

**REGIONAL FORESTERS
OF THE ALASKA REGION
1905 - 2012**

FOREST SERVICE • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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REGIONAL FORESTERS OF THE ALASKA REGION

“The greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run.”

Gifford Pinchot

Produced by the Alaska Region • Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester
Forest Service, Alaska Region • U.S. Department of Agriculture
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W N I L E M T T I M E L I N E

The story of Alaska's great national forests cannot be separated from the compelling story of its people and their history. This timeline is predated by over 10,000 years of settlement by Alaska Natives before the first Europeans arrived.

- 1741 The first European expedition to Alaska was led by Russians Vitus Bering and Aleksei Chirikov.
- 1776 Captain James Cook of England journeys into Turnagain Arm and Prince William Sound.
- 1799 Aleksandr Andreyevich Baranov establishes the Russian trading post known today as Old Sitka.
- 1805 First cargo of Russian furs from Russian America is delivered to China.
- 1867 Secretary of State, William H. Seward, negotiates purchase of Russian America for \$7.2 million, less than two cents per acre.
- 1880 Joe Juneau and Richard Harris discover gold in Snow Slide Gulch and established a mining camp that would grow to become present-day Juneau.
- 1892 President Benjamin Harrison establishes Afognak Forest and Fish Culture Reserve, a precursor to the Chugach National Forest.
- 1896 The Klondike Gold Rush begins.
- 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt establishes Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve—a precursor to the Tongass National Forest.
- 1905 **William A. Langille**, the first forest supervisor for the Alaskan Forest Reserves.
- 1907 Tongass and Chugach national forests established by Presidential proclamation.
- 1910 Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot fired by President Taft over his efforts to protect Chugach lands near Cordova from coal mining.
- 1911 **William G. Weigle**, forest supervisor of the national forests in Alaska.
- 1913 First Alaska Territorial Legislature convenes.
- 1919 **Charles H. Flory**, district forester (became first in region to be called regional forester).
- 1924 Congress extends citizenship to all American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps in Alaska builds campgrounds, roads, trails, and restores Native totem poles in Old Kasaan.
- 1937 **B. Frank Heintzleman**, regional forester (became Governor of the Alaska Territory in 1953).
- 1942 Japan bombs Dutch Harbor; invades Aleutian Islands.
- 1942 Alaska Spruce Log Program established on Tongass to provide airplane lumber for military use.
- 1948 The Alaska Highway opens to civilian traffic.

- 1951 The first of two 50-year timber contracts begins with a pulp mill in Ketchikan.
- 1953 **Arthur W. Greeley**, regional forester
- 1956 Timber sales reach 200 million board feet per year.
- 1956 **Percy D. Hanson**, regional forester
- 1957 Atlantic Richfield discovers oil on the Kenai Peninsula, ushering in Alaska's modern oil era.
- 1959 Alaska is admitted to the United States as the 49th state.
- 1962 Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center is built—the first in the Forest Service.
- 1964 **W. Howard Johnson**, regional forester
- 1964 Wilderness Act passed to protect wilderness resources. An earthquake rocks Southcentral Alaska.
- 1969 National Environmental Policy Act passed to establish a national policy for the environment.
- 1971 **Charles A. Yates**, regional forester
- 1971 Congress passes Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).
- 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act passed requiring forests to submit plans that provide for multiple use and sustained yields of products and services.
- 1976 **John A. Sandor**, regional forester
- 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) passed to bring a balance to competing demands on Alaska's natural resources.
- 1984 **Michael A. Barton**, regional forester
- 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound.
- 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act passed
- 1994 **Phillip J. Janik**, regional forester
- 1997 Record of Decision for the Tongass Land and Resources Management Plan Revision.
- 1999 **Rick D. Cables**, regional forester
- 2001 **Dennis E. Bschor**, regional forester
- 2001 USDA promulgates the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- 2002 Tongass National Forest celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve, forerunner of the Tongass.
- 2007 Chugach National Forest Centennial
- 2009 Héén Latinee Experimental Forest established near Juneau for researchers to study the largest temperate rainforest in the world.
- 2009 Secretary of Agriculture directs USDA agencies to develop an economic diversification strategy to help Southeast Alaska strengthen its economy.
- 2010 **Beth G. Pendleton**, regional forester

Alaska Region in 2012

Fiscal

- 648 Employees in Alaska
- 15 Towns with Forest Service staff
- \$103.7 M Total budget
- \$44.8 M Total FY 10 Economic Recovery
- \$18.84 M Secure Rural Schools
- \$9 M In contracts awarded in Alaska
- \$6.8 M In contracts awarded to Alaskan firms

Fish & Industry

- \$63.4 M Commercial salmon harvested from NFS
- \$79 M Commercial salmon harvest associated with NFS fish production (12yr. average)

Land & Water

- 21.95 M Acres of national forest land in Alaska
- 3.3 M Acres of national monument
- 5.3 M Acres of wetlands
- 5.8 M Acres of designated wilderness
- 2.1 M Wilderness study acres
- 364 K Acres of lakes
- 53.6 K Miles of streams
- 16.7 K Miles of coastline
- 21.4 K Miles of anadromous fish streams
- 1.3 K Miles of road
- 536 Miles recommended Wild & Scenic Rivers
- 31 Number of federally recognized tribes within national forest responsibility

