



**THE EARLY DAYS OF THE
IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST
AND THE
FIRST FOREST RANGERS**

1908 - 1924

by
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**Idaho
National
Forest**

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WANTED: FOREST RANGERS
Must be able bodied and provide
own horses (2) and tack. Salary
\$60 per month. Applicants must
be between 21 and 40 years of
age. Applications are being ac-
cepted at the Idaho National
Forest Headquarters, McCall,
Idaho, until January 31st, 1910.

INTRODUCTION

The facsimile, above, of a newspaper advertisement that could have appeared in southwestern Idaho newspapers was a call to rugged individuals who were jacks of all trades, especially wilderness woodcraft, to fill the ranks of the recently formed U.S. Forest Service (1905) and the needs of the recently established Idaho National Forest (1908) in central Idaho. The very early years of the Idaho National Forest, to which the new Rangers were being called, is succinctly described by Julian Rothery, Supervisor of the Idaho Forest from 1910 to 1912:

" In the early days the Idaho [Forest] was the last frontier - a rocky, snow-buried land with only a few old pioneers scattered away on the Salmon River bars, or in their prospectors' cabins... The fires of 1910 burst out in a region so remote and inaccessible that no substantial effort could be made to control them, and in some cases they were never even discovered, and only the next year would a Ranger find the old scar!... I probably struck the Idaho [Forest] just as the last frontier was vanishing - by 1920 I suspect it was about gone, and today reflects an entirely different world." (Rothery 1940: 2-3).

Julian Rothery's predictions were basically true: The doubling of the land area of the Idaho Forest in 1919 (the Thunder Mountain Addition, discussed below) set the stage for extensive capital improvements which were essentially completed in the 1924-1926 time period: new ranger stations for new Ranger Districts, and hundreds of miles of trails and telephone lines. This bit of Forest Service history attempts to capture the flavor of "the old days" of the Idaho Forest, from the area's pre-National Forest status, to the establishment of the Idaho National Forest in 1908, through the major development period of the mid-1920's.

BACKGROUND

In 1967, the late Jim Hockaday, in his post-retirement as long-term Assistant Supervisor of the Payette National Forest, was commissioned to write a history of the Payette National Forest, which was published in January, 1968. (Hockaday 1968). Jim Hockaday was a former workmate of mine on the Payette, although a generation older. His expertise was grazing land management and, as the senior long-term officer, Jim was the "corporate memory" of the Payette, as all but two years of his 26-year Forest Service career (1940-1966) was spent on the Payette. Jim undertook a big job in writing the first history of the Payette, which was composed on a manual typewriter by his wife, Virginia, who still lives in McCall. Jim's work is the basis for this expanded history of the early days of the Idaho National Forest, one of the two predecessors to the current Payette National Forest. I am greatly indebted to Jim Hockaday for his basic historical research.

THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The National Forest System had its beginning with the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, wherein expansive tracts of timberlands, primarily in the western states, were set aside from the public domain and were administered by the Department of the Interior. In central Idaho the Bitterroot Forest Reserve was generally north of the Salmon River, with the southeast corner covering a part of Chamberlain Basin. The forested areas of southwestern Idaho were subsequently included in the Weiser Forest Reserve, covering the Weiser River watershed; the Payette Forest Reserve, generally covering the Payette River system; and the Sawtooth Forest Reserve, generally covering the forested area east of the Payette River system.

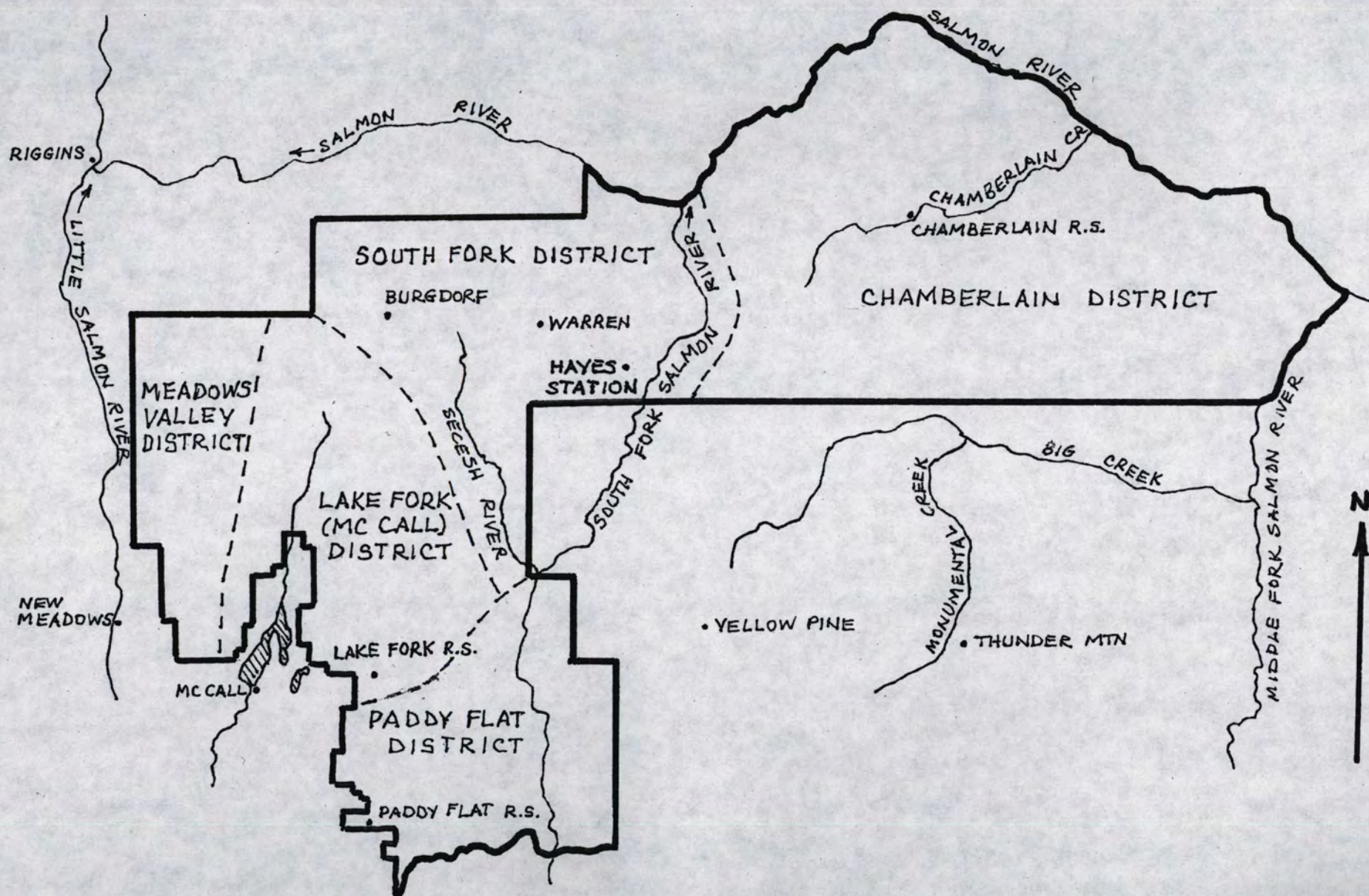
The time period of the creation of the Forest Reserves was a general awakening to the need for conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Upon the death of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt became President of the

United States on September 14, 1901. Roosevelt was an ardent outdoorsman and conservationist who was then afforded the opportunity, from his presidential chair, to push for expanded and more timely conservation actions. Gifford Pinchot, who was America's first technically-trained forester, and good friend of Roosevelt, prompted Roosevelt to deliver the following statement in his message to Congress on December 2, 1901:

"The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of forests by use. Forest protection is not an end in itself; it is a means to increase and sustain the resources of our country and the industries which depend on them. The preservation of our forests is an imperative business necessity. We have come to see clearly that whatever destroys the forest, except to make way for agriculture, threatens our well-being... The practical usefulness of the national forest reserves to the mining, grazing, irrigation and other interests of the regions in which the reserves lie, has led to a widespread demand by the people of the West for their protection and extension. The forest reserves will inevitably be of still greater use in the future than in the past. Additions should be made to them whenever practicable, and usefulness should be increased by a thoroughly businesslike management." (Pinchot 1947:190)

With the delivery of that message to Congress, Gifford Pinchot, then head of the Forestry Bureau within the Department of the Interior, announced on November 14, 1902, supplemented by an announcement on September 1, 1903, the intention to create additional forest reserves in the northwestern states, including extensive areas in Idaho south of the Salmon River. Some U.S. Senators and Congressmen, representing mining and lumber interests in those northwestern states, politically opposed the creation of those forest reserves. Among the forest reserve opponents was Idaho's Senator Weldon Heyburn who took office in January 1904. Heyburn led the successful campaign to exclude, from forest reserve status, over 1600 square miles of public domain in the Thunder Mountain - Big Creek area in the Salmon River backcountry, and the Marshall Lake Mining District west of Warren. These areas, which at that time were active mining areas, were returned to public domain status in December 1904. Heyburn began a campaign to discredit President Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot for their ambitious forest reserve actions but eventually lost (The Idaho Statesman 1990:42). More detail about Heyburn's battle with the Roosevelt administration and its impact on the history of the Idaho National Forest will be found later in the text.

On February 1, 1905, the Transfer Act established the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture, transferring the management of the forest reserves from the Interior Department. Gifford Pinchot was appointed Chief of the newly formed Forest Service. Consequently, in 1905, the National Forests, as we know them today, began to be established. Among the early National Forests was the



IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST 1908-1910
 (RANGER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATIONS)

Payette, created on June 3, 1905, which, at that time, was very large, covering most of the Payette River watershed. Similarly, the Weiser National Forest, covering the Weiser watershed, was created on May 25, 1905, with sizable additions in 1906 and 1907. The Idaho National Forest, established on July 1, 1908, as shown on the map on page 4 (from 1916 USFS map), was created from the north end of the original Payette National Forest and the southeast corner of the original Bitterroot Reserve. (Hockaday 1968:28,34).

