



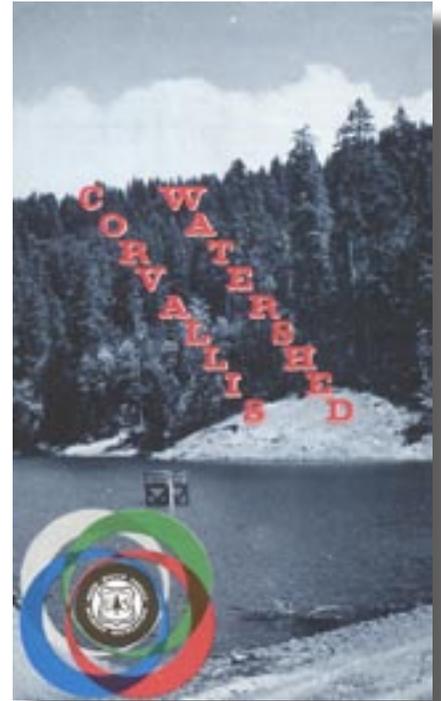
# **Siuslaw National Forest** *Fun Facts*

May 15, 2008

## **Corvallis Watershed Formation**

The Siuslaw National Forest as formed by executive order effective 7/1/1908 did not include any lands in the Marys Peak area. The City of Corvallis, and at times Philomath, has been drawing water from the Rock Creek drainage on the eastern slopes of Marys Peak since the late 1800's. In 1906, the City of Corvallis began purchasing land on the lower slopes of Marys Peak along Rock Creek with the intention of protecting and developing water treatment and delivery infrastructure. The City water commission and citizens became increasingly concerned with protection of the upland water sources as logging operations moved closer to the northern hydrological boundaries of Rock Creek.

By the early part of the 1910's, industrial landowners had purchased lands within the watershed and were working to extend a railroad line from upper Woods Creek through the headwaters of the North Fork of Rock Creek. Due in large part to the efforts of the city governments and citizens of various municipalities across Oregon, including Dallas and Corvallis, Congress passed an act on February 11, 1920 revesting certain Oregon and California Railroad lands from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture. For the City of Dallas, 1160 acres near Rickreall Creek and for the City of Corvallis 1720 acres near Marys Peak became part of the Siuslaw National Forest with specific direction to protect municipal watersheds.



Continued pressure from local concerns raised the Forest Service priority for land purchases and exchanges in the Marys Peak area. A June 30, 1932 congressional action expanded the authority of the forest to acquire lands outside the existing forest boundary. This was followed by creation of the Marys Peak purchase unit in 1936 and led to the 1940 inclusion of lands acquired and re-drawing of the Siuslaw National Forest exterior boundary to include Township 12 South, Ranges 7 and 8 West and a portion of Township 13 South, Range 7 West. This series of actions was believed to directly lead to moving the Headquarters office of the Siuslaw from Eugene to Corvallis in 1939.



The City of Corvallis entered into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture on February 7, 1922 "for the purpose of conserving and protecting the water supply" of Corvallis. The agreement is still in effect with the Forest Service managing about 7500 acres of the water source and the City managing an adjacent 2300 acres which includes the water intakes, treatment plant and supply lines for water treatment. The City currently draws about one-third of its annual water supply from this source.

Additional land purchases and exchanges continued for decades with one of the most notable exchanges for the Siuslaw coming in 1968 when 340 acres of meadows and Noble Fir stands atop Marys Peak was acquired from the City of Corvallis. But that's another story...