

Issued by  
The School of Forestry, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.  
Devoted to  
The Dissemination of Information Concerning the  
Forests and Forest Industries of Idaho.

FOREST PROTECTION IN IDAHO

Forest fires know no property, lines. Probably of this alone was born the idea of cooperative forest protection which many authorities consider one of the greatest and most far reaching steps ever taken in forestry and related lines of endeavor.

A little group of far sighted men - F.A. Blackwell, J.P. McGoldrick, F.J. Davies, and others - all interested in white pine stumpage in northern Idaho after years of uncoordinated effort to handle the fire problem, formed the Coeur d'Alene Timber Protective Association in 1906. The aims of the new organization are very completely and briefly stated in Article One of the Constitution and By-Laws:

"The name of this Association shall be Coeur d'Alene Timber Protective Association and its object the preservation of the forests of Idaho generally, and the district tributary to Coeur d'Alene Lake, particularly, from loss by fire and to enlist the aid of the United States and State Government in said work. Also such other matters as may be of mutual interest to its members, and to encourage the enactment of such laws as will best conserve the objects to be attained."

The aims set up in the beginning have never been changed and cooperation between the Association and the State and Federal governments has become steadily closer and more effective.

The idea of cooperative forest protection was quickly grasped by other Idaho timber owners, and the Pend Oreille, Clearwater, Potlatch Priest Lake and Southern Idaho Timber Protective Associations have all been formed long since and are effectively functioning.

Following Idaho's lead the idea was taken up in other northwestern states, later in other states and finally in the Canadian provinces until today with Associations still being formed the Idaho idea has spread from coast to coast on a scale hardly equalled in any other line of cooperative endeavor.

It should be a matter of great pride to Idaho people that an Idaho idea has spread to such magnificent proportions. And it is the duty of Idaho people particularly to understand and encourage the carrying out of the idea for in few states is there to be found such a large portion of land area permanently suited to timber production purposes and to no other, and in few states is the production of forest products of more importance in the economic life.

Idaho produces an enormous excess of forest products over and above her own needs and every shipment to other states and to foreign countries brings into Idaho money to pay for labor and supplies furnished by Idaho people. And in the process of production at many steps along the way enormous taxable values are created which are assessed along with other property for the support of our state and local governments and our penal, charitable and educational institu-

tions.

Most people of the State are aware of the fact that the State itself is a timber owner and on a very large scale. Not the least interesting and encouraging feature of the Association work in Idaho has been the intelligent and helpful cooperation of the state officials. For nearly twenty years those officials intrusted with the care of the State's own timber resources - the Governor, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State and State Auditor, together composing the State Board of Land Commissioners - have delegated the actual work of forest protection to the several Protective Associations in exactly the same manner as other large timber owners. And through the active participation of the State Land Commissioner and

his assistants the State itself has been in the closest touch with the work.

Under such a comprehensive scheme of protection possibly the publicity feature has been largely overlooked. It is regrettable in the extreme that Idaho people are not better informed of the ways and means in which their own property is being cared for and the welfare of the different communities insured.

Every Idaho citizen who has any feeling of the responsibilities of citizenship should learn the facts and tell others, should set an example of care and prudence in his own use of fire in the mountains and should be ever on the watch to lend his aid to those carrying the brunt of the fire fighting work.

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NEWS NOTES

Here is what a few fires have done in the past. In 1871, the Peshtigo fire in Wisconsin burned 1,200,000 acres of timber and cost 1,500 lives. In 1881, another fire in Michigan burned 1,000,000 acres and cost 138 lives. In the spring of 1894 the Phillips, Wisconsin, fire burned to death over 300 human beings. In the fall of the same year in Minnesota, fire ran over millions of acres in that State and in Wisconsin, devastated the towns of Hinckley, Sandstone, Barronnett, Perley, Clayton, Shell Lake, Cumberland, and Granite Lake, and killed over 400 people. In 1918, the terrible Cloquet, Minnesota, fire turned \$30,000,000 worth of timber and property into ashes and cost over 400 lives. In 1922 millions of dollars worth of privately owned timber and logging equipment were destroyed in Washington and Idaho.

fires were the three principal causes of man-caused fires within the national forests during 1923.

Every year forest fires in the United States destroy or damage timber of sufficient amount to build five-room houses for the entire population of a city the size of Denver, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Louisville, Kansas City, New Orleans, or Washington, D.C.

In 1922 there was a total of 51,891 forest fires in this country. The area burned was 11,500,000 acres, and the damage amounted to \$16,678,485. The 1923 fire season was not so severe primarily because of favorable weather conditions, and secondarily because the American public is beginning to realize the value of its timber resources, a priceless heritage that should not be wantonly destroyed.

Incendiarism, smoking, and camp

EVERYBODY LOSES WHEN THE FORESTS BURN

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FORESTRY PROTECTION IN IDAHO

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PRESIDENT COOLIDGE PROCLAIMS FOREST PROTECTION WEEK

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is essential to the continued comfort, welfare, and prosperity of the people of the United States that abundant forests, widely distributed and maintained in a condition of high productiveness, be forever wisely conserved as one of our greatest natural resources; and

WHEREAS, because of our constantly increasing need for wood and other forest products, together with our past failure to provide for reforestation, we are drawing upon our supplies of timber four times as fast as they are renewed through growth; and

WHEREAS, the most formidable agency of forest destruction and prevention of reforestation is fire and, of the fires which annually devastate vast areas, four-fifths are ascribed in origin to human agencies and virtually all may be controlled and made innocuous through prudence, care, and vigilance;

THEREFORE, I, CALVIN COOLIDGE, President of the United States, do urge upon the Governors of the various States to designate and set apart

the week of April 21-27, 1924, as Forest Protection Week, and, wherever practicable and not in conflict with State law or accepted customs, to celebrate Arbor Day within that week. I also urge all citizens, either in association or as individuals, all schools, and the press of the land to give common thought to the protection of our forests from fire, to the end that, in the future as in the past, these forests may supply us with wood, protect the purity of our streams, and otherwise serve the people of the United States.

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

Done at the City of Washington this 15th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of American the one hundred and forty eighth.

(Seal) CALVIN COOLIDGE

By the President:  
Charles E. Hughes  
Secretary of State.