FOREST RANGER QUALIFICATIONS

One of the first official Forest Service documents was the Use of National Forest Reserves, effective July 1, 1905, and immediately short titled the "Use Book." The Use Book was described by Gifford Pinchot, who was its principal author, as "a small pocket volume, bound in green cloth with rounded edges, containing less than 100 pages of general information and directions, regulations, and special instructions to forest officers. Extracts from laws and decisions and an index took up forty pages more." (Pinchot 1947:264). The Use Book included the qualifications for ranger applicants (Pinchot 1947:281), which stated that:

[Every Ranger applicant] "must be, first of all, thoroughly sound and able bodied, capable of enduring hardships and of performing severe labor under trying conditions... No one may expect to pass the examination who is not already able to take care of himself and his horses in regions remote from settlement and supplies. He must be able to build trails and cabins and to pack in provisions without assistance. He must know something of surveying, estimating and scaling timber, lumbering, and the livestock business... Experience, not book education, is sought, although ability to make simple maps and write intelligent reports upon ordinary reserve business is essential."

From descriptions of the activities of the Idaho National Forest's early rangers, the qualifications cited above were typical of their demonstrated capabilities. Not only were Rangers required to provide and keep their own horses, so too were the Forest Supervisors and the Forest Assistants (Pinchot 1947:281)

McCALL AREA'S FIRST U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER

When the Forest Service was created in 1905, the Civil Service Commission began appointing qualified individuals as Rangers. On September 13, 1905, Major F. A. Fenn, superintendent of Forest Reserves in southern Idaho, announced the selection of the first group of nine Rangers to begin the staffing of the newly-created National Forests. Among the nine appointees was Richard H. Rutledge, from Middleton, Idaho, who was assigned the area on the east side of upper Long Valley, on the old Payette National Forest. Rutledge's residence was at

Roseberry. Working with Rutledge were Forest Guards Jellison, Gray, and Herick. Their principal activity was fire suppression. Rutledge's tenure as the McCall area's first Ranger was short lived as he was reassigned 18 months later as Supervisor of the newly created Coeur d'Alene National Forest in north Idaho. (Long Valley Advocate, Sep 14, 1905, Aug 9, 1906, Jan 3, 1907). Richard Rutledge became Regional Forester (then called District Forester) for the Intermountain Region in 1920, a position he held until 1938. As the Intermountain Regional Forester, Rutledge was instrumental in the creation, in 1931, of the Idaho Primitive Area, the forerunner of the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness (Baird 1987:52-53).

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE TOWN OF McCALL

On the south shore of Payette Lake, the area's largest lake, a village began formation in the 1880's. In 1889 Thomas McCall and his family arrived to establish homesteads on the south shore of the lake. Tom McCall subdivided his homestead as the townsite of McCall and began selling lots. As the town developed on his real estate, Tom McCall became an entrepreneur: He was the town mayor, postmaster, and justice of the peace. He and his son Benjamin built the first sawmill in 1902 on the lakeshore near the current town center. The first mill burned in 1907, but was rebuilt the following year by McCall, Clem Blackwell, and Newt Williams. In 1910 the mill was purchased by Hans Thor Hoff (my wife's great grandfather), a Norwegian emigrant, and his oldest son Theodore. The mill burned again in 1912, leaving Hans Hoff dejected, but Theodore was determined to rebuild. The new mill reopened in the spring of 1913. Carl Brown, a successful freight and mail contractor, purchased a partnership in the sawmill which became known as Hoff and Brown Tie and Lumber Company. Hoff and Brown dissolved their partnership in 1930 and the business thenceforth was known as Brown's Tie and Lumber Company (McCall Historian 1941; Jordan 1961:61-103). The mill was the life-blood of McCall for many years until its closure in 1977. The Idaho National Forest was the source of much of the timber processed by the mill (Hockaday 1968:73, 74).

Prior to the creation of the Idaho National Forest in 1908 from the original Payette National Forest, an office of the Payette Forest was established in New Meadows in 1905. The Idaho National Forest headquarters initially occupied the New Meadows office, but was moved to McCall in February, 1909 (Mann 1969:1). Tom McCall is reported to have paid the \$80 moving cost and provided about an acre of land to have the office moved to McCall (Hockaday 1968:18). Tom McCall apparently had a sense that having the Idaho National Forest headquarters in McCall would be beneficial to the community and his real estate enterprise.

OTHER EARLY FOREST RANGERS

One of the area's first rangers was James Dawson McCall, Tom McCall's youngest son, sometimes known as "J.D.", but more often known as "Daws." In mid-May of 1906, Daws McCall took the Ranger examination at the New Meadows office of the old Payette National Forest. Daws McCall was given a temporary appointment as Ranger for the vast area that is now the McCall Ranger District on the "new" Payette Forest. How appropriate that his initial territory bears his name. J.D. McCall was confirmed as a USFS Ranger on March 8, 1907, along with other Long Valley applicants D.H. Kerby and C.E. Herrick (Kerby and Herrick descendants still live in Long Valley). Jesse W. Adamson is noted as the first ranger on the Meadows Valley District. He and Daws McCall completed a ranger cabin near the Lardo-Meadows road in December 1906, about half way between Payette Lake and Rock Flat. The following spring Daws McCall built a ranger cabin on Lake Creek, probably at the site of the current Burgdorf Guard Station (Long Valley Advocate, May 24, 1906; Dec 13, 1906; Mar 8, 1907; May 9, 1907).

The newness of the Forest Service may have prompted this somewhat poetic newspaper article about Daws McCall in the August 26, 1906, issue of the Long Valley Advocate:

HEROIC STRUGGLE WITH FOREST FIRE

"Up near Warren, not far from the Loon Lake region, lives a forest ranger whose name will long live in the Payette country. He is one of the men whom Uncle Sam has singled out for strength of limb and devotion to duty. He is one of the forest rangers - wilderness bred, strong of body and will, afraid of nothing alive, nor even, as he has just proved, of the elements themselves.

"At 9 o'clock on the 25th day of July [1906] commenced the crackle of the fire which has made Ranger J.D. McCall at once the envy and the admiration of his brother rangers in the great woods. McCall was alone, with help entirely out of the question, when the big fire commenced. In that region fires are fought with axe and shovel, and for three days the ranger worked and planned with shovel and woodcraft, until, having at last fringed [ringed] 200 acres with the trench which no fire can pass, he saved the rest of the pine on his patrol. For three days and three nights the dauntless ranger stuck to his task, never daring to close his eyes for sleep, nor to leave the spot. Help was out of the question, but the ranger's nerve was good, watching the crawl of the fire like a cat and heading it off with stratagem and sure-

ness. His single-handed fight is quite unmatched in recent history, and hardly 25,000 [board] feet of timber were destroyed. McCall is a native of Long Valley and is 23 years of age."

THE IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST -1908

When created from the original Payette National Forest in 1908, the Idaho National Forest was broken into several Ranger Districts, seemingly smaller than the giant Ranger Districts of the original Payette. The Ranger Districts of the Idaho were shaped to fit the geography and accessibility, and most of all were made such that a ranger on horseback could ride to the limits of his district in a day's time. The number of Districts and their boundaries changed as criteria changed with the passage of time. At this point in history it is not possible to accurately identify all the different Ranger District configurations from 1908 onward; however, there is sufficient information to illustrate periodic overviews. In 1908, for example, the Idaho National Forest was composed of the several Districts noted on the map on page 4:

1. Paddy Flat, including a portion of the South Fork of the Salmon later attended by a secondary Ranger Station at Poverty Flat on the upper South Fork.
2. McCall (Lake Fork), including remote Lick Creek drainage, attended by a secondary Ranger Station (in reality, a line cabin) at the confluence of Lick Creek and the North Fork of Lick Creek.
3. Meadows Valley, with Ranger Station at New Meadows (a Goose Lake Ranger Station is noted at the north end of Goose Lake in 1908, but abandoned soon thereafter).
4. South Fork, with Ranger Station at Hays Station, and a summer Ranger Station at Warren.
5. Chamberlain, a large remote area with Ranger Station at Chamberlain Meadows and, by 1912, a secondary station (line cabin) at Mosquito Springs.

EARLY RANGERS ON THE IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST

When the Idaho National Forest was established in 1908, Daws McCall was re-assigned as the first Ranger on the newly established South Fork District which was centered on the lower South Fork of the Salmon River. His ranger station, which became known as Hays Station, was the homestead of Charlie Hayes, near where a group of entrepreneurial Chinese grew vegetables for gold miners of nearby Warren until about 1902. Charles B. Hayes abandoned his homestead and gave his land rights to the Forest Service on June 30, 1908. Over the years the "e" in Hayes was dropped. In 1913, fire destroyed the Hays Ranger Station (Charlie Hayes' original cabin) and a new ranger cabin was built on the same site.

The 1913 Hays Station cabin is one of the oldest Forest Service buildings on the current Payette National Forest and is now an historic interpretive site (Kingsbury 1990:1).

Because of favorable climatic conditions in the lower South Fork there were several ranchers living on the river benches at the time that Daws McCall established his presence there. The ranchers raised vegetables and a few head of cattle which were sold to the residents of Warren. On an early district survey McCall recommended establishing a ranger station on Hitchelwood (now Oompaul) Creek, a tributary of the Secesh River, near its confluence with the South Fork of the Salmon. His report made note of "fertile ground" and stated that hay and grain could be grown there (Ortman 1975:5), but the site was not developed. There were a number of these river bars along the lower South Fork and its larger tributaries that soon became isolated homesteads.

In the spring of 1910 Daws McCall was reassigned as Ranger on the McCall (Lake Fork) District. Winter quarters for the McCall District Ranger were in the town of McCall and the summer Ranger Station was to be at an administrative site identified in 1907 on Lake Fork Creek. During the summers of 1910-1911 Ranger McCall built the first Ranger Station on Lake Fork Creek consisting of a three-room ranger's quarters, bunk house, and small warehouse (Hockaday 1968:39). Forest Supervisor Julian Rothery (July 1910 - June 1912) later made note that McCall had made "an excellent hewed timber bridge on Lake Fork [Creek]" (Rothery 1940:3). The former Ranger Station site is now a campground, and McCall's bridge crossing is still observable immediately south of the current modern bridge. As the railroad began working its way up through Long Valley to the town of McCall, Daws McCall resigned from the Forest Service in 1913 to begin a business of making railroad ties with a portable sawmill. His first mill site was at Squaw Meadows, north of McCall, and subsequently at various locations in the vicinity of Burgdorf. His tie making business was not too successful due to the high cost of hauling the ties to the railhead at McCall, established in 1914. An epidemic outbreak of mountain pine beetle brought McCall's tie making operation to a close in 1929 (Hockaday 1968:73).

