

THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Lands of Many Uses



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

NATIONAL FORESTS of the PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The 154 National Forests and 18 National Grasslands of the United States are grouped into 10 regions totaling more than 186 million acres. Each Forest is divided into Ranger Districts which are the basic administrative units.

The Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) is composed of 20 National Forests and 1 National Grassland, totaling nearly 24 million acres in Oregon and Washington. The Regional Headquarters Office is located in Portland, Oregon. There are 14 Forests and 1 Grassland in Oregon and 6 Forests in Washington. The map on the last page of this booklet shows the location of the 20 Forests within the Region.



483847

The summit of the Cascade Range.

Cover: In the shadow of Mt. Jefferson, the Metolius River emerges full-blown.
437509

The Cascade range of mountains, with a north-south axis, is the principal physiographic feature of the region. Average elevations vary from five to six thousand feet. The mountains divide the region into two distinct climatic zones and two broad forest areas or types. Douglas-fir is the most prevalent tree species from the crest of the Cascade Mountains west to the Pacific Ocean. Western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and various true firs also grow in this area.

The drier climate east of the Cascade crest supports forests predominately of ponderosa pine. Douglas-fir, western larch, lodgepole pine, and true firs are intermingled with the ponderosa pine.



447041

A west-side forest, principally Douglas-fir.

The Olympic Peninsula, across Puget Sound from Seattle, is an area within the Douglas-fir zone which normally receives more precipitation than other forests west of the Cascades. The heavy precipitation in the Olympics produces the so-called rain forests of dense vegetation and trees of a very large size.

Several groups of mountains less extensive than the Cascades have a local effect on forest species and growth. These include the Coast Range of Western Oregon and Washington, the Siskiyou Mountains on the southern border of Oregon, the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon and Washington, and the Wallowa Mountains of Northeast Oregon.



437484

An east-side ponderosa pine forest.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS LANDS OF MANY USES

"It is the policy of the Congress that the National Forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes —

"The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield —

"Due consideration shall be given to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas — Areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act.

" 'Multiple Use' means the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people —

" 'Sustained Yield' . . . means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the National Forests without impairment of the productivity of the land."

From the Multiple Use Act, Public Law 86-517, 86th Congress, June 12, 1960.

National Forests Provide Five Renewable Resources

Water



485517

Recreation



495808

Wildlife



441742

Forage



488923

Wood



483191

WATER



483481

Use of water in the homes of America averages more than 150 gallons per person each day.

Water is the lifeblood of the land — and the lifeblood of civilization. Ample, pure water is indispensable to our growing economy and the welfare of the nation.

The goal of management on National Forest watersheds is to place and keep them in optimum condition for intake and transmission of water, to conserve water for all beneficial uses, and to reduce losses from destructive runoff and sedimentation.

Water from the forests is used for irrigation, electric power production, home consumption, manufacturing, air conditioning, pollution control, transportation, and for public recreation such as fishing, swimming and boating. Livestock and wild game also are dependent on the water.

Almost one-half the water which flows in the streams of Oregon and Washington originates on the National Forests. Over 150 cities and towns in the two states obtain their domestic water directly from National Forest lands.

Irrigation water from the National Forests.



481027



467789

Municipal and Domestic water from the National Forests.

RECREATION



470126

Trail riders in Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

The outstanding scenic beauty of the mountain ranges of the Northwest, in which the National Forests are located, attracts increasing numbers of recreationists from every state in the Union and from many foreign countries. Several million people enjoy the forest camps, winter sports, and other recreation areas each year. For those who prefer the solitude of wilderness-type areas, there are more than 2 million acres so dedicated. National Forest recreation stretches from lofty snow-capped mountains to the beaches of the Pacific Ocean and includes such diverse activities as camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, photography, swimming, boating, hiking, riding, pack trips, and scientific observation.

Trail hiking is enjoyed by everyone.



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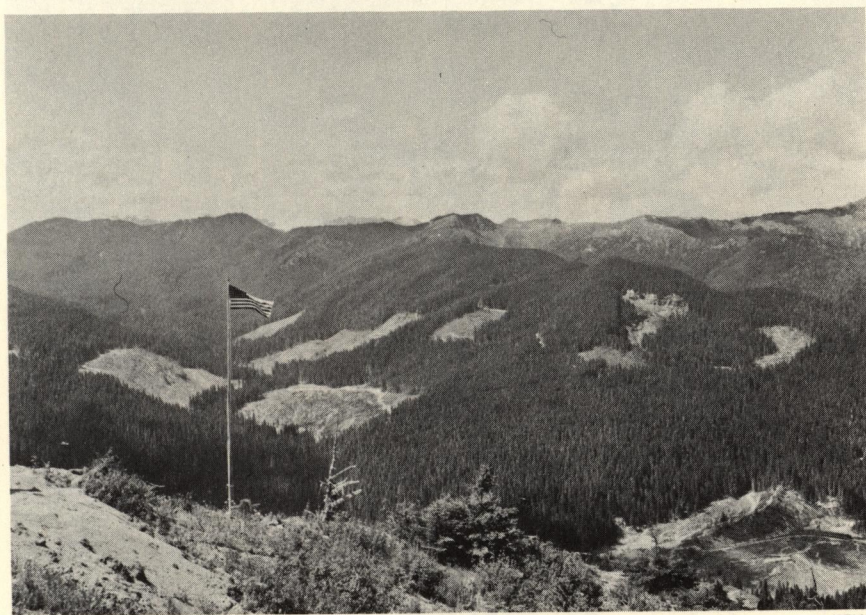
485653

Family groups enjoy camping and picnicking on the National Forests.

