

# Charles H. Flory

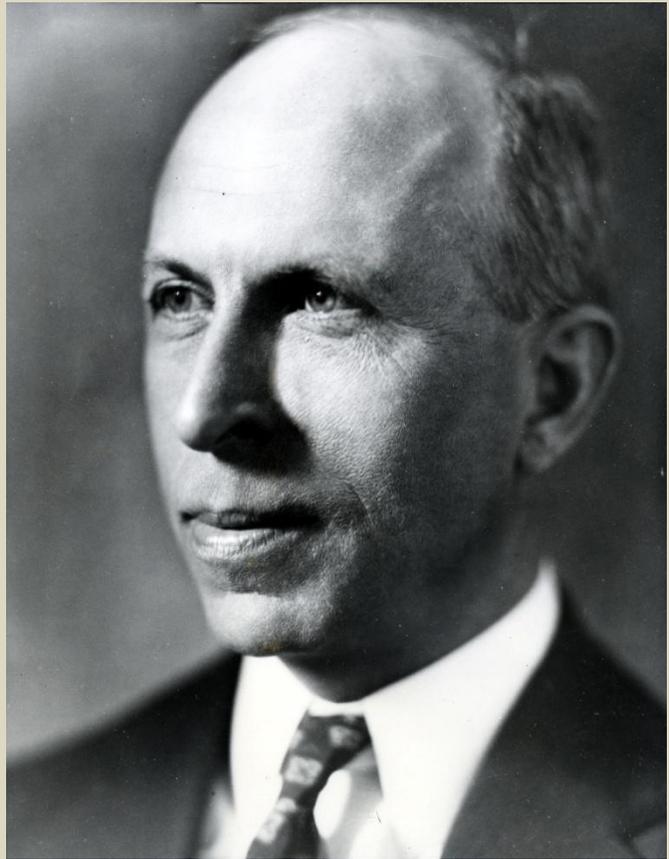
## Regional Forester

### 1919-1937

Charles H. Flory graduated from Yale University. He came to Alaska in 1919 as superintendent of Alaska's forests. The 1920s marked a period of transition for the Forest Service. In 1919, Alaska was separated from the Portland office and made District 8, later to become Region 10. Flory became Alaska's first district forester.

During Flory's tenure, the national forests in Alaska were under-financed and understaffed. Flory spent a great deal of time on other activities. He served on the Alaska Commission which was instituted to coordinate the work of the Forest Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service in regard to fish and game management. In 1930, he was an ex-officio commissioner for the Department of Agriculture for Alaska, as well as handling his duties as regional forester. This division of his work load may have contributed to his reputation as a weak administrator. He founded the Juneau Garden Club and compiled a history of the Ballinger-Pinchot dispute, but the manuscript was later lost.

Timber sales flourished in the 1920s and 1930s. There were timber mills in Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Craig, Sitka, Seward, and Cordova. Regulations for timber sales were strengthened, requiring inspections and



marking of trees. Aerial surveys made by the Navy from 1919 to 1928 allowed the Forest Service to more accurately locate timber and streams and to create maps.

In 1933, Flory received permission to take charge of all Civilian Conservation Corps projects in Alaska. Work projects included construction of trails, truck roads, bridges, boat facilities, campgrounds, and water systems. Flory was also interested in Native antiquities and Alaska history. He used CCC funds to begin archaeological excavations on the site of Old Sitka. About 1,000 Russian and Native artifacts were located, and transferred to the University of Alaska. Flory also worked in conjunction with the Park Service to move and preserve totem poles from Old Kasaan.

A critical report by the Department of Agriculture in 1936 led to Flory's transfer to Mount Baker National Forest in Washington State. The report was strongly disputed by the new regional forester Frank Heintzleman.