Warren E. Cook (1876-1951): Warren Cook made the first Forest Service presence in Chamberlain Basin in 1907, when he was appointed deputy ranger. The Chamberlain area was then a part of the Bitterroot Forest. Cook had been owner of the ranch at Campbell's Ferry on the upper Salmon River in 1904 and was married to Rose Bernardi Aiken. She died on October 12, 1905, five days after the stillbirth of their child (Idaho County Free Press, Oct 26, 1905). When Cook was appointed Deputy Ranger in 1907 he built the first Forest Service cabin at Chamberlain Meadows and, at the same time, he made a homestead claim

there but the claim was later abandoned (Reddy 1995:45-46). Cook's tenure at the Chamberlain post was only a year as he was moved to Warren, on the South Fork District, when the Idaho National Forest was created in 1908.

Cook stayed two years at Warren, during which he did a mapping survey of the Salmon River using a hand-held compass. In later years, the Salmon River was resurveyed using modern instruments and Cook's survey was found to be surprisingly accurate. During his first year at Warren, Ranger Cook married the Warren school teacher, Helga Peterson (1883-1954); their first child, Dorothy, was born in 1909. It was in Warren that Warren Cook became a close friend of Dan McRae, Big Creek-Thunder Mountain prospector-miner. In the autumn of 1910, before the deep snow buried Warren, the Cook family moved to Roseberry, a few miles south of McCall, where Warren Cook assumed duty as Ranger of the Paddy Flat District. Their son John Cook (a member of the USFS trail crew at Big Creek in 1930's), was born at Roseberry in 1911. The family moved to McCall in 1912, where daughter Ruth was born in 1914 (Ruth married Dan McRae's son Robert). Helga was appointed postmistress of McCall in 1915, which prompted Warren to resign from the Forest Service to become Helga's Assistant Postmaster. The Cook's became very successful McCall business people in the acquisition and management of agricultural, rental, and banking properties (McRae pers. comm., 1996).

Ted McCall: Cyrus Theodore McCall (c1885 - 1912) was the second youngest son of Thomas McCall. He was appointed in 1908 as Ranger of the vast Chamberlain District, replacing Warren Cook. The nearest place of habitation to Ted's patrol area was the mining town of Warren, where he met Mary (Mamie) Carrey in 1909, she then a precocious young woman of fifteen. Mamie's stepfather, Bailey O. Dustin was a Forest Guard at Warren in 1909. In early 1910, Dustin won the backcountry mail carrier contract from Carl Brown (who later became the patriarch of McCall as owner of Brown's Tie & Lumber Company). In February 1910 Ted McCall and Mamie Carrey were married in McCall. Later that spring "Dad" McCall bought from Carl Brown the former Shiefer Ranch on the South Fork and gave it to Ted and Mamie as a wedding present. Carl and Ida Brown had lived at the place in 1909 when Carl had the contract postal route between Warren and Edwardsburg. (Jordan 1961:26-27). The South Fork ranch, as it came to be called, was ideally suited to Ted's patrols into the Chamberlain backcountry but Mamie did not like the isolation. Ted and Mamie's daughter Marjorie Belle McCall was born December 17, 1911. Ted became terminally ill in the early autumn of 1911 and died April 4, 1912. Young widow Mamie did not want to be saddled with a young child interfering with her social life so infant Marjorie was bundled off to Warren to be raised by Mamie's mother, Mary Carrey Dustin, wife of Bailey Dustin (Mamie subsequently became my wife's grandmother as a result of a short-lived relationship with Theodore Hoff's younger

brother Henry). Mamie Carrey McCall, having no interest in the South Fork ranch, turned it over to her older brother Tom Carrey. In 1925 Tom Carrey traded the ranch to the Forest Service and the former ranch became the South Fork Ranger Station (Preston 1994:18).

Other Chamberlain Rangers:

Note: The title "Ranger" was used somewhat loosely in early days to denote Ranger, Deputy Ranger, and sometimes Forest Guard. Newspaper articles, letters, and other historical accounts often did not make a distinction. Thus, the names appearing in this composite history are noted as "ranger" unless there is a reputable source which does make a distinction.

Fred Biggerstaff: is noted as Deputy Ranger in 1910; he later became a storekeeper in Warren. It was during this period that the Forest Service contracted Taylor Smith, of Warren, to string a telephone line to the "ranger station" at Mosquito Springs, on the west side of Chamberlain Basin. Taylor Smith was assisted by Dan and Henry Smith and Otis Morris. The telephone line ran from the former Badley Ranch, near the mouth of the South Fork, across the river and up the steep trail to Chicken Peak and along Horse Heaven Ridge to Mosquito Springs (Carrey 1968:60).

Jesse Root: had come to Chamberlain Basin with his father in 1891 and eventually established a homestead on Whimstick Creek in 1912 (Elsensohn 1971: 74). As a result of Ranger Ted McCall's serious illness in the autumn of 1911, Jesse was deputized as the Chamberlain Ranger. He occupied the original Forest Service cabin, which had been built by Warren Cook, then located southeast of the current Chamberlain ranger dwelling, on the east side of the north-south airstrip. In later years this original ranger cabin was moved to its current location immediately behind (west) of the current ranger dwelling. This former cabin was used until the early 1950's as a woodshed, then converted into a wash house-shower house in 1954, during which Ranger Val Simpson noted "J Root 1911" carved into the east-facing exterior wall, at the northeast corner (Simpson pers. comm., 1998). That inscription, however, was no longer evident when I inspected the building in July 1998. Root later became storekeeper-postmaster at Warren. He drowned in the Salmon River in 1935.

William A. (Bill) Gaines: is noted by former Chamberlain Ranger Glenn Thompson as occupying "a one-room log dwelling located about 100 yards southeast of the present [ranger] building" beginning in 1915 (Thompson 1968:2). This building is no doubt the same one occupied by Jesse Root, noted above. Bill Gaines is also noted as occupying the station at Mosquito Springs in 1918, and that his assistants were Clarence Scott and Clarence Hackett (Payette

Lakes Star, July 5, 1918). Clarence Hackett established a homestead on upper Elk Creek off the South Fork, still known as the Hackett ranch. Bill Gaines resigned from the Forest Service and established a homestead on the Salmon River opposite Lemhi Creek (Thompson 1968:2).

Walter Hill: is noted by Glenn Thompson as a successor to Bill Gaines (Thompson 1968:2). Interpolation of incomplete personnel records (Hockaday 1968: 153-154) indicate that Hill served as Chamberlain ranger until replaced by Dan LeVan. LeVan became Chamberlain ranger in March 1924, as noted in his personnel records (from a collection of Dan H. LeVan biographic material held by the author).

Other Early Idaho National Forest Officers:

Walter G Mann: Walter Mann began his Forest Service career on August 1, 1908, as Clerk in the Idaho National Forest Supervisor's Office, which was then at New Meadows. Henry A. Bergh was the first Supervisor of the newly-formed Idaho National Forest, from June 1908 to July 1910 (Hockaday 1968: 167). In October of 1909 Walter Mann assisted Jesse W. Adamson, first Ranger on the Meadows Valley District (and at least until 1914), to mark the north boundary of the Idaho National Forest. Mann described Jesse Adamson as "an old time Forest Ranger and never talked - never said anything that was not absolutely necessary" (Mann 1969:1). In May 1910 Mann was appointed Ranger in charge of the South Fork District (including the Warren area), with his resident station at Hays Station, recently vacated by Ranger J.D. McCall. Ranger Mann spent the summer of 1910 chasing fires on his large district with saddle horse and pack horse (Mann 1969:1). As autumn approached Ranger Mann began plans for his winter residence at Hays Station:

"Hayes Ranger Station was isolated in winter, and [I] had a year's supply of provisions hauled to Warren by team and wagon and then packed them to the station. There was no wagon road into the station. The main items were flour and bacon, beans, rice and raisins. I papered the inside of the cabin with old newspapers and took a new wife there to spend the winter of 1910 [-1911]. There were three feet of snow at the station. All traffic was by snow shoes or by dog sled. The mail was carried by dog team once a week [by Bailey Dustin or one of his Carrey step-sons] from Warren to Edwardsburg, and once a week I snowshoed to the trail crossing on the South Fork of the Salmon River [near the mouth of Pony Creek] where my mail was left at the Dustin Ranch [Mary Carrey Dustin was Ranger Ted McCall's mother-in-law], and returned to the station that night" (Mann 1969:4).

Ranger Mann was transferred in mid-March of 1911 from the Idaho Forest to the old Payette National Forest, where he was headquartered at Emmett. Walter Mann described the exit of himself and his wife from Hays Station:

"Deep snow still covered the whole country. The only way to get out was on snowshoes. I left my horses on lower range, sold [our unused] provisions to whoever would buy at less than half [the original] price. The snow did not have crust enough so a man could walk on top, and there was only one pair of snowshoes at the station. Consequently my wife and I walked out the first five miles, both on the same pair of snowshoes. I had a back pack of about 50 pounds and was first on the snowshoes with my feet tied on. My wife stood behind me without her feet being tied. I carried the back pack in front of me. We must both step at the same instant because, if I attempted to lift the snowshoe a split second before the wife lifted her foot, I took a tumble forward in the snow. However, we became adept because of necessity and climbed the five miles up over the divide [Warren Summit] on the same pair of snowshoes. After we struck the toboggan trail made by the dog teams [of the mail carrier] we could walk without snowshoes" (Mann 1969:5).