Mining

- 56 Mines with plans of operations

Recreation

- 2.8 M Recreation visits
- 1.1 K Total special-use permits
- 1.2K Miles of hiking trails
- 188 Number of public use recreation cabins

Timber

- 33 M Board feet of timber harvested
- 44 M Board feet of timber sold

- 2 William A. Langille
- 4 William G. Weigle
- 6 Charles H. Flory
- 8 B. Frank Heintzleman
- 10 Arthur W. Greeley
- 12 Percy D. Hanson
- 14 William H. Johnson
- 16 Charles A. Yates
- 18 John A. Sandor
- 20 Michael A. Barton
- 22 Phillip J. Janik
- 24 Rick D. Cables
- 26 Dennis E. Bschor
- 28 Beth G. Pendleton



October morning on the Copper River (1909).



One of many early logging camps on the Tongass.

WILLIAM A. LANGILLE

In recording the annals of the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, historian and author Lawrence Rakestraw said, “For the first six years of its management, the story of the Alexander Archipelago and of the Tongass national forests is essentially the story of one man—William Alexander Langille.”¹

William Langille was born in Nova Scotia in 1868. He attended public schools in Nova Scotia and Chicago, Illinois, before moving with his family to Hood River, Oregon, in 1880. Langille and his brother became guides on Mount Hood and participated in the creation of the Cascade Range Forest Reserve.

Langille was an accomplished outdoorsman, a skillful hunter, and a “man of magnificent physique.”² In 1897, Langille’s imagination was captured by the Klondike Gold Rush. He traveled to Alaska and shared a cabin with Jack London and “Buck,” the hero of London’s story, *The Call of the Wild*. Langille mined at Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, and later in Nome, Alaska.

In 1902, while prospecting in Nome, Langille was summoned to Washington, D.C., to talk with President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, who became the Forest Service’s first chief. They offered Langille the fine salary of \$1,800 to \$2,000 per year to work in Alaska as a forestry expert.

Langille returned to Alaska in 1903. He traveled extensively in the Southeast, mostly by boat. He eventually made his way to Prince William Sound, Valdez, and the Kenai Peninsula. After reaching Seward, he traveled by dog team to Fairbanks to see the forests in the interior. He later came full circle, returning to Southeast to become the forest supervisor of the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve.

Langille initially set up his headquarters in Wrangell, and then relocated to the larger town of Ketchikan. He found office space for twenty dollars a month, and later had a floating office on the newly acquired Forest Service launch *Tahn*, the first of several ranger boats in Alaska.

1905 - 1911

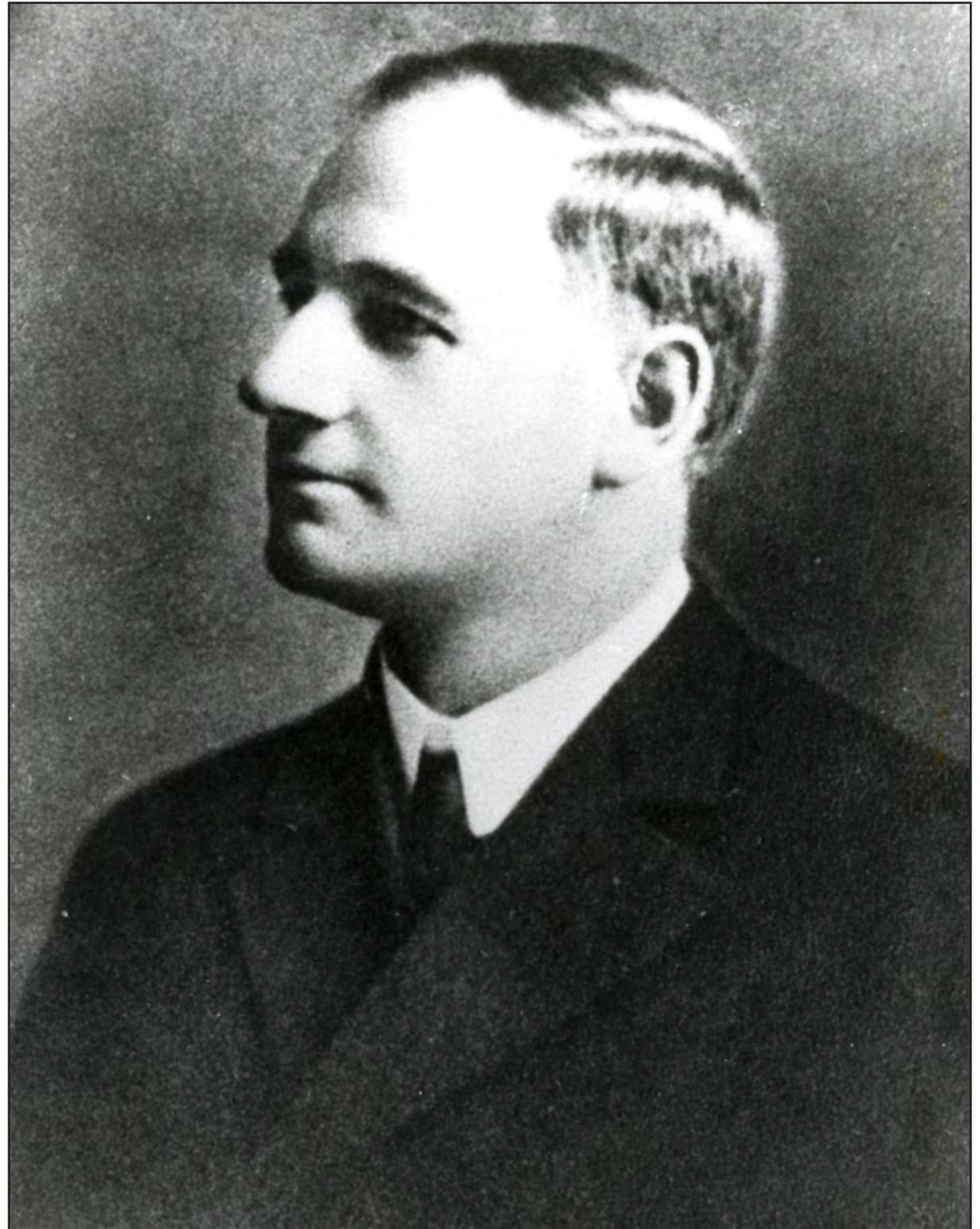
During his long field trips, Langille carried a .22 rifle and lived off the land. He was well versed in botany, mammology, and photography. He used his extensive cartography skills to map boundaries and timber sales. He was a detailed record-keeper. Langille was also an excellent writer who was able to convey in words his spirit of adventure and appreciation of the natural beauty he encountered in his daily work.

