to contend with in the proper administration of his forest is that of fire protection. Fire destroys the natural resources on which the local communities and the Nation are dependent. Fire not only destroys the timber, wildlife, range, and recreation values, but also depletes the soil and leads to a serious increase in erosion. Erosion may destroy valuable improvements and leave the land in a worthless and unproductive state.

More than 90 percent of all the fires occurring in our national forests are caused by human carelessness or maliciousness. With more and more people using our national forests annually, this human risk is increasing. When you consider that each individual who enters the forest is a potential fire risk it is easy to see why the forest ranger fears man-caused fire.

All man-caused forest fires are preventable. Only with the wholehearted cooperation of every forest user can the fire problem be solved. Like automobile accidents, fires are caused; they do not just happen. Given public support in the reduction of fires, the forester can spend more time and more energy upon the development and management of our natural resources for your pleasure and profit.

YOURS TO ENJOY!

You who are visitors in the Tahoe National Forest will be impressed with its natural beauty. It is yours to enjoy—and to protect.

You who come to get into the great outdoors will find the forest offers an outing that is natural and different. Campers, sportsmen, and those who seek health and rest find recreation in the Tahoe to be simple, democratic, unregimented—just as it is in all the national forests. Recreation facilities for the many take precedence always over those for the few. Policing is kept to that minimum which is necessary to assure safety to public health and public property. All who enjoy the out-of-doors will be delighted with the rugged mountains and wandering streams, the

frontier flavor of the forest wilderness, the murmur of rushing rivers or waterfalls, the beauty of placid lakes, and the scent of pine, fir, and cedar.

After you have been through the Tahoe you may want to visit one of the other national forests. The forest officers will bid you welcome. The increasing use of these fore ts for recreation purposes is in line with the policy of managing these areas for multiple uses. More than 71,000,000 persons passed through the national forests in 1936, compared to only about 3,000,000 in 1917, the figures, of course, including "repeaters." As a result of this popularity, the national forests are frequently called the "Playgrounds of America."

Within the national forests are found ancient cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, prehistoric rock paintings, unique topographic or geologic features, historic landmarks, groves of rare trees, and other objects of historic and scientific interest that have been set aside as national monuments. Mount Whitney, highest peak in continental United States, and Mount Shasta in California, Mount Hood in Oregon, Mount Ranier in Washington, Pike's Peak in Colorado, and other well-known snow-clad peaks of the West, lie mainly within the national forests.

Each visitor in these forests has a stake in their protection. The forest officers are the managers for the people who have title to these properties through their Government. All they ask is that you who are visitors in the forest have "good forest manners", that you look to the proper sanitation of your camp, and be careful with fire.



GOOD MANNERS IN THE FOREST

A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forest—

First obtains a campfire permit.

Carries a shovel and ax.

Smokes only in camp.

Puts his fire dead out with water.

Leaves a clean and sanitary camp.

Observes the State fish and game laws.

Cooperates with the forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires.

Preaches what he practices.

HELP KEEP THE FORESTS CLEAN AND GREEN

CARRY AN AX AND SHOVEL

Campers in the Tahoe National Forest must have a shovel and ax per car or pack train.

Shovel.—With blade at least 8 inches wide and an over-all length of not less than 36 inches.

Ax.—Boy's ax or better, with over-all length of at least 26 inches and head weighing 2 pounds or more.

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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OBSERVE THESE RULES

Free Public Use of National Forests Is Invited

Visitors to the Tahoe National Forest are required to observe the following rules:

- 1. A campfire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fire in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.
- 2. Every camping party in the national forests must be equipped with a shovel and an ax per vehicle or pack train. Shovel, with blade at least 8 inches wide, and an over-all length of 36 inches; ax, not less than 26 inches long over all, with head weighing 2 pounds or more. Both of these tools to be in serviceable condition. All camping parties will be expected to obtain these tools before entering the national forests.
- 3. During the fire season smoking is prohibited in the national forests, except in camps and places of habitation. In special posted areas smoking is allowed, but smokers must be careful to extinguish their lighted matches, cigars and cigarettes, and pipe heels. Watch for "No Smoking" and "Smoke Here" signs.
- 4. In periods of high fire hazard, camping and camp or picnic fires may be restricted to posted campgrounds, and part or all of the national forests may be closed to public use and travel. Watch for "Closed Area" signs.
- 5. Build small fires. Clear an area, down to mineral soil, not less than 10 feet in diameter before starting a fire.
- 6. Never leave a fire without totally extinguishing it with a plentiful supply of water.
- 7. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.
- 8. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.
 - 9. Observe the State fish and game laws.
 - 10. Drive carefully on mountain roads.

Your cooperation in the enforcement of these regulations is requested