The Mann's spent the first night of their journey in Warren, en route to McCall, but they were on the trail again at 3:00 a.m., carrying a lantern, to walk on the hard-frozen crust that would be too soft for travel by mid-afternoon. Their second stop over was at Burgdorf Hot Springs, then day three to Halfway House at Squaw Meadows, arriving in McCall the end of the fourth day. Ranger Mann makes note that a day's pay was deducted from his salary because Forest Supervisor Julian Rothery thought he had taken too much time to walk the 63 miles from Hays Station to McCall (Mann 1969:6).

In assessing his tenure as Forest Supervisor, Julian Rothery later wrote, "Perhaps the most significant development in my time was the awakening to the necessity of roads, trails, and phone lines... I tried to push roads and trails ... into the more inaccessible areas everywhere." (Rothery 1940:3). A biographic sketch states, "Rothery hit Idaho just as the terrific fires of 1910 did, and went through that appalling summer fighting fires. His report on the disastrous season is still referred to by the old timers as a Rothery classic - and fire plans that he drew then, have largely formed the ground work for the present intensive system." Rothery, a 1908 graduate of the Yale Forest School, retired from the Forest Service in 1947 (Yale Forest School News, April 1947).

Rothery's clerk (a position that currently equates to Administrative Assistant) was S.C. "Charlie" Scribner, who replaced Walter Mann. Scribner departed the Idaho Forest in March 1913, had various roles in the Forest Service, and

became Supervisor of the adjacent Salmon National Forest 1922-1926. In March 1926 Charlie Scribner returned to the Idaho National Forest as Supervisor, a position he held until his retirement in 1936 (Hockaday 1968:168).

RANGER DUTIES

During the time that Walter Mann and Ted McCall were Rangers, and Warren Cook was a Deputy Ranger, the remote mining town of Warren had passed its boom time, but was still very active (see Helmers 1988, Reddy 1993). Similarly, the Thunder Mountain gold boom had passed by 1910 but the prospecting activity for the few years prior had established the South Fork Crossing as the strategic access route to the backcountry (see Preston 1994). The Forest Homestead Act of June 11, 1906, had reaffirmed that arable lands within the bounds of the National Forests were open to homesteading. During the peak of the backcountry mining boom, numbers of enterprising individuals saw an opportunity to engage in raising livestock to feed the prospectors and miners. Thus, virtually all the low elevation river bars and meadows became "ranches." The utility of most of these ranches was short lived as the market for the livestock soon disappeared. However, some of the ranches persisted and were claimed as homesteads, and Forest Service officers had the responsibility of examining these claims. The following account by Walter Mann illustrates the difficulties that the Forest Service officers experienced in examining these remote homestead claims (Mann 1969:1-4):

" In 1910 a forest homestead was to be examined and surveyed at Butts Bar on [the] main Salmon River a few miles below the mouth of the Middle Fork, and I was assigned the work. [South Fork Deputy] Ranger Walter F. Gaekel had tried to reach the bar in 1908 on horseback. He got lost in the wild country, one of his horses rolled over the cliffs and was killed, and he was forced to return with one horse after being out for three weeks.

" I had two Ranger Assistants who were Warren Cook and Ted McCall and [we] set out from Warren, Idaho, in June. We crossed Elk Mountain pass, 10,000 feet high [Elk Summit, 8670 ft], on crusted snow and on down through Chamberlain Basin. We picked up Jesse Root and went on down to Disappointment Creek to its junction with the main Salmon River. Summer had come in earnest down there at an elevation of 2300 feet. Our plan was to leave our horses and go up the river on foot, and Jesse Root was to stay and watch our horses until we returned. We did not know whether or not we would find the applicant on the land, so we took enough food to last three days. These provisions consisted of several bannocks of frying pan

bread, salt, rice, and a little bacon. Our equipment consisted of a pack sack for each man and compass, [surveyor's] chain, axe, and a small piece of rope.

"At 6:00 a.m. we started out. This canyon is extremely rocky and rough, and its depth is about 5000 feet. We planned to walk up the river along the edge of the stream. The water was high so it was necessary to walk on large boulders at the water's edge. In many places the perpendicular rock bluffs extended out into the water and made it necessary to climb high up hundred[s] of feet in order to get around them, only to come back down again a short distance from where we started up.

"This was rattlesnake country. Numerous clumps of bushes covered the rocky hillsides, and it was necessary to grasp and hold onto these bushes in order to get along and keep from falling in the river. Z-z-z-z-zt, and away would fly a cicada, or locust as we called them, but it might as well have been a rattlesnake, because a fellow would nearly jump off the cliff anyway. We got along, and the rattlesnakes did not bother [us] but those locust surely made life miserable during the whole trip.

"Then we came to a perpendicular wall that seemed to be a mile high, at the base of which was an eddy in the river about a 150 feet across. It was an awful climb so we decided to ferry across the eddy. A dead tree along the shore was chopped in two and the two pieces tied together with our rope and strap for the compass case, which made a ferry boat. A branch of a tree was procured for a paddle and we were ready to navigate. Ted McCall volunteered to be the skipper. We took off our clothes and first sent our packs and clothes across and the skiff worked very smoothly. I was the first passenger and sat astride the two logs while the skipper sat astride at the stern with the paddle. Midway on the voyage the port log kept trying to change sides with the starboard log; in other words, one log seemed to want to get on top of the other log, and it required a lot of maneuvering for me to ride it. Ranger Cook, standing on the bank, thought it was a funny show and laughed and laughed so loudly that the skipper was getting amused too and I had to threaten dire punishment in order to quiet the merriment. We steadied the logs and rowed across. The next passenger was Ranger Cook. He was a little heavier than I, and when the skiff got about midway the two logs did change sides and, plunk, went the passengers into the water. Now it was my turn to laugh. Standing on solid ground, as I was, it was really funny. There seemed to be an undercurrent and a whirlpool and the rangers struggled pretty lively for a moment but soon swam to shore on the proper side. Our piece of rope and compass strap were lost with the logs, but we were over and on our way."

Having crossed the Salmon River, they walked all day along the river, arriving at dark at what they thought to be Butts Bar, a wide place in the river bottom. They followed a footpath along a clear stream to a cabin. Standing in the doorway was E.C. Rucker, the claimant. The Forest Service officers told him what they were there for, and Rucker invited them in. Ranger Mann continues his story:

"There was not enough bedding in that cabin for one man, but the four of us slept there, and slept fine, too, regardless of the fact that Ranger McCall kept throwing bones out of his bed (it had probably been a dog bed). All Rucker had to eat ... was a string of dried meat and some salt. He was glad to get a share of our bannocks and rice. The meat was mountain sheep, he said, but the next day I noticed that he kept trying to shoot woodchucks so I decided it was woodchuck meat we were eating.

"The next day we surveyed the claim, and the third day we started back. Rucker said he owned a boat about a mile down the river and that he had started to tear it to pieces but that he would fix it up and take us down to our horses for \$10.00. We accepted the offer. This was in the days before expense accounts, and we were paying Jesse Root \$10.00 to watch our horses. Rucker said he had been a boatman for the Gilmore & Pittsburg railroad survey which had been made through the canyon. [The Pittsburg & Gilmore Railroad, which was to have been built on a water grade through the Salmon River canyon, had been extended westerly from Armstead, Montana, reaching Salmon City, Idaho, in 1909. However, construction was terminated at Salmon City and the rail line later abandoned, its rail bed now serving as the basis for Idaho State Highway 28] We reached the boat at 9 o'clock a.m. and found one side had been knocked off. It was a flat bottomed boat with end sweeps. We nailed on the missing side with a rock and battened the cracks. We took along some small boards, some nails and an old tin can. Rucker and Ranger McCall manned the sweeps. That was one thing Rucker could do well; he was a boatman and he knew the river. The river was rough, and the waves from the riffles ran high. It was the time of high water, and it seemed that the center of the river was nearly two feet higher than the sides. We got into the center of the river and rode the crest of the flood. Ranger Cook was kept busy nailing bats over the cracks to keep the water out, and I worked like the dickens bailing water...

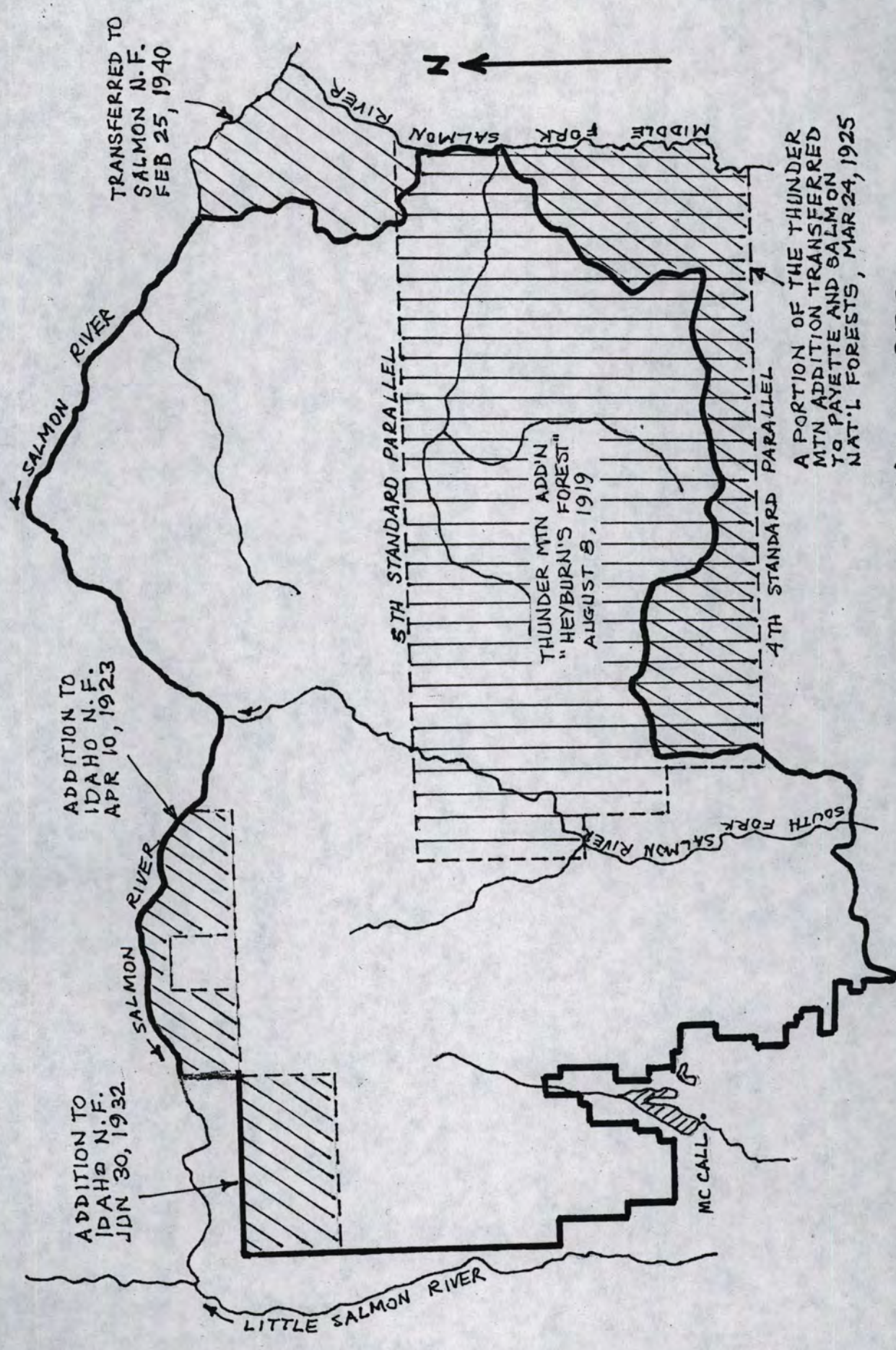
"We arrived at our camp and horses in just two hours' time after starting with the boat, covering a distance that had taken us 16 hours to cover on foot. Jesse Root had caught a nice string of trout in a side stream, and we had a fine dinner... Rucker followed our camp the next day to get a few more hot meals, then we gave him enough provisions to last him into Sal-

