

# Charles A. Yates

## Regional Forester

### 1971-1975



Charles A. Yates was a native of California. From 1934-1936, he was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps working on the Trinity National Forest. He attended junior college from 1937 to 1938, and then worked for the Forest Service until 1941. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division. He served as a

paratrooper officer in the U.S., England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He left the army in 1946, after being promoted to captain. He then attended Oregon State University, graduating 1948.

From 1947 to 1971, Yates held a variety of Forest Service jobs in California, including: fire control assistant on the Plumas National Forest; assistant district ranger on the Cleveland National Forest, district ranger on the Six Rivers National Forest, fire control officer on the San Bernardino National Forest, and forest supervisor on the Klamath National Forest. In 1962, he served for a short time as assistant regional forester in the Rocky Mountain Region, but returned to California, where he became deputy regional forester in 1966.

Yates became Alaska's Regional Forester in 1971. His administration was one of change and controversy dealing with types of timber sales and methods of operation in Alaska. After 1970, there were some shifts in

thinking that included opposition to long-term sales and a concern with the perpetuation, rather than harvest, of old-growth forests. Yates prohibited the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company from logging until a thorough study of the West Chichagof-Yakobi area was completed.

Under Yates, archeological examination was made of all sites before logging. Timber harvest regulations were also modified. Clearcuts were reduced to a maximum of 160 acres, and then to 100 acres. Yates raised the price of stumpage in 1975 which created protests. Loggers charged that scenery regulations, requiring narrow roadways, meant that danger trees might fall and cause injury or block roads.

Yates carried out a reorganization plan, moving headquarters of the North Tongass from Juneau to Sitka and creating headquarters for the Stikine Area in Petersburg. He dispensed with ranger districts. He focused his efforts on land use planning and created the Alaska Planning Team.