



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

April 1, 1929.

VIRGIN FOREST AREAS TO BE SAFEGUARDED

Interests of Scientists and Nature Lovers to be Protected

Creation of "Research Reserves" and "Primitive

Areas" in the National Forests for permanent preservation in their natural state has just been announced as a policy of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Research Reserves will be preserved for scientific and educational purposes and Primitive Areas will be maintained to offer to the nature lover and student of history a representation of conditions typical of the pioneer period.

"With the exception of the National Parks and Indian Reservations," the Forest Service says, "the National Forests include the only considerable areas of land within the United States in which the original or virgin conditions have not been much modified by human action. Each year invasion threatens some such areas.

"Reduction of all wild areas to a common level would constitute an irreparable loss to science and education. Lost, too, would be the social advantage of preserving some examples of the conditions under which the Nation developed and which influenced national ideals, traditions, and modes of life. The economic desirability of outdoor recreation in such primitive areas is obvious."

Tracts appropriate for both Research Reserves and for Primitive Areas will be designated in each of the major forest regions. So far as practicable, the system of Research Reserves will be designed eventually to insure the preservation of virgin areas typifying all important forest conditions in the United States. Within these reserves, scientific and educational use will be exclusive except as public use for recreation may be found compatible with scientific studies. In determining the boundaries of Research Reserves, however, care will be taken to avoid the unnecessary inclusion of lands not vitally essential to scientific use, and which would be of greater public service under other forms of use. Scientific agencies outside the Government may use the Reserves freely.

Regulations governing the Primitive Areas will allow considerable leeway to take care of particular situations. In general, however, the areas will be maintained as nearly as practicable in a state of primitive simplicity. The Forest Service will favor liberal use of the Primitive Areas by the public without restrictions other than those imposed by the fire regulations and the State laws on sanitation.

Some of the National Forest districts have already set aside certain "wilderness" areas, to be maintained free from occupancy or industrial development. The preservation of Research and Primitive Areas is now to be made a part of the Forest Service program on a nation-wide basis.

###

Mr. Henderson
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]