

# **John Sandor**

## **Regional Forester**

### **1976-1984**

John Sandor was born December 22, 1926, in Buckley, Washington. He was an Army medic in World War II; received a Bachelor's in Forestry degree from Washington State University in 1950 and a Master's of Public Administration degree from Harvard in 1959.



Sandor's Forest Service career began in 1953 when he came to Alaska to work on forest surveys of the Tongass National Forest. He held a succession of other jobs, including Assistant Regional Forester in personnel management for the Southern Region in Atlanta from 1965 to 1968; Assistant to Chief Ed Cliff in the Washington Office from 1968 to 1971; and Deputy Regional Forester in the Eastern Region from 1971 to 1976. In 1976, Sandor returned to Alaska as Regional Forester.

During Sandor's tenure as Regional Forester, the Forest Service workforce became more diverse with the addition of jobs such as biologist and recreation specialist. Partnerships were formed with Alaska Native regional and village corporations and local communities. On the Tongass, three supervisor districts and multiple ranger districts were established. The National Forest Management Act was implemented and the Tongass Land Management Plan was completed.

Sandor was active in forming the Society of American Foresters Alaska Chapter and Section; and was also active in the American Society for Public Administration.

Sandor retired from the Forest Service in 1984. He became Commissioner of the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation during the Hickel administration from 1990 to 1994. During this time he was also a member of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

In 2007, Sandor received the Gifford Pinchot Medal from the Society of American Foresters. This award recognizes an SAF member who has made outstanding contributions in the administration, practice, and professional development of North American Forestry.

One of Sandor's favorite quotations is: "If a task you've once begun, do not leave it till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well, or not at all."