mon City where he said he was going. He said the boat did not belong to him but to another fellow. It could never be put back upstream. Yes, and we gave him a hair cut and clipped his whiskers. The survey was made."

This was just one illustrative homestead survey accomplished by Ranger Mann and his associates. After his departure from the Idaho Forest in the latter part of March 1911, Walter Mann served on the old Payette Forest, and the Boise Forest, as Ranger, Clerk, and Deputy Supervisor, until October 1917. At that time he returned to the Idaho National Forest as Supervisor, a position he held until January 1921. During his tenure as Supervisor he is noted for accommodating major changes on the Idaho Forest. In 1918 he surveyed the Forest for establishment of fire lookouts on Brundage Mountain, Granite Mountain, War Eagle, Sheepeater, Beaver Dam, and Sloan's Point. In July 1918 he revised the plans for the cable-supported South Fork pack bridge, changing the dimensions and the crossing point (construction of the bridge was supervised by South Fork District Ranger Charles DeWitt). Mann recognized that Hays Station was an inappropriate location for the South Fork District ranger so, states Mann, "I had the pleasure of moving the headquarters of that ranger to the town of Warren where he would have more contact with the people of the District." (Mann 1969: 7). As a result of that action the ranger district's name was changed from South Fork District to Warren District. The most dramatic change to the Idaho National Forest during Walter Mann's tenure as Forest Supervisor was the Thunder Mountain Addition in 1919 of over one million acres.

"HEYBURN'S FOREST" - THE THUNDER MOUNTAIN ADDITION

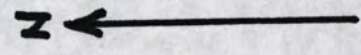
Among Idaho's several prominent and active mining areas during the period of the creation of the forest reserves was the remote Salmon River Mountains, which included the Thunder Mountain Mining District and the Alton and Big Creek Mining Districts of the upper Big Creek drainage. As earlier noted in this history, Idaho's zealous U.S. Senator Weldon Heyburn, in 1904, successfully sought Congressional exclusion of the Salmon River Mountains from forest reserve status, believing that he was saving the mining area from land use restrictions thought to be associated with the forest reserve. This vast area extended from the 3rd Standard Parallel on the south to the 5th Standard Parallel on the north, and from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River on the east to a north-south line on the west passing near the confluence of the Secesh River and the South Fork of the Salmon. The area, shown on the map on Page 18, came to be known as "Heyburn's Forest" (Hockaday 1968:28) and was excluded from the Idaho National Forest when it was created in 1908.



**IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST
LAND CHANGES 1919 - 1940**

A PORTION OF THE THUNDER
MTN ADDITION TRANSFERRED
TO PAYETTE AND SALMON
NAT'L FORESTS, MAR 24, 1925

THUNDER MTN ADD'N
"HEYBURN'S FOREST"
AUGUST 8, 1919



Weldon Brinton Heyburn (1852-1912) was "a young lawyer in wild and more or less lawless surroundings in the early days of the [mining developments of the] Coeur d'Alenes. He was a prominent member of one of the most brilliant groups of mining attorneys the West has ever known." Soon after his arrival in the northern Idaho mining area in 1883, Heyburn became active in the state's Republican Party and was a member of the Idaho Constitutional Convention. In 1903 Heyburn was elected to the U.S. Senate, and re-elected in 1909, serving in that position until his death in 1912. In his position as U.S. Senator, and with his interest and experience in Idaho's mining economy, Senator Heyburn became the self-appointed guardian of Idaho's mining interests. (Defenbach 1933:13). In this role, Heyburn began a campaign to curtail the growth of the forest reserve system and to discredit the natural resource conservation actions of the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt (Cook 1970:12-15). Senator Heyburn was infuriated when Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot published, in a Forest Service bulletin, an exchange of correspondence between Heyburn and Pinchot which cast Heyburn as the archenemy of the conservation movement. The political cartoon below, from the Spokane Spokesman-Review, is reflective of the public opinion of the battle between Heyburn and the Roosevelt administration (Pinchot 1947:301).



Old Mother Heyburn went to the cupboard,
 To get her poor dog a bone,
 When she got there, the cupboard was bare,
 And so the poor dog had none.
 - to Mr Pinchot - courtesy of
 N-C News
 Spokane Spokesman-Review

During the same period Heyburn had a harsh exchange of letters with President Roosevelt, which is summarized below:

"In 1906, when the Roosevelt administration proposed adding 17 million acres to the [forest] reserves, including 532,000 more in Idaho, Heyburn was violently opposed. In his view, the reserves were a threat to free enterprise, to industrial development, and to settlement of the land. He wrote Roosevelt that the reserves were paralyzing growth in Idaho, spooking mining investors. But the president stood by the Forest Service. Heyburn again wrote Roosevelt saying that Idaho's sovereignty was at stake, but the president again rebuffed the senator. Forests should be protected for the benefit of all, Roosevelt said, denouncing Heyburn's effort as a 'contrary policy of destruction of the state's future assets in the temporary interest of a few favored parties.' " (The Idaho Statesman 1990:42).

To spite the administration, Senator Heyburn co-sponsored an amendment to the 1907 Agricultural Appropriation Bill which forbade the establishment of any new National Forests in the six northwestern states without Congressional approval (this bill was the point in Forest Service history where the term "forest reserve" was replaced by "national forest"). President Roosevelt had little choice but to sign the bill, but did so at the last moment, on March 4, 1907. However, in the ten days prior to his signature on the bill, Roosevelt, with prompting by Gifford Pinchot, created or enlarged 21 national forests by presidential proclamation, adding 16 million acres to the National Forest System (Pinchot 1947: 257-258).

It is interesting to note that, during the 1906-1907 contentious period, the Weiser Forest Reserve was increased by 734,556 acres on May 10, 1906, and another 81,600 acres on March 2, 1907 (Hockaday 1968:34), only two days before the presidential proclamation period was terminated. The last-minute proclamations of 1907 angered Heyburn who retaliated by gutting the Forest Service budget for the next three years. Pinchot blamed Heyburn for the Forest Service being inadequately staffed and equipped such that the Forest Service could not cope with Idaho's disastrous 1910 fire season. Senator Heyburn was unrepentant, but Congress saw it differently and restored Forest Service funding in 1911. Heyburn died the following year (The Idaho Statesman 1990:42).

Soon after the establishment of the Idaho National Forest in 1908, the residents of the excluded area ("Heyburn's Forest"), including miners and others, observed that the Forest Service administration was beneficent. The beneficent actions of the Forest Service included the building and maintenance of trails and some roads, an extensive telephone network, fire control, and serving as the U.S. Government's land claims officer to resolve land claim disputes or otherwise adjudi-

cate land claims for mining or homesteading. These beneficent actions by the Forest Service in surrounding areas led the residents of the Thunder Mountain - Big Creek area to petition for that area's inclusion in the National Forest system. However, during the years that Senator Heyburn was in office the petitions went unheeded. With Senator Heyburn's death in 1912, the petitioning gained impetus. The Idaho State Legislature in 1917 (Cascade News, Feb 16, 1917) and 1919 passed resolutions urging Congress to include the Thunder Mountain - Big Creek area in the National Forest system. The 66th Congress, by act of the Legislature, dated August 8, 1919 (see at Appendix) added the previously-excluded area to the Idaho and (old) Payette National Forests. The Congressional act arbitrarily split the area on the line of the 4th Standard Parallel, but this was changed in 1925 to the topographic boundary currently dividing the Payette and Boise National Forests.

At the height of the Thunder Mountain gold boom around 1902 there were as many as 10,000 prospectors and various entrepreneurs in the area of "Heyburn's Forest", with about 7000 in and around the town of Roosevelt on Monumental Creek (Waite 1994:11). By the time of the inclusion of "Heyburn's Forest" into the Idaho and Payette National Forests in 1919, the area's gold boom had passed when the town of Roosevelt (named for President Theodore Roosevelt) was permanently inundated in 1909. The exodus of the prospectors prior to 1910 left the vast area populated by a few less than a hundred hardy homesteader-prospectors, primarily the remnant of the "ranchers" who were raising livestock to feed the miners. The "population centers" were the areas of relative low elevation along the South Fork of the Salmon, along lower Big Creek, and the end-of-the-road hamlets of Edwardsburg and Yellow Pine. The 1920 Federal census notes 37 residents in the South Fork area of Valley County (formed in 1917) and 55 residents in the Yellow Pine - Big Creek area. The once-booming Thunder Mountain area had been essentially depopulated; however, the summers saw the return of perhaps twenty or so miners to work the Sunnyside Mine at Thunder Mountain (U.S. Census 1920, Valley County, Idaho, South Fork and Yellow Pine Precincts).