TIMBER

The forest trees of the Pacific Northwest provide raw material for a great array of wood products including lumber, plywood, railway ties, piling, poles, posts, mine timbers, specialty products, and fuel. Pulp and paper are a major product. Charcoal, explosives and plastics are among the less commonly known uses. Other products include Christmas trees, wood chemicals, and pulp for stockfeed.

For many years lumbering and associated activities have been major industries in the Pacific Northwest. The favorable climate and soils together with expanding technical skills produce a large volume of wood per acre to help sustain a high living standard for the American people. The National Forests of the region contain about one-third of the commercial forest land in the two states.



457022

Mature Douglas-fir is harvested in a staggered setting pattern of cutting.



456989

Timber fallers cut large Douglas-fir tree on a National Forest timber sale.



483201

Eight-year-old stand of planted Douglas-fir.

WILDLIFE

National Forest wildlife includes game animals, upland birds, waterfowl, and fish. Traditionally, fish, birds, and game are the property of the states in which they live, and the harvesting of wildlife is managed by the state fish and game organizations. The Forest Service is responsible for management of forest habitat for wildlife. Principal big game animals on Northwest National Forests are deer, elk, bear, and mountain goats; fur bearers include mink, otter, raccoon, beaver, and muskrat; and birds include grouse, water-fowl, and numerous song and predatory species.

The value of the forests to hunters and fishermen cannot be measured in monetary terms; their value to these users is not even approximated in the dollars spent for equipment, transportation, housing, and similar necessities.



483422

Fishing is enjoyed by all ages.

White-tailed deer.



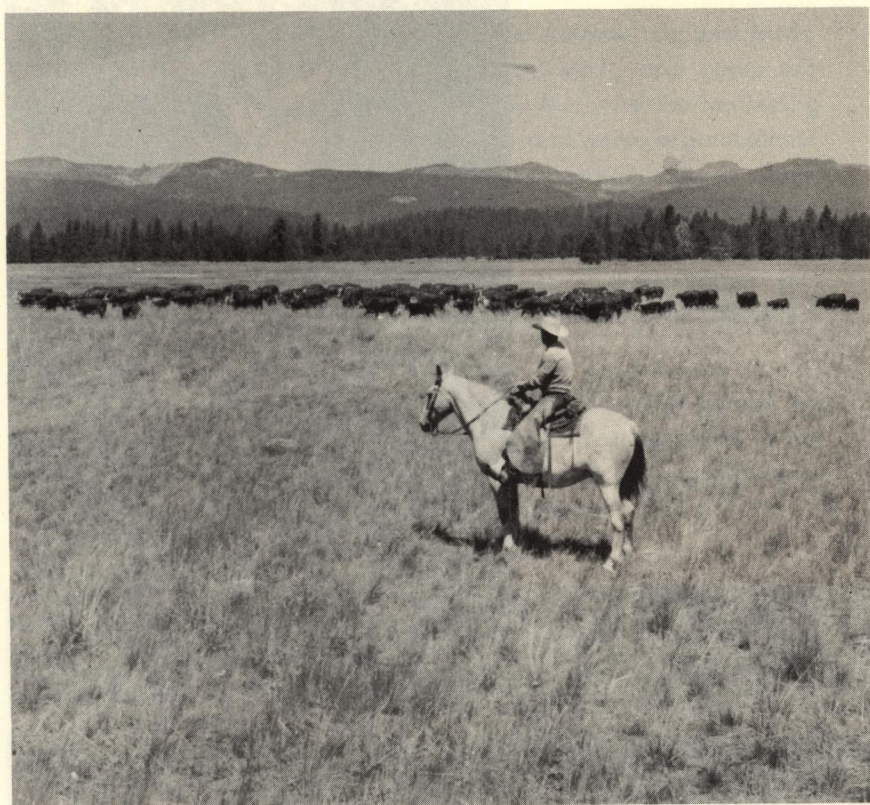
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Female
Traill's
Flycatcher
and family.

375576

FORAGE



492745

Cattle grazing on reseeded range.

The climate of the areas occupied by the National Forests east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains is such that the timber stands are more open than those west of the crest. The open stands produce grasses, weeds, and shrubs which are palatable and sustaining to both wild and domestic animals. The eight million acres of range lands within the Northwest National Forests and Grasslands produce sufficient forage to support over 90 thousand cattle and 140 thousand sheep during the summer grazing season.