Langille's research and reports back to Washington influenced policymaking on the "vast natural resources in the Alaska." He met with the public and government officials to tackle both new and old issues surrounding existing timber mills, timber sales, timber trespassing, mining and minerals, game laws, fisheries, and healthy salmon streams. He was keenly concerned about wildlife preservation and the wanton trophy hunting on the Kenai Peninsula.

Following the passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906, Langille was instrumental in the preservation of historic sites on federal lands and focused on totem poles and Native community houses. He helped to create the Sitka National Monument, site of the Native village that fought with the Russians in 1804.

On Langille's recommendation, the Chugach National Forest was designated in 1907. He traveled from Ketchikan to Valdez to meet the public and explain new forest policy. At that time, copper mining and fishing were the main sources of income in Prince William Sound. Also in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Tongass National Forest, which was consolidated a year later with the Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve.

Langille resigned from the Forest Service July 31, 1911. He is considered to be the father of forestry in Alaska in part because he established the boundaries of the Chugach and Tongass national forests. His real legacy, however, was the methodical research, meticulous recordkeeping, and trove of correspondence he left to set the stage for those who would later take up the role as head of the Forest Service in Alaska.





Forest Ranger on the Tongass (circa 1918).



Forest Service office in Cordova (1917).

WILLIAM G. WEIGLE

William Weigle was born September 20, 1866, in Bendersville, Pennsylvania. He worked as a school principal and railroad worker. He attended a summer forestry course conducted by Yale University at Grey Towers, the Pinchot estate in Milford, Pennsylvania. He later continued his education at Yale, and joined the Forest Service in 1905, working in Pennsylvania and New York.³

As Weigle's career progressed, he traveled west, taking charge of timber sales in Wisconsin, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Oregon. In 1909 he became supervisor of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in Idaho. It was there he first took on the task of clearing saloons and brothels from national forest lands, a job skill that would prove useful in Alaska.

Weigle was a hero of the Great Fire of 1910 that claimed 85 lives and consumed three million acres in Montana and Idaho. He helped evacuate the citizens of Wallace, Idaho, holding out in a mine shaft when he was caught in the flames.

By 1910, the dean of the Yale Forestry School, Henry Solon Graves, had succeeded Gifford Pinchot as Forest Service Chief. Graves was keenly interested in the management of Alaska's forests and desired to send well-educated foresters to the field. He sent Weigle to Alaska in 1911 to succeed William Langille, who trained Weigle in navigation and the operation of boats.

Weigle wrote, "The motor boat took the place of the saddle and pack horse; hip boots and a rain slicker the place of chaps; and it was much more essential that a ranger knew how to adjust his spark plug than be able to throw a diamond hitch. His steed may do just as much pitching and bucking, but this is prompted not by a spirit of animal perversity but by the spirits of climatic adversity."⁴

Weigle was described as "...a large, powerful, redheaded man of German ancestry. He was a man of action rather than a philosopher, a practical forester who liked fieldwork."⁵ Weigle, a bachelor, was well liked and respected by his staff, who appreciated his raw humor and relaxed management style.

1911 - 1919

When Weigle arrived in Alaska he hired forest examiners, surveyors, scalers, and rangers. The people who lived on the Tongass National Forest were generally satisfied with the management of timber sales, and salmon fishing was productive. On the Chugach, however, many blamed the Forest Service for cancellation of coal claims, saying it delayed economic development.

