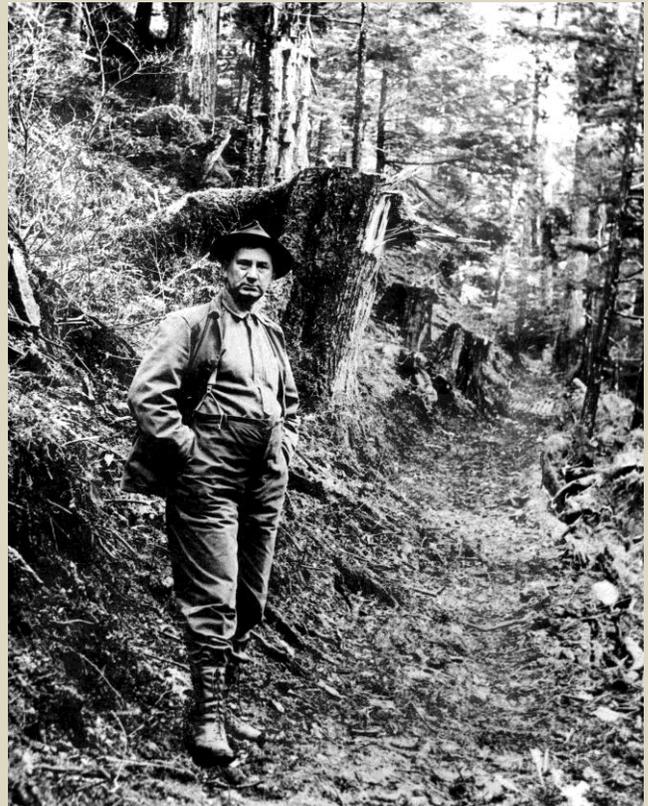


# William G. Weigle

## Forest Supervisor

### 1911-1919

William Weigle joined the Forest Service in 1905 after studying at the Milford Summer Forest School of Yale University. In 1909 he became a forest supervisor in Idaho, and was a hero of the famous fire of 1910. In 1911, he came to Alaska to be trained to operate boats, including the flagship of the Tongass "navy," the *Tahn*. These boats served as homes and offices for Forest Service supervisors. He succeeded William Langille as Forest Supervisor in 1911.



Weigle was large and powerful, and known as a man of action who liked field work. He was well liked by the men who worked for him, and did not shy away from rough frontier humor. One of his first undertakings was to clear saloons and "nuisance trespassers," or brothels, from the forests. The other day-to-day issues that Weigle and his associates addressed were the protection of fish streams, homesteading, mining permits, debates over agriculture, the exporting of lumber, and preservation of Native artifacts. They faced difficulties in the field such as bears, mosquitoes, devil's club, rough terrain and weather.

Weigle's tenure was marked by many achievements and he was a strong administrator who used common sense to settle many disputes. After funding by Congress in 1913, the Forest Service began a period of extensive boundary work, which led to decreases in the number of acres on the Chugach, which included lands useful for agriculture. In addition, a series of eliminations of land parcels were done around towns and villages on both the Chugach and the Tongass national forests. During World War I, timber sale

activity increased with wartime demands for fish boxes, construction timber, and Sitka spruce for airplane construction.

Weigle married a Ketchikan schoolteacher and left Alaska to become supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington. Later he became involved in the creation of Washington's state park system.