1908 Chelan NF established with headquarters in Chelan. Forest included land between Cascade Crest and Okanogan River and Canadian border to the divide between the Chelan and Entiat watersheds.

1911 Okanogan NF formed from Okanogan County portion of the Chelan NF with headquarters in Okanogan.

Harry M. Hale - 1st Forest Supervisor

First RDs - Conconully and Twisp RDs

1911-1915 6 RDs - Conconully, Sweat Creek, Loomis, Twisp, Squaw Creek and Winthrop.

1921 Okanogan and Chelan NFs combined to form the Chelan National Forest with headquarters in Okanogan; 7 RDs - Twisp, Squaw Creek, Winthrop, Loomis, Sweat Creek, Chelan, Stehekin.

1925 Portions of the Sweat Creek and Loomis RDs transferred to State of Washington for a state Forest.

1929 Camas Creek Fire - 58,000 acres and 87 miles of fire line.

1930 Squaw Creek RD absorbed by the Twisp RD.

Monument 83 constructed in Canada - Oops!

1930s 8 CCC Camps.

1936 Pasayten RD created from a portion of the Winthrop RD.

1940 RD offices at Conconully, Early Winters (Pasayten RD), Winthrop and Twisp, Chelan and Stehekin.

1942 Tonasket RD transferred from Colville NF to Chelan NF.

1944 Conconully RD becomes the Okanogan RD with headquarters in Okanogan.

1955 Chelan NF renamed the Okanogan NF.

Chelan RD transferred to the Wenatchee NF.

Okanogan RD renamed Conconully to avoid confusion with Forest name change.

5 RDs - Conconully, Tonasket, Pasayten, Twisp and Winthrop.

1966 Pasayten RD recombined with Winthrop RD. "Aerial Project" at Twisp becomes North Cascades Smokejumper Base, a separate Administrative Unit.


1978 Forest headquarters moved from downtown to present location.

1982 Conconully RD abolished and combined with the Tonasket and Winthrop RDs.

1984 Lake Chelan - Sawtooth Wilderness established on the Okanogan and Wenatchee NFs.

1990s Winthrop and Twisp RDs administered as the Methow RD.

2000 Okanogan and Wenatchee headquarters combined.

2001 3 RDs - Tonasket, Twisp and Winthrop and the North Cascades Smokejumper Base - nearly 200 employees.

2001 300+ cultural resources and 1 National Register Site.


Background photos: Early Winter Creek and Highway 8 before Liberty Bell Mtn.

Research - Powys Gadd
Design - Dan O'Connor.