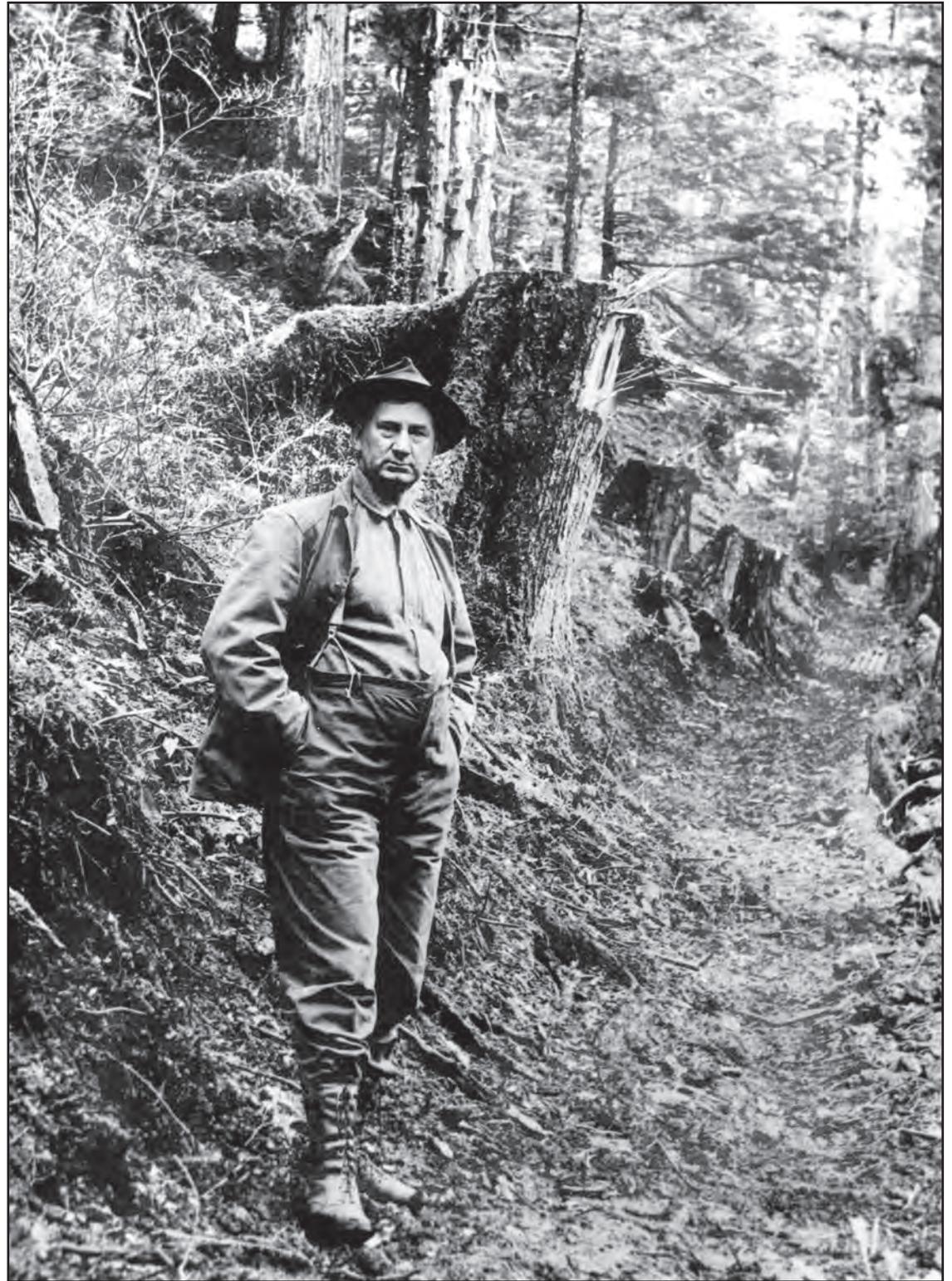
With the added staff came the need for more boats. In addition to the *Tahn*, the *Restless*, *Prospector*, and *Ranger 4* were added to the fleet. A wanigan, or houseboat, was built to provide better accommodations for the field crew.

Weigle's men marked timber sales, cruised timber, enforced regulations, surveyed, and furnished transportation not only for government officials, but for scattered settlers in need of assistance and rescue. Timber sales increased due to demands for construction timber, fish boxes, and Sitka spruce for airplane construction during World War I. Setting boundaries on the Tongass and Chugach was a major task, taking place during a time when competing interests of governing officials—such as agriculture and railroad building—were threatening to eliminate the national forests. The crews faced hazardous weather, high tides, bears, mosquitoes, thick underbrush, and devil's club.

Lawrence Rakestraw wrote:

Weigle was a worthy successor to Langille, and his administration was marked by many achievements. He opened the forest to agricultural as well as to timber use. The Forest Service during that time was under fire almost continually, and Weigle stood firm against many pressures. He gave the forests strong administration and through the use of common sense settled many disputes amicably. Sometimes a heroic and sometimes a comic figure, he was admired for his best qualities and loved for his foibles.⁶

William Weigle gave up bachelorhood to marry a Ketchikan schoolteacher. In 1919, he left Alaska for Washington State to become the Snoqualmie National Forest supervisor.





Loading clear Sitka spruce at Juneau Lumber Mills for shipment by scow to Seattle, Washington (1923).



Paradise Valley at Cooper Landing with a Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW), trail crew (1933).

CHARLES H. FLORY

Charles H. Flory was born June 24, 1880, in Arcanum, Ohio.⁷ He was a graduate of Yale University who served as chief of operations in Portland, Oregon. In 1919, Flory was named superintendent of Alaska's forests. In 1921, bowing to both internal and external pressure to decentralize the agency, the Forest Service separated Alaska from the Portland office to create District 8. Flory became Alaska's first district forester.