470572

Sheep grazing in the North Cascades.



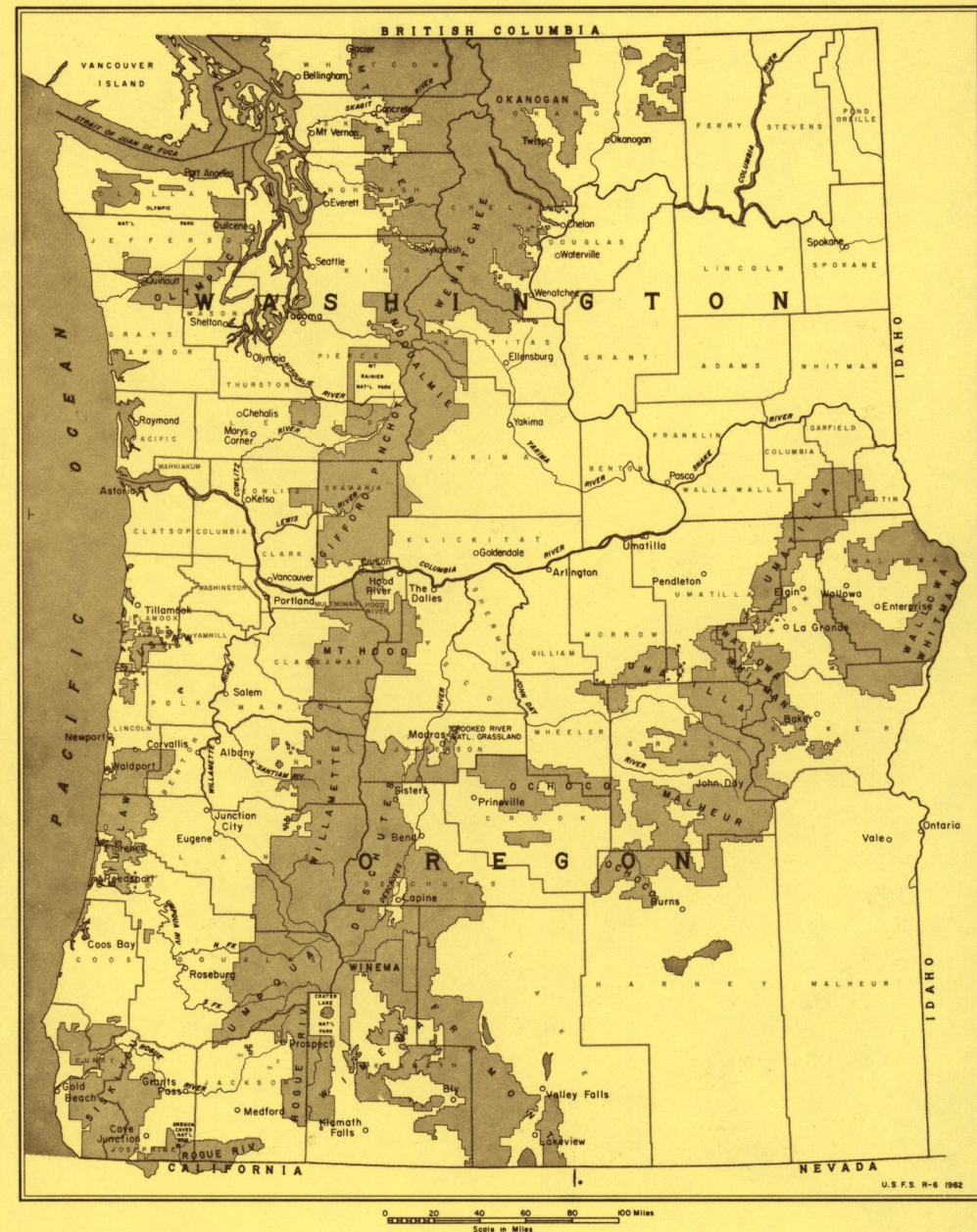
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Water developments and other range improvements aid in proper control and distribution of livestock.

SUMMARY

Natural resources on forest land are an essential part of and play a significant role in the mounting economic, cultural and social needs of the American public. Requirements for both domestic and industrial water are increasing; demands for fish and game are soaring; timber and allied industrial needs increase steadily; stockmen require forage for livestock; and the need for more recreational facilities is a pressing one. Although the mineral resources of the National Forest lands are not renewable, they, also, are an important resource of the land. The forest lands must be kept productive and the resources protected from fire, insects, and disease.

The Forest Service believes application of multiple use management principles to National Forest lands is the best way to meet the growing and vital need for forest resources. This includes practices which will improve existing forests and will assure better forests for the future.



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LEGEND

- STATE LINES
- COUNTY LINES
- NATIONAL FORESTS

You have so many reasons to
PROTECT YOUR FORESTS



Remember-
only YOU can prevent forest fires!