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

The Thunder Mountain Addition, as it came to be called, almost doubled the land area of the Idaho National Forest and created a gigantic task in planning for its administration. Forest Supervisor Mann stated, "Andy Casner was [my] Assistant Supervisor the first year that the Thunder Mountain area was added. He spent the [1920] season over there getting information so the area could be put under [Forest Service] administration. He is entitled to a lot of credit for the first pioneering work." (Mann 1969: cover letter).

Recognizing the strategic importance of gaining access to the new area to be administered, one of Supervisor Mann's first actions was his announcement in February of 1920 that the Forest Service would begin a major road improvement project, rebuilding the Warren-to-Edwardsburg wagon road for automotive traffic. This project began in earnest in 1922 and was completed in 1924. An important element of this project was the 1922 construction of a pre-engineered wooden truss bridge at the South Fork crossing, supervised by Andy Casner (Preston 1994:17).

In March 1921 John Raphael succeeded Walter Mann as Supervisor of the Idaho Forest. Raphael's tenure was only a year, until March 1922. As he considered the impact of the Thunder Mountain Addition he later wrote a description of the conditions of that era:

"I soon saw my that my job was one of organization, building morale, integrity, interest in the job, and to make a sufficiently thorough study of the [Idaho] Forest and its problems to enable me to make plans for Ranger District organization, fire control, and development.

"The sustaining thought in those days seemed to be that the Rangers had to be kept in the backcountry during the winter doing something, if nothing more than shoveling snow - everyone was more concerned about game patrol, keeping in touch with a few settlers and prospectors, trying to get bridges and trails built, rather than building up an effective fire organization - - by the time fire season arrived none of them [the rangers] gave a tinker's damn whether they had a job or whether the woods all burned up. They had all soured on the job... Everything for the backcountry had to be freighted by team and wagon to the river [South Fork crossing], put across the river on a cable [trolley], then packed in by packstring."
(Hockaday 1968:32-33).

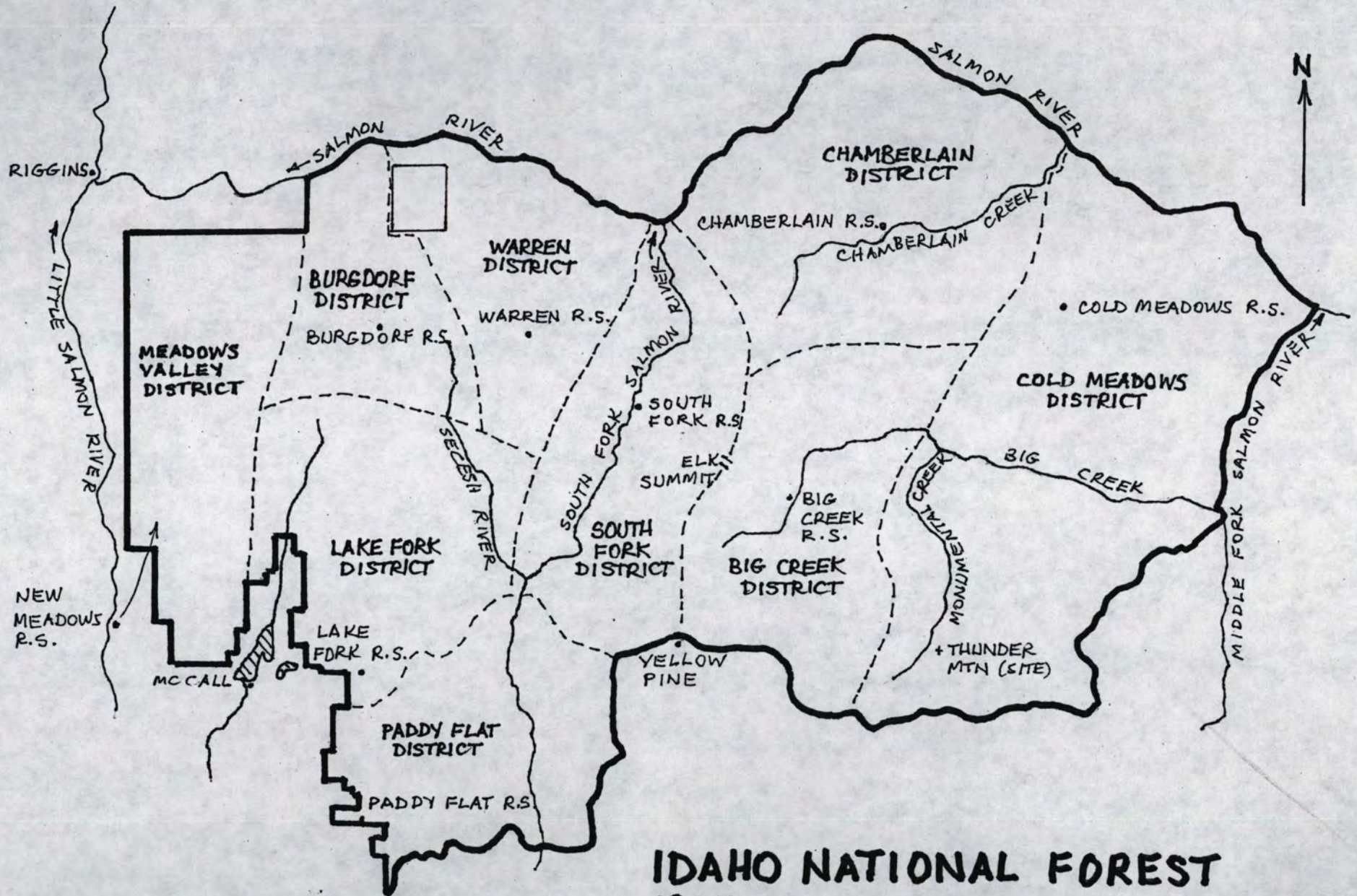
Lyle F. Watts, who had been Supervisor of the adjacent Weiser National Forest since 1920, became Supervisor of the Idaho National Forest in March 1922, a position he held until March 1926 (he later became Chief of the Forest Service). In 1924 Watts' Assistant Supervisor was James W. Farrell, who was a native of nearby Meadows Valley. Jim Farrell became Supervisor of the Idaho Forest in 1940 and supervised the consolidation of the Idaho and Weiser Forests in 1944. In 1945 Farrell became supervisor of the Boise National Forest and completed his illustrious career at the Washington Office of the Forest Service. (Hockaday 1968:154,168). In 1941 Watts wrote some recollections:

"Development of the country which we call the Thunder Mountain Addition (1919) was an interesting job - nothing had been done by way of developing this million acres of new National Forest. We wasted some money in very rapid development... I credit [Assistant Supervisor W.C.] Bill McCormick, [Ranger-at-Large] Jess Rutledge, [Ranger Merle] Blackie Wallace, and [Ranger] Dan LeVan with having done an outstanding job of opening up that country for fire protection in record time... The first year I was on the Idaho [Forest, 1921,] we did not have much [fire] protection in the backcountry. We knew damn little about it." (Hockaday 1968:31).

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RANGER DISTRICTS

Despite Watts' comment that some money was wasted in rapid development, the actions taken were effective, long lasting, and for the most part, are still evident today. New ranger districts were formed, as generally shown on the map on Page 24, and within those new ranger districts administrative facilities (ranger stations) were built in the 1924-1925 time period. In addition to the new districts, the Paddy Flat District gained significant new area on the upper South Fork. The Paddy Flat ranger at the time (1921-1923) was Walter Estep, who resigned from the Forest Service to engage in mining on Ramey Ridge, and was shot to death in 1935 on lower Big Creek for being overly friendly with another miner's wife (Preston 1996:6). Lee Kessler followed as Paddy Flat District Ranger, from 1923 to 1925 (Kessler was married to Nora Hoff, younger sister of Theodore Hoff and great aunt of my wife). The following is a synopsis of the early developments on the new districts:

1. Thunder Mountain District was focused on the mining area of that name. The first ranger was John Routson Jr, so stated his sister, Adelia Routson Parke (Parke 1955:63), who wrote a fascinating history of the Routson family life on their Big Creek homestead. Marjorie McRae Collord, daughter of miner Dan McRae, was living at the Dewey Mine at the time and remembers that John Routson's "ranger station" was one of the buildings at the Dewey Mine (Collord pers. comm:1996). This new district, however, lasted only about a year. On March 24, 1925, the backcountry boundary between the Idaho and old Payette Forests was redrawn such that the Thunder Mountain District was divided between the two Forests (Hockaday 1968:33). The northern part of the Thunder Mountain District was incorporated into the Idaho Forest's new Cold Meadows District, and the southern part incorporated into the old Payette Forest's Landmark District. John Routson Jr was transferred to the Payette Forest as ranger for the Landmark District, now part of the Cascade District of the Boise National Forest.



IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST
 1925 RANGER DISTRICTS
 (BOUNDARIES APPROXIMATE)

2. Chamberlain was a pre-existing district of the original Idaho National Forest. The eastern third of the original Chamberlain District was broken off and combined with the eastern part of the Thunder Mountain Addition to make the Cold Meadows District (see immediately below). At the time of the formation of the new districts in the early 1920's, the Chamberlain District was the beginning place of several career foresters:

Dan LeVan was appointed Ranger of the Chamberlain District in March 1924, staying until early 1926 when he was moved to the new Big Creek District (see below), where he spent most of his 32-year career, as noted in his personnel records (among LeVan biographic material held by the author).

Harold "Slim" Vassar, who was one of LeVan's assistants, began his 40-year career at Chamberlain in 1922. He followed LeVan to Big Creek as Fire Dispatcher, then spent his later years as the Chief Fire Dispatcher for the Payette National Forest until his retirement in 1962. (Hockaday 1968:169).