The Forest Service was in a time of transition, and the Alaska district was both underfinanced and understaffed, and known as "...the most neglected of all districts."⁸ Chief Forester Greeley traveled to Alaska to personally inspect the forests, but many plans that were made for the Chugach and Tongass never came to fruition.

Flory's many sideline activities detracted from his day-to-day work as district forester. He spent time as an ex-officio commissioner for the Department of Agriculture for Alaska, founded the Juneau Garden Club, collected rocks, and wrote a manuscript on the history of the Ballinger-Pinchot dispute, which was later lost.

In 1920, Flory became the Forest Service representative to the Alaska Committee, a multi-agency effort to develop coordinated policies for land issues, patents, records, boundary issues, and surveys. Flory also served as chairman of the Alaska Commission for a period, which was set up in 1930 to coordinate activities of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and the Land Office in Alaska. The work took about half of Flory's time, and required him to be out of the office a great deal.

In 1930, all Forest Service districts were renamed regions, so Flory became Alaska's first regional forester. At that time, Flory's office was moved from Ketchikan to Juneau, which has remained the site of the regional office.

1919 - 1937

Alaska continued to grow in the 1920s. In fact, during the 1920s and 1930s, timber sales thrived, with mills in Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Craig, Sitka, Seward, and Cordova. By 1921 there were 10 ranger boats in use, and boatmen were an important component of the workforce. The marine station on Gravina Island near Ketchikan was enlarged to handle boat building and repair.

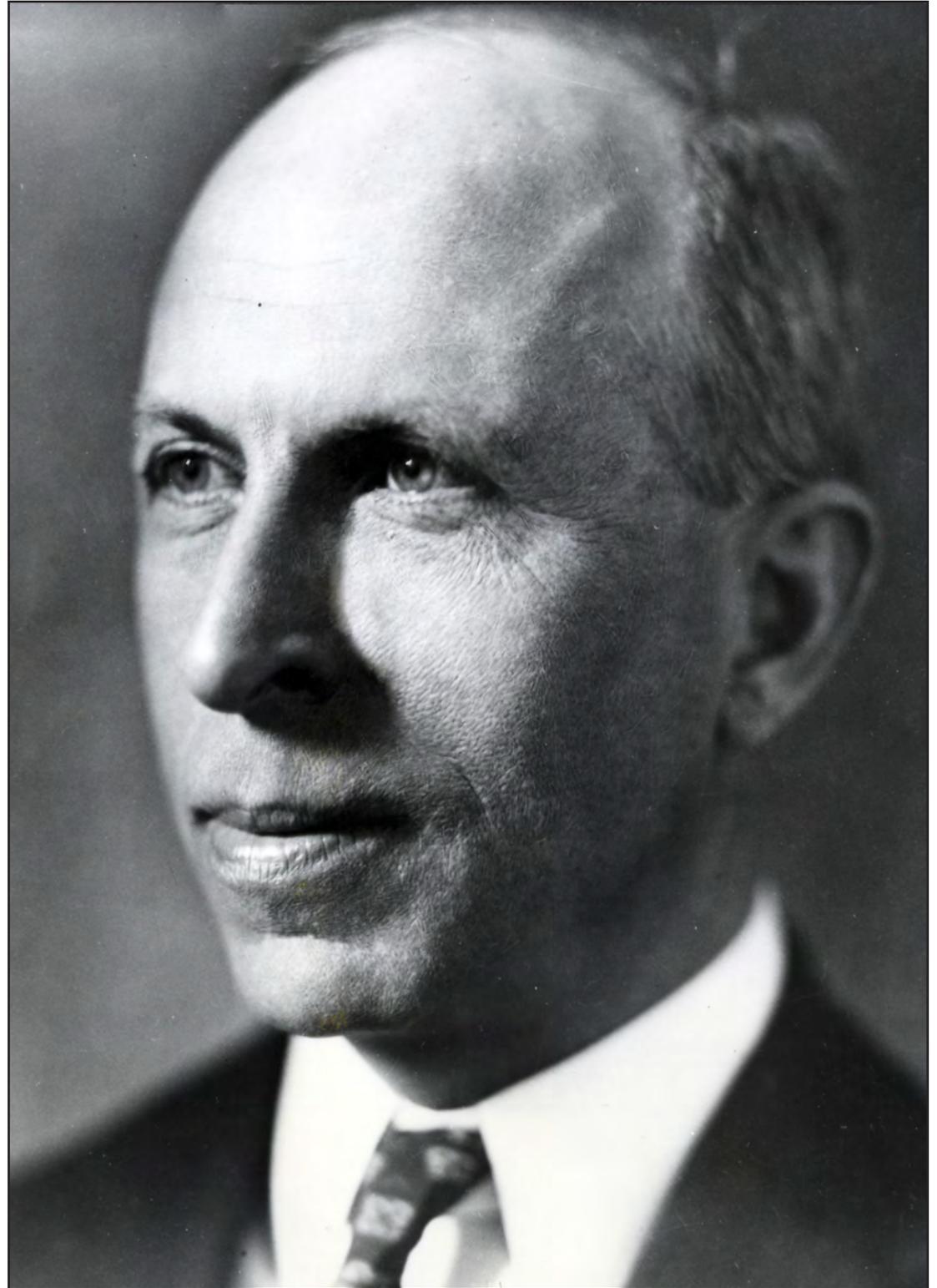
The Forest Service continued to work on the boundaries of the Chugach and Tongass national forests, negotiating with the National Park Service and General Land Office's Alaska Field Division. The Tongass added Icy Strait, Lituya Bay, the west side of Lynn Canal, and the Mansfield Peninsula. The boundaries of the Glacier Bay National Monument were established in 1925.

