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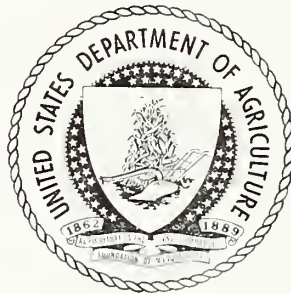
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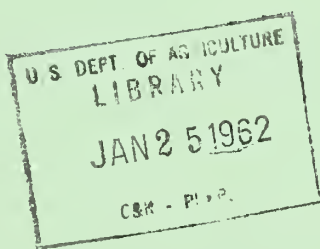
# NATIONAL FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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**FACT SHEET**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## NATIONAL FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon) there are 21 National Forests and one National Grassland, covering 25 million acres, under the administration of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. These units of the National Forest System include 85 percent of the Federal forest lands in these two States, 47 percent of all forested land in these two States, and 24 percent of the total area in these two States.

About 40 percent of the National Forest acreage of the Pacific Northwest is in Washington and 60 percent is in Oregon.

The National Forests are established and administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes. In accordance with the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield.

On September 21 of this year President Kennedy recommended to the Congress "A Development Program for the National Forests" prepared by the Department of Agriculture as a sequel to his earlier messages to the Congress on Natural Resources and American Agriculture in which he urged that forest development on public lands be accelerated.

### National Forest Recreation

The use of the National Forests for recreation, including fishing and hunting, is one of the more important National Forest uses of the region and is growing yearly. This may be attributed to the extraordinarily rapid population growth of the Northwest, the proximity of National Forests to urban centers, the increased accessibility of the National Forests through continued development of a road system, an increase in leisure time available to families, and the general trend for more and more families to spend their vacations camping out-of-doors.

#### Recreation Use

In 1960 the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest received nearly 10 million recreation visits, not counting the vast numbers who merely passed through the National Forests mainly on through highways. This degree of use reflects a phenomenal increase in recent years. This is 3 times more than the use 10 years ago and nearly 4½ times more than the use two decades ago.

Of these 10 million recreation visits in 1960, about one-fourth were hunters and fishermen.

The National Forests offer a wide variety of recreation use including camp and picnic sites, organization camps, hotels and resorts, recreation residences, swimming and boating sites, winter sports developments and extensive wild and wilderness areas. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, there are 896 camp and picnic grounds having a total capacity at one time of 56,300 people. There are 100 organization camps permitted on the National Forests that can accommodate about 8,000 people. Twenty-seven winter sports developments can accommodate over 34,000 skiers and other winter sports enthusiasts at one time. There are some 900 lakes, over 11,000 miles of fishing streams, and an estimated 800,000 big game animals.

### Wilderness Areas

There are 14 wilderness, wild and primitive areas designated in the National Forests of the two States having a total acreage of over 2 million acres. Washington has nearly twice as much acreage so designated as does Oregon and ranks fifth among all States. These areas in which roads and commercial timber logging are excluded had nearly 53,000 recreation visits in 1960.

### The Outlook for Recreation

The rapid upward trend in recreational use is expected to continue. By the year 2000 seven times as many recreation visits are expected to the National Forests of Oregon and Washington as occurred in 1960. This would mean a total use of over 70 million visits.

Present facilities to accommodate current use are overtaxed, inadequate in number, and are in need of maintenance and expansion. The National Forest Development Program for the next 10 years envisions recreational developments which should improve the quality of services offered and provide the facilities needed to accommodate the use expected 10 years hence. These plans include, among other things, the construction of an additional 2570 campgrounds, picnic sites and related facilities, the development of several areas of special significance with provision for informational, interpretive and other facilities to accommodate heavy concentrations of visitors. The plans also include the improvement and development of 116,000 acres of game range, 1,800 miles of stream and 29,000 acres of lakes. Such plans are part of the over-all Development Program for the National Forests recently sent to the Congress.

## Other National Forest Facts

### Timber Resources

The National Forests of Washington and Oregon support 309 billion feet of sawtimber, which is 41 percent of the total sawtimber stand in the two States. Washington and Oregon are by far the two most heavily forested States of the Nation. In 1960 over 3.5 billion board feet was harvested from National Forest lands of the Pacific Northwest--more than 10 percent of the total national timber cut. The timber industry of the two States is a vital segment of their economy, and is heavily dependent upon National Forest timber.

### Water Resources

The National Forests of the region, for the most part, blanket both the Washington and Oregon Cascades, which are the principal water-yielding areas of the two States. The National Forests receive about 40 percent of the precipitation in the region and deliver about 45 percent of the stream-flow. Much of the water that is used for agriculture, industry, domestic purposes, and hydroelectric power originates on National Forest watersheds. Both the cities of Seattle and Portland obtain a major share of their water supply from National Forest lands specially designated for these purposes, as do a great many small towns and communities.

### Range Resources

The 7.5 million acres of National Forest range land graze 100,000 cattle and 141,000 sheep under permits issued to some 3500 stockmen. The continued utilization of these range resources under proper management practices is an integral part of National Forest policy and the National Forest Development Program.

### Revenues and Expenditures

The National Forests of the region in F.Y. 1961 returned revenues of \$58 million, largely from the sale of timber. Expenditures for the same year were \$43 million.

Payments made to the States for distribution to the counties in which National Forest lands occur amounted to \$14.5 million or 25 percent of gross revenues. These payments must be used for public roads or schools in the county and were received by 57 of the 73 counties in the two States.