Don Park, my wife's father, began his Forest Service career in the early summer of 1925, when he rode into Chamberlain "with the old lame mule" and met Ranger LeVan. Don Park later wrote to Dan LeVan, "That would have been a rugged summer for me if you hadn't given me a couple of soogans [quilted bedroll], a pair of shoes, a [camp] kitchen and a gun, besides lots of good advice." (Park 1954:1). [In that era, rangers and forest guards carried pistols for killing marauding animals and horses with broken legs, and for apprehending law breakers]. Don Park spent a number of years in the Chamberlain - Big Creek area, finishing his long career in 1963 as Warehouseman for the Payette National Forest in McCall (Hockaday 1968:169).

The former Chamberlain Ranger Station, which is about 30 miles from road's end at Big Creek, remains as a guard station deep within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

3. Cold Meadows District was created from the eastern portion of the existing Chamberlain District and the eastern portion of the Thunder Mountain Addition (and the northern portion of the short-lived Thunder Mountain District when it was divided between the Idaho and Payette Forests in 1925). The first Cold Meadows District Ranger was Merle "Blackie" Wallace. In the 1924-1925 period a bunkhouse and a small commissary were built, primarily with on-site materials. As the distance from the road head at Big Creek was a lengthy pack trip, only a few panes of glass, nails, and minimal hardware were among the few manufactured items used in the construction of the Cold Meadows buildings, according to Emmet Routson who assisted Wallace in their construction (Routson pers. comm.: 1996). Emmet Routson, younger brother of John Routson Jr, was Wallace's

fire control assistant at that time. In 1930 Wallace established a homestead on Cabin Creek, adjacent to the former Caswell ranch. Wallace resigned from the Forest Service around 1932 to develop a hunting lodge known as the Flying "W" Ranch. Wallace was replaced by Warren Bowles, with Emmitt Routson as his Assistant Ranger (Routson pers. comm.:1996). Emmitt died in 1997 at age 91. As determined from an annotated 1926 map of the Idaho National Forest, the Cold Meadows District was reorganized prior to 1934, with the northern portion reattached to the Chamberlain District and the southern portion added to the Big Creek District. The former Cold Meadows Ranger Station, deep within the Frank Church- River of No Return Wilderness, remains as a Wilderness guard station.

4. Big Creek District was created from the western portion of the Thunder Mountain Addition. Fred Williams was the first Big Creek District Ranger. Williams was subsequently the Clerk on the Forest Supervisor's staff, and then took over the Lake Fork (McCall) District in 1930, a post he held until his death in 1954. Fred Williams tells of his first experience as Ranger on the Big Creek District:

"The next season [1922] headquarters was established in a set of old mining cabins on Smith Creek - the [first] station headquarters had been moved from Ramey Ridge. Said cabin had been had been used as a barn, no floor or windows - it was quite a classy place. That fall we moved to Edwardsburg... The move was accomplished with a six horse team and wagons, going up Smith Creek and down Government Creek [at that time the road down Smith Creek to Big Creek valley had not been completed]. On the way Hubert Knipe, commissary-man, lost all of his property records off one of the wagons going around a section of slide rock--- In 1923 we established headquarters at what is now Big Creek Headquarters - the Ranger Station was a 7' x 9' tent, the warehouse and office consisted of two 14' x 20' tents and the cook shack was made of whatever old canvas we could find." (Hockaday 1968:33).

The following year, 1924, the large ranger station-commissary building was started and finished in 1925. This building still stands in good repair. The ranger's residence was completed in 1925. In 1926 Dan LeVan took over as ranger on the Big Creek District, remaining in that position until 1950. For a number of years Ranger LeVan had charge of the Big Creek and Chamberlain Districts concurrently. The combined districts included 860,000 acres of wild land, 900 miles of trails (only 25 miles of road), and 470 miles of telephone line (LeVan personnel records).

5. South Fork District was recreated from the eastern portion of the Warren District and newly acquired land along the South Fork. As noted above, the South Fork ranch was acquired from Tom Carrey in 1925. The old structures

were razed and a new ranger station constructed at that site during the winter of 1925-26. Orin Latham was the first ranger of this reconfigured district. In 1932 the majority of the South Fork District was resubordinated to the Warren District, along with the short-lived Burgdorf District. (Preston 1996:4). At that time the South Fork administrative site became the South Fork Guard Station and a smaller southern part of the former South Fork District was added to newly-formed Krassel Ranger District, covering the middle and upper South Fork drainage.

NEW IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST HEADQUARTERS IN MCCALL

It was during Lyle Watts' tenure as Supervisor of the Idaho National Forest that the Forest Service acquired, for \$250, the nine-acre property on Lake Street in McCall, which was to be the Headquarters of the Idaho National Forest for many years, replacing the rented property in McCall. This was the site of the Supervisor's Office for 38 years, until the Supervisor and his staff moved in 1961 to more spacious quarters. This property on Lake Street still has the principal warehouse, storage buildings, and vehicle maintenance building. The former Supervisor's Office is now the McCall District Ranger Station. It is now hard to imagine that this small building, in the winters of the 1950's, was the office of the Supervisor and his staff, plus the backcountry rangers and their assistants, including myself. In a 1941 letter, Lyle Watts described that building:

"I think it was during the winter of 1923-24 that we acquired the site for the Forest Headquarters and built the office, warehouse, and stable. The buildings were built in the dead of winter, mostly by Ranger labor and under a building limitation of \$1000 per building. Incidentally, \$1000 wasn't enough to purchase the materials for the office building so a few of us bought materials for the front porch, the stairway, and for the completion of the second story... and had it installed." (Hockaday 1968:38).

So ended the great developmental period of the Idaho National Forest. The name "Idaho National Forest", however, became a source of confusion when the Idaho State Department of Forestry was created. Thus, it became appropriate to change the name. That change became effective on April 1, 1944, when the Idaho and Weiser National Forests were consolidated and renamed Payette National Forest. At the same time, the old Payette National Forest, which was adjacent to the Idaho National Forest on the south, was incorporated into the existing Boise National Forest. The legacy of the old Idaho National Forest remains an important period of the history of the Forest Service and the history of the State of Idaho.

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McCall Historian

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APPENDIX

66th CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT
1st Session. } No. 225.

ADDITION OF CERTAIN LANDS TO IDAHO AND PAYETTE
NATIONAL FORESTS, IDAHO.

AUGUST 8, 1919.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of
the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SMITH of Idaho, from the Committee on the Public Lands,
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1429.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1429) entitled "A bill adding certain lands to the Idaho National Forest and the Payette National Forest, in the State of Idaho," having had the same under consideration, report the bill back with the recommendation that it do pass.

The area proposed to be included in forest reserves in the pending bill contains approximately 1,137,500 acres. Of this amount 319,653.14 acres have been surveyed. Appropriations of record within the area aggregate 20,554.28 acres and are scattered and of the following classes: Surveyed school section, 16,520 acres; mineral entries, 561.38 acres; final homestead entries, 1,989.41 acres; unperfected homestead entries, 1,483.49 acres, and there is a pending desert application covering 67 acres. The land is very rugged in character; is chiefly valuable for forest purposes and for the protection of the sources of streams.

Furthermore, as a part of the public domain, the area does not have the adequate supervision to furnish protection against forest fires. For a number of years fires have originated in this region that have proven a menace and a great loss to the forests not only included within the area of the proposed reserves, but to the timbers of the forest reserves adjacent. One of the most serious fires of recent years and that is now raging had its origin in the area proposed to be placed in forest reserve in the pending bill. Under forest management, the region would be administered in systematic manner, fire stations being placed at suitable points, and unquestionably greater protection would be afforded against fire than it has been possible to afford heretofore. The rights of entrymen to homestead, mineral lands, or

2 ADDITION TO IDAHO AND PAYETTE NATIONAL FORESTS, IDAHO.

other entries are fully protected and it is believed that under the administration of the law, lands chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes that heretofore may not have been acquired will be acquired by the homesteader and that mining operations will not be impaired.

The Idaho State Legislature in its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions held in 1917 and 1919 passed resolutions urging upon Congress the inclusion of the Thunder Mountain region in forest reserves in line with the pending bill.

For the convenience of the House, there are added hereto the reports of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, addressed to the chairman of the Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 23, 1919.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I am in receipt of your request for report on H. R. 1429, which proposes to add the public lands within a therein-described area in central Idaho to the Idaho and Payette National Forests.

The area described in the bill is chiefly unsurveyed, and contains approximately 1,137,500 acres. This area is entirely surrounded by national forests, and the middle fork of the Salmon River forms its eastern boundary. The records of the General Land Office show that about 27 per cent, or 319,653.14 acres, therein have been surveyed. Such surveys are for the most part recent, and the field notes thereof report the lands a generally mountainous and timbered, with heavy undergrowth and abundant grasses throughout, affording excellent grazing, and that the area is well watered, with some agricultural lands along the streams and on the adjacent benches. The lands are now unwithdrawn. The entire area was, however, temporarily withdrawn for forestry purposes by this department on November 14, 1902, upon recommendation of the Geological Survey, and the greater portion was released from such withdrawal November 17, 1904, and the remainder September 30, 1907, such action having been recommended by the Department of Agriculture. The 1904 recommendation of that department stated, however, that while then-existing conditions did not justify reservation at that time, the area was natural forest-reserve land, and should at some later date be reserved for such purpose, and that there was very little probability of the title to any considerable amount of the land passing out of the Government.

The appropriations of record within this area aggregate 20,554.28 acres, and are scattered and of the following classes: Surveyed school sections, 16,520 acres; mineral entries, 561.38 acres; final homestead entries, 1,989.41 acres; imperfected homestead entries, 1,483.49 acres; and there is a pending desert application covering 67 acres. No applications for entry under the enlarged or grazing homestead laws are of record for any lands within the area involved, and none of the lands therein have been designated under either of such acts.

I am not advised as to the necessity for the proposed legislation, and am not sufficiently informed concerning the advisability of reserving the lands for forest purposes to make a specific recommendation. I would suggest a reference of the bill to the Secretary of Agriculture in view of its purpose, who has probably some data regarding the area, as it adjoins national forests under his administration.