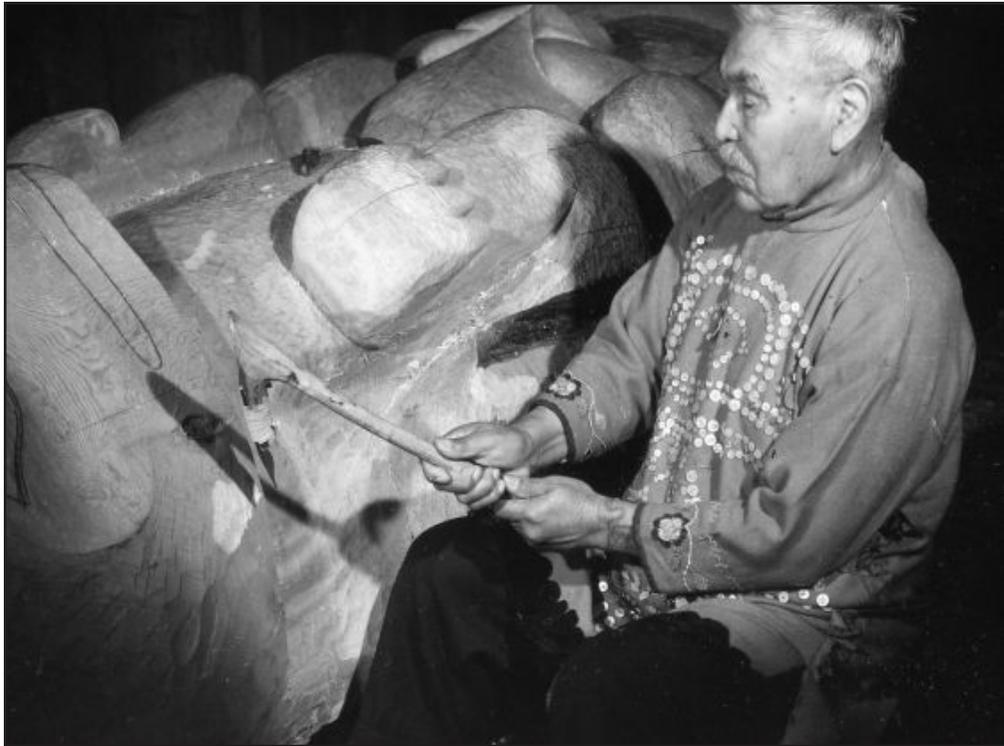
Between 1919 and 1928, the Navy took aerial photographs that were important tools in developing the timber resources in Southeast Alaska. For the first time, an overview of the nine million acres of the Juneau Ranger District could be done in one day by plane.

In 1931, field divisions were set up to replace ranger districts at Ketchikan, Petersburg, Juneau, Anchorage and Cordova. Several inspectors came from the Washington Office during this period, and in general, praised the local administration.

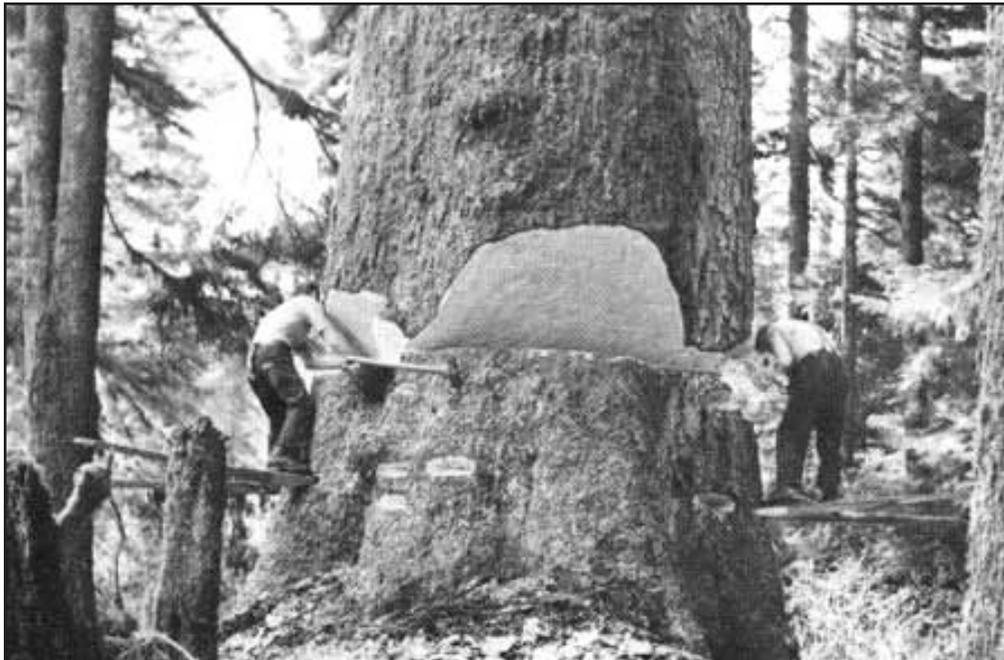
In 1933, during the Great Depression, Flory took over all the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) projects in Alaska. He was interested in Native antiquities and Alaska history. He used some CCC funds to work with the National Park Service and the University of Alaska to excavate the site of Old Sitka. About 1,000 Russian and Native artifacts were located and transferred to the University of Alaska. He worked with the Park Service to move and preserve totem poles from Old Kasaan. CCC workers also built trails, bridges, roads, campgrounds and other facilities.

