

Forward

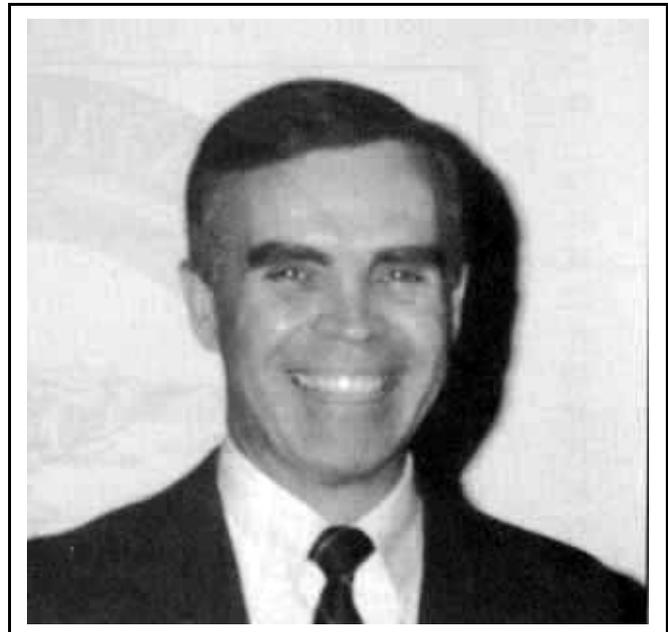
We have no way of knowing who first named the area called the Uinta National Forest. We do know that the word “Uinta” comes from a Native American word meaning “pine tree” or “pine forest.” The forested areas, wonderful streams, meadows, striking mountains and rock formations, along with the native wildlife, fish and plants make this National Forest one of the finest lands that we have in our entire country!

We expect the early inhabitants relied very heavily on the natural resources that were produced on the Uinta. Their lives depended on the wild animals, fish, plants, and clean water that came from the Uinta. Products from the Forest were undoubtedly used for clothing, shelter, and heat for warmth and cooking.

While little is known about the early people’s use of the Forest, much more is known about the settlers that moved here from the East. These people were very dependent on forest resources to carve out a settlement suitable for their needs. Their use of the land actually resulted in the designation of the Forest as Utah’s First Reserve. The designation was, in part, to protect the resources for future generations through wise-use of renewable natural resources. The Forest Service was created as the conservation leader to manage these national treasures.

While we are not nearly as dependent today on forest products from the Uinta National Forest, the need to provide natural resources for the American people and the challenge to protect the ecological and social values has never been greater. Today, recreation use on the Forest, along with clean air and clean water, are the most important “products” we provide. With the many stresses that life and work present us, the opportunity to come to the Uinta National Forest to “re-create” oneself is an invaluable resource for the American people. There are still many places on the Forest that have changed little since designation as a Forest Reserve 100 years ago. Yet, many areas have changed due to our use and the large numbers of people that come to enjoy their National Forest.

No one will dispute the large population increase around the Uinta National Forest and the increasing numbers of people, with diverse uses on the Forest. At the same time Federal budgets and work force are declining. We have been successful in the past to work in partnership with the owners of the Uinta to make it a better place for all. The local people have been especially generous in the many hours they have given to improve and protect “their Forest.” We could not have done as much in the past without them and we must ask for more of their help and support in the future.



Peter W. Karp, Uinta National Forest Supervisor

Our challenges for the future 100 years of the Uinta will be quite different from the first 100 years. The Uinta is now one of about 15 National Forests in the whole country that is designated as an “Urban National Forest.” That is, a forest within a one hour drive of a million or more people. Our needs for the future will include clean air, clean water, and a place to “re-create” oneself. With increasing populations, we will face new challenges to meet those needs. Continued volunteering and partnering by the owners and managers of these lands will help provide solutions for the future. Designation of some lands as wilderness areas will help protect part of what existed over the last 100 years and more. Creation of other areas, such as a “Children’s Forest,” will provide an outdoor learning center for the youth that will eventually care for these lands. Wise and careful use by all of us ensures that these lands will be available to provide the joy we experience today and well into the next millennium. Each of us has a responsibility to care for the lands and resources of the Uinta National Forest.

Peter W. Karp
Forest Supervisor



Uinta National Forest Centennial Logo. Adopted as the official Forest Logo on February 22, 1997.