

The Early Forest Service Organization Era (1905-1909)

This era is marked by Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot taking bold strides to form an agency that would provide the needed forest protection and at the same time provide the needed resources for a growing country. Their actions were often times seen as controversial and counter-culture.

CURRENT ACRES IN FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
172,230,000

1905 – AUDUBON SOCIETY FORMED

JOHN MUIR (1838-1914)

John Muir left his native Scotland in 1849 to start a new life on the Wisconsin frontier.

His efforts at trying to have the national forests be more like national parks were countered by Gifford Pinchot with the notion that forests were to be used, while parks were to be preserved.

Muir wrote: "Any fool can destroy trees. They cannot run away; and if they could, they would still be destroyed – chased and hunted down as long as fun or a dollar could be got out of their bark hides...God has cared for these trees, saved them...but he cannot save them from fools – only Uncle Sam can do that."



From left to right, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and John Muir.



1905 - Albert Einstein presented his 'Theory of Relativity'.



1908-The Forest Service Office of State and Private Cooperation is established. Concerned about a "timber famine" the office was established to reach the private timber owners who would be key to future forest conditions and timber supplies.

Theodore Roosevelt



1905

1906

1907

1908

1909

William H. Taft



Presidents of the United States

Chiefs of the Forest Service

Gifford Pinchot

Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the Forest Service was born on August 11, 1865, in Simsbury, Connecticut. His family was well-to-do upper-class merchants, politicians, and landowners.

After graduating from Yale University he worked for three years as a resident forester for George Vanderbilt's Billmore Forest Estate at Asheville, NC.

He was named chief of the Division of Forestry in 1898.

The management of the forest reserves was transferred from the Department of the Interior to Agriculture and the new Forest Service in 1905. The chief, or forester, of the new Forest Service was Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot, with President Theodore Roosevelt's willing approval, restructured and professionalized the management of the national forests, as well as greatly increased their area and number. He had a strong hand in guiding the fledgling organization toward the utilitarian philosophy of the "greatest good for the greatest number." Pinchot added the phrase "in the long run" to emphasize that forest management consists of long-term decisions.

In 1905 the forest reserves numbered 60 units covering 56 million acres; in 1910 there were 150 national forests covering 172 million acres.

He was the primary founder of the Society of American Foresters, which first met at his home in Washington in November 1900.

He continued as forester until 1910, when President Taft fired him in a controversy over coal claims in Alaska.

1905 – FEBRUARY 1ST – THE TRANSFER ACT transfers administration of the forest reserves from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

Hershey's Kisses were first made in 1907.

THE MIDNIGHT RESERVES

In March of 1907, the Fulton Amendment, a rider to the annual agricultural appropriations bill, proposed to prohibit the President from creating any additional forest reserves in six western states, take away the President's power to proclaim reserves and give Congress alone the authority to establish reserves.

However, before this bill could be signed into law on March 7, Gifford Pinchot and the President came up with a plan.

On the eve of the bill's signing, Pinchot and his assistant Arthur C. Ringland used a blue pencil to draw many new forest reserves on maps.

As soon as a map was finished and a proclamation written, the President signed the paper to establish another forest reserve. Over 16 million acres were added at this late hour and those lands became known as the "Midnight Reserves."

The Fulton Amendment also changed the name of the 'Forest Reserves' to "National Forests" to make it clear that the forests were to be used and not preserved.



1906 – JUNE 8TH – PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES ACT

prohibits excavation, collection or destruction of historic or prehistoric objects on public lands. This act also established national monuments—by 1933, the Forest Service had over 25 national monuments. All were transferred to the National Park Service in 1933.

1908 - Ford introduces Model T

Pinchot announced a contest among Washington office employees. None of the entries were acceptable. Edward T. Allen, one of the judges and an associate, William C. Hodge, Jr., came up with the design that became the official badge.

Allen was attracted by the type of shield used by the Union Pacific Railroad and began to trace an outline of the shield on a sheet of paper. Hodge, looking on, was inspired to sketch a fir tree on a sheet of "toil-you-own" cigarette paper he took from his pocket.

The two men then quickly wrote "Forest Service" across the top and "Department of Agriculture" across the bottom.

The large bronze badge – about 3 inches in diameter, slightly convex with raised letters and tree – was issued to all field officers by July 1, 1905. The present bronze badge, first issued in 1915, is smaller than the original.



On February 1, 1905, Pinchot was able to unify all Federal forest administration under the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Forestry. The FOREST SERVICE was established with a simple name change on July 1, 1905. This move also marked the end of ranges as political appointees. Now they were selected through comprehensive field and written civil service examinations. These new standards helped create a workforce that was well qualified and inspired by Pinchot's leadership.

1906 – First radio broadcast

THE USE BOOK

In 1907 the public version of the Use Book was published. It was designed to influence the public to the value of National Forests.

TO THE PUBLIC:

"Many people do not know what National Forests are, and many have heard much about them. The facts in this book of their true purpose and use. A little knowledge is worth more than a great deal of misdirection. The National Forests were already among all the people of the West and inland of the whole country. They offer directly or indirectly every great resource known to us. It is the object of this publication to explain just what they mean, what they do for us, and how to use them."

1908 – Chicago Cubs win the World Series



1908 – National Forest management was formally decentralized when District Offices (later renamed Regional Offices in 1930) were established in Denver, Ogden, Missoula, Albuquerque, San Francisco and Portland.



1908 – First Forest Service experiment station is established at Fort Valley, Arizona.



January 7, 1910 – President Taft didn't share the passion that Theodore Roosevelt had for the natural world. When a dispute between the Secretary of the Interior Ballinger and Pinchot erupted over coal fields in Alaska it resulted in Pinchot being fired for insubordination.

THE USE BOOK – JULY 1, 1905

The first Use Book, so named by Gifford Pinchot because the forests are for use, contained all of the regulations and instructions for a ranger. It had 142 pages, was 4 1/4" by 6 3/4" and would slip easily into the ranger's pocket while he patrolled his district on horseback.

The Forest Service manual has grown to encompass multiple volumes, in both print and electronic formats.



View of the destruction brought about by the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906