Controversy surrounded Flory's administration in 1936. Common practices in Alaska, such as allowing the use of Forest Service boats to take families on picnics, came under fire from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Personnel. Shortly after, Flory was transferred to Washington State. B. Frank Heintzleman, who condemned the report and Flory's move, was nevertheless named Alaska's new regional forester.





CCC enrollee Joe Thomas uses an adz to work on Baranof totem at Wrangell. He is wearing a traditional Tlingit potlatch button blouse (1941).



Falling a giant spruce on the Tongass April 4, 1941.

B. FRANK HEINTZLEMAN

Frank Heintzleman was born in Pennsylvania December 3, 1888. He studied at Pennsylvania State Forest Academy and Yale University. He served in the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest before coming to Alaska in 1918 to be a deputy forest supervisor. In 1937, he succeeded Charles Flory as regional forester, serving during the presidencies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

Heintzleman was described as “...short in stature, tremendously energetic, an able public speaker, and devoted to community affairs.”⁹ He was considered to be tough on his men but quick to defend them from outside criticism. He was a lifelong bachelor who enjoyed social life, and was dedicated to Alaska and its issues. He was active in the Presbyterian Church, the Masons, the Juneau Public Library, and the Alaska Historical Library and Museum.

Heintzleman believed forest research was essential in developing the technical tools needed for proper forest management. When he lacked funds for research, he used timber management money. Maybeso Experimental Forest was established on Prince of Wales to determine the effects of clearcutting on salmon streams and to investigate the effects of clearcut timber harvesting on forest regeneration and regrowth.¹⁰ Heintzleman also had measurements taken of trees being cut for saw timber and piling in order to make local volume tables.

Heintzleman had oversight of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Alaska. By 1937, the CCC had enrolled 1,037 men who were working in the national forests of Alaska out of Ketchikan, Petersburg, Juneau, and Prince William Sound. They built fish traps, a dock, a boat harbor, a bear observatory, houses, shelters, cabins, and a biological laboratory. CCC enrollees also traveled to isolated Native villages to clear land, create sanitation drainage, repair community houses, build telephone lines, build fences, and clean up after floods.

In 1939, Heintzleman used Works Project Administration and CCC funds to begin a totem pole restoration at Sitka National Monument. The workers used a new preservative called Permatox D, developed by the Forest Service’s Forest Products

1937 - 1953

Laboratory, to keep the poles from rotting. Forest Service architect Linn Forrest designed a new Native community house. The CCC totem pole project was quite successful. Forty-eight old poles were restored, 54 were duplicated, and 19 new poles were carved.

The Forest Service underwent some major changes during World War II. Many of the men entered the armed forces. There was an increased need for wood production for military bases, and more importantly, high grade spruce for airplane production. In 1942, Heintzleman headed the creation of the Alaska Spruce Log Program at Edna Bay on Prince of Wales Island. There were up to 250 loggers and family members living in the logging camps. The goal was to produce 100 million feet of airplane lumber per year.

Heintzleman thought timber and power development were crucial to Alaska's economic growth. He had to balance his values with the public's desire to manage national forests for recreation and wilderness values. These competing interests intensified as Alaska faced potential statehood.

Like his predecessors, Heintzleman was concerned with the complicated legal and moral questions concerning Native land claims and rights. Heintzleman expanded the Forest Service's relationship with the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood. The controversy surrounding Heintzleman's ambition to establish a pulp industry in Alaska led to the passing of the Tongass Timber Act in 1947, which provided for contracts of timber sales with the receipts to be put in an escrow account pending the settlement of Native claims. The Ketchikan Pulp Company was formed in 1951, and the Alaska Pulp Development Co. began plans for a large sawmill and pulp mill in Sitka in 1953.

Heintzleman was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 1951. When his Forest Service career ended in 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Heintzleman to a four-year term as Governor of the Alaska Territory, where he remained a strong ally of the Forest Service. He was awarded the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal for distinguished service to forestry in 1958.¹¹

Heintzleman died in Juneau, Alaska, on June 24, 1965, and was buried in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania.





Workers construct the territory's first pulp mill at Ward Cove, the largest single industrial investment in Alaska to date, at nearly \$52.5 million (1953). Photo courtesy of Ketchikan Museums.



Starting in the early 1950s, the forests began to rely on chartered aircraft, which was less expensive than maintaining boats.

ARTHUR W. GREELEY

Arthur White Greeley was born in Washington, D.C., August 1, 1912. He received a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Washington in 1934, and a master of forestry degree from Yale University in 1935. He was the son of William B. Greeley, who became the third Forest Service Chief in 1920.¹² Arthur Greeley greatly resembled his father in physical appearance.