Cordially, yours,

ALEXANDER T. VOGELSANG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, June 5, 1919.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: Receipt is acknowledged of a copy of the bill (H. R. 1429) adding certain lands to the Idaho National Forest and the Payette National Forest, in the State of Idaho, with the request that your committee be furnished a report

thereon, together with such suggestions and recommendations as this department may desire to make.

The bill proposes to add approximately 1,100,000 acres of public lands in central Idaho to two existing National Forests, the lands thereafter to be subject to all laws affecting national forests. This area has been examined by forest officers and the following facts are compiled from their reports:

The center of a compact tract of mountainous public lands, mostly unsurveyed, known as the Thunder Mountain region, lies 100 miles northeast of Boise—south of Salmon River and west of the Middle Fork of Salmon River. The area is surrounded by the following national forests: On the north and west, the Idaho; on the west and south, the Payette; on the east, the Challis and the Salmon. It has never been improved or protected under the national forest laws and regulations. When the surrounding national forests were created, it is understood that prominent residents of Idaho strongly objected to its inclusion on account of the fact that a notable mining boom was then in progress at Dewey and Roosevelt and it was feared that the application of Government control would restrict mining operations in such a way that desirable mineral development in the region would be prevented. In 1902 this section was the scene of great activity and thousands of miners and prospectors were living in the northeastern part. The boom collapsed several years ago and the population of the entire area of more than 1,000,000 acres does not now exceed 100 people.

The Thunder Mountain region is a high, rough mountain region dissected by deep canyons. The extremes of elevation run from 3,000 to 9,400 feet. Of the entire area 90 per cent consists of rocky peaks, ridges and slopes and approximately 85 per cent sustains a forest cover of mature timber or reproduction, the remaining 15 per cent being barren rock.

The approximate total area is 1,116,500 acres, of which only about 16,500 acres have been alienated, leaving a net area of 1,100,000 acres of public land.

The region is distinctly rough and mountainous with a large majority of slopes in excess of 45 per cent and many of 90 per cent or more. The precipitation varies with the elevation from 15 to 25 inches annually. Above 5,500 feet altitude killing frosts occur throughout the growing season. Approximately 400 acres are under cultivation at the present time. Not to exceed 5,000 acres, or less than one-half of 1 per cent, have soil or topography suitable for agriculture. Practically the only opportunities for agriculture exist on the benches and bars along the Middle and South Forks of Salmon River where alluvial soils are found at comparatively low altitudes.

At present there are no settlements. The log buildings of the first settlement, known as Thunder Mountain and located on Monumental Creek just below the mouth of the West Fork, are still standing for the most part but have not been occupied for years. The post office at Yellow Pine consists of a miner's cabin with no settlers or miners nearer than 3 miles. The post office at Edwardsburg was conducted by an unsuccessful miner who finally turned his attention to ranching. During boom days Edwardsburg was locally surveyed for a townsite but no action was ever taken. The town of Roosevelt was established in 1901 and soon became quite a settlement. Many of the buildings were of sawed timber and substantial in character. It was located on Monumental Creek just above the mouth of Mule Creek. In 1907, however, a landslide down Mule Creek dammed the waters of Monumental Creek and the town is now covered by a lake. The more substantial buildings were caught by the water and are now floating about the lake.

The area is entirely surrounded by national forests, and for this reason, as well as on account of the topography, it is an integral part of the Payette and the Idaho Forests and is necessary to their satisfactory administration and protection from fire. The three areas are so interlocked that an intelligent and comprehensive plan for the administration, protection, and improvement of the Idaho and Payette Forests demands also the extension of road, trail, and telephone systems through a large part of the Thunder Mountain region.

Conservative estimators state that the region contains fully 3,000,000,000 feet b. m. of such commercial timber as yellow pine, Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, and lodgepole pine. The best of the commercial timber lies in the northwestern portion; and, while at the present time it is quite inaccessible, it is, nevertheless, a forest property of high value. The extensive areas which have been swept clean by repeated forest fires are reproducing well in lodgepole and red fir. Lumbering is an unknown industry in the region. No commercial mill has ever been run. One man has a small mill on Big Creek, where he saws lumber for his own use, and small mills were at one time operated at the Century mine on Monumental Creek and at Eagle mines on Big Creek.

It is estimated that a total area of approximately 300,000 acres of timber, having a value of at least \$1,000,000, has been destroyed by fires. Protection is necessary both for the timber and the watershed. As the result of the destruction of timber along

Marble Creek, the high-water period is now at least a month earlier than in earlier days when the watershed was timbered. The fires are reported to have been set at the time of the mining boom, probably in order to clear mountain sides. At present they result largely from lightning and from careless methods of unregulated sheep-grazers. Since there is no organization for combating such fires, they constitute a great menace to the valuable timber of the national forests on the west, which are extremely difficult to protect from their most remote and unprotected side.

A large and important watershed is involved, as the Thunder Mountain region supplies at least 1,000 second-feet of water to the Columbia River at low water period. Reservoir sites are numerous. It is roughly estimated that more than 100,000 horsepower could be generated from the waters arising in the area.

The region includes no natural wonders, large lakes or features of special scenic interest. Deer and trout are plentiful and there are said to be a few sheep and goats.

The mineral resources have been exploited for 25 years and the assessment work is still being performed on a large number of claims, but the hundreds of claims which were located during the boom of 1901 have since been abandoned. Some high grade ore has been found and the general belief is that the region contains an abundance of low-grade ore, the exploitation of which awaits large scale operations and good facilities for transportation which do not exist at the present time. The Dewey Mines west of Thunder Mountain are still worked spasmodically. Several miners make a precarious living but most of them depend upon earnings from other sources to secure their supplies. Quite recently there has been development of the cinnabar properties on Fern and Cinnabar Creek and antimony properties near Yellow Pine Basin. One mining company, it was stated, was producing one tank per day of cinnabar worth \$105. The antimony mines are also producing a limited amount of metal. In July, 1913, the State Mine Inspector called particular attention to the deposits of these metals in a special bulletin. In his report for 1912 he deplored the inaccessible condition of the country and states that proper transportation facilities would result in "a most valuable asset to the State in the creation of new business, as the resources of this section of the State are of such a definite nature in both timber and mineral as to warrant the prospect of building up a labor market worth \$10,000,000 a year."

The nearest railway points are McCall and Cascade. The former is about 75 miles distant from the area by wagon road and the latter about 40 miles. There is an automobile stage from McCall to Warren, and powerful machines can get as far as the South Fork. At the time of the boom and for several years later there was a fairly comprehensive road system connecting the different points of interest to mining men. At present this system is deteriorated, grades destroyed, and bridges rotted out, until it is practically impossible to travel the country by other means than a saddle horse. Stretches of the old roads remain, but in order to put the transportation facilities of the country on a proper modern basis heavy expenditures would be necessary in reducing grades, restoring bridges, and fixing the remaining stretches of the old miners' roads. The examiner estimates that approximately \$400,000 would be needed to open up the country well to modern travel. Furthermore, for suitable protection from fire, trails would have to be restored, and about 75 miles of telephone would have to be built at an early date. The estimated cost of the trails would be \$50,000 and of the telephones about \$13,000. While these figures seem large, it must be remembered that at one time there was a system of roads and trails which was fairly adequate and that the suggested improvements represent, in part, the depreciation which has occurred through lack of care of the public facilities which then existed. The longer the region goes without attention to improvements the greater will be the eventual expenditure necessary to open it up to human use and occupation.

Sheep to the number of nearly 300,000 head have grazed on the area without restriction or regulation during the past year with the result that the watershed is being seriously affected. A fair estimate of the carrying capacity of the entire country has been placed from 75,000 to 100,000 head of sheep. The highest estimate was placed by a sheepman at 150,000 head. As the slopes are steep, overgrazing invariably results in serious erosion.

Officers of the Payette National Forest issued more than 75 crossing permits to sheepmen who desired to enter the Thunder Mountain region in 1913. The country is of such a character that close supervision is absolutely necessary to avoid disastrous overgrazing. The number of sheep going into the country is increasing each year, and already the south end of the area is not much better than a dust bed.

The increasing number of sheep grazed each year has alarmed the settlers and the miners, and they realize that their surest protection is through regulation of grazing. They are also very favorably disposed toward the possibilities for better transportation and communication which might result if the area were protected like the national forests.

In 1909, a petition was presented asking for the transfer of approximately 161,000 acres of this area to the Idaho National Forest. Legislation to accomplish this, however, was not enacted. In 1917, the fourteenth session of the State Legislature of Idaho, by a vote of 64 to 1 in the House, and 34 to 1 in the Senate, passed a joint memorial addressed to Congress praying for the establishment of a national forest upon the entire area for reasons set forth in the memorial. During the fifteenth session of the Idaho Legislature a similar memorial was adopted by unanimous vote.

The lands within this region are exactly the type which the law contemplates should be included in national forests. With the exception of a very small percentage of agricultural lands, practically all of which already has been claimed by settlements which would not be adversely affected by this measure, this area is essentially national-forest land. At the present time the timber, watershed values, range, and transportation facilities are being ruined by the lack of protection and proper management. This condition is gradually growing worse as time goes on. Under proper national forest management, these areas could be utilized by stockmen to the limit of the range capacity and overgrazing would be prevented. No doubt this would result in increasing the number of live stock which the range, in its improvised condition, can now properly support. Mining operations can be pursued as fully and freely under national forest management as upon the public domain. Any unoccupied tracts of land chiefly valuable for agriculture could be applied for by prospective settlers, and listed for homestead entry under the act of June 11, 1906 (34 Stat., 233). At the same time settlers upon unsurveyed lands could secure, without expense, the advantage of early surveys, enabling them to submit final proof and secure patent to their homesteads. Protection from fire, and the construction of suitable roads and trails to help develop these natural resources would develop this land into a real national asset where it is now a menace to the surrounding timber on adjoining national forests.

For these reasons this department approves the passage of the bill.

Very truly, yours,

D. F. HOUSTON, *Secretary.*

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