Greeley began his Forest Service career in 1935, working as ranger, timber sale assistant, assistant supervisor, and forest supervisor. In 1953, when Frank Heintzleman was appointed Governor of the Alaska Territory, Greeley became Alaska's regional forester. He was 41.

When Greeley arrived in Alaska, one of his first priorities was to hire more men. The region had been chronically understaffed. He moved Malcolm E. Hardy, the Petersburg ranger, to Anchorage to serve as the Chugach National Forest supervisor. Hardy's first office was over a local saloon. Chugach employees began to rely on charter aircraft, which was less expensive than maintaining boats.

Greeley set up two supervisor areas on the Tongass National Forest. The North Tongass office was led by Clare M. Armstrong at Juneau. The South Tongass office was set up in Ketchikan and led by C. M. Archbold. Since boats were still an efficient means of travel in Southeast, the *W. A. Langille* and *W. E. Weigle* were purchased in 1954 and added to the fleet.

In 1948, the Forest Service developed a timber inventory using photographs from the Navy's aerial survey of Southeastern Alaska. The inventory was useful for forest management decisions and to estimate how many pulp mills the region could support. Large-scale timber production was ramping up in the early 1950s. A pulp mill was under construction in Ketchikan and plans were being made for a pulp mill in Sitka. Timber sales had gone up from 60 million board feet in 1952 to 200 million in 1956.¹³ Forest Service researchers were studying the effects of clearcut logging on salmon runs. Efforts were made in clearcut areas to protect viewsheds, that is, to minimize the effects of clearcuts on the natural landscape that could be seen from the roadways.

1953 - 1956

Several small mills were operating on the Chugach National Forest, and a new highway, albeit rough, opened up the Kenai Peninsula from Anchorage to Homer. The pristine view along the highway was sometimes marred by forest fires unintentionally set by road building crews or the Alaska Railroad with its coal-burning locomotives. In the Cordova area, hunting camps were set up along the Copper River, the site of one of the most important nesting grounds in the nation for some waterfowl species. Native land claims continue to be an issue on the Tongass National Forest, while mining claims on the Chugach remain unresolved.

Following the Depression and World War II, a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts used public lands at an ever increasing rate. Greeley realized that as recreation use increased, so did the need for recreational planning. Facilities, campgrounds and roads that had been built during the CCC era were showing age. Groups such as the Sierra Club opposed those who demanded the Forest Service build more facilities. At the same time, investors who wanted to exploit natural resources on public lands pressured Congress to relax regulations. Land managers were caught in the middle.¹⁴

By 1956, the region was in transition. Due to the increase in timber sales, Greeley recognized the importance of ongoing forest inventory work. He also foresaw the need to increase recreational planning.

Greeley was considered to be a very successful regional forester. "Greeley's stay in Alaska was brief, but his record was exceptional. He had a keen sense of history and the vision needed for planning far ahead. He was well liked in the region; his competence and integrity earned him the respect of the lumbermen."¹⁵

In 1956 Greeley moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was appointed Regional Forester, North Central Region. In 1959 he moved to the Washington Office, and in 1966 was appointed Associate Chief of the Forest Service. He retired in 1971 to become a Christian minister. He died June 5, 2004, at age 91.





Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the first Forest Service visitor center in the nation, opened in 1962.



Mobile visitor center in Portage Alaska with interpreter and tourists on the Chugach National Forest (1963).

PERCY D. HANSON

Percy “Pete” Hanson was born September 18, 1901, in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. He received a degree in forestry at the University of California, Berkeley in 1924, and joined the Forest Service in 1926.

In 1935, Hanson became the forest supervisor of the Lassen National Forest in California, focusing on fire prevention plans. He worked his way up through the ranks, and was promoted to assistant regional forester in charge of timber management. In 1944, he became regional forester of the Northern Region in Missoula, Montana.

He was well suited for the job. “An outdoorsman, Hanson fished, hunted, and explored the mountains, often combining such recreation with an inspection trip. He placed his priorities for the postwar decade on tree planting, fire protection, and the building of access roads into remote parts of the region so that mature and damaged timber could be harvested.”¹⁶

Hanson was the Northern regional forester during the 1949 Mann Gulch fire in Montana, where 13 firefighters died. He created the smoke-jumper training center near Missoula, joined with partners to create a firefighting reserve force, and recruited Native firefighters.

In 1956, Hanson succeeded Arthur Greeley as regional forester in Alaska. Hanson was aware that the lack of roads in communities situated around Alaska’s national forests limited the opportunities for sports and recreation. He was interested in game-management planning, and “there was a large development of hunting during Hanson’s term of office, especially of elk on Afognak and moose in the Yakutat area.”¹⁷ Cabins and trails were built for the convenience of hunters, and Hanson looked for means to connect timber roads in Southeast Alaska with existing state highways and ferry routes.

Hanson’s careful consideration of road placement helped to minimize sediment getting into salmon spawning streams. He developed a gravel-cleaning machine machine to clear streambeds, which was designed to improve spawning grounds. A fisheries biologist was added to the Forest Service research staff. He continued the process of moving from forest protection to forest management.¹⁸ Timber sales

1956 - 1963

continued to grow as well as create controversy. “Strong language was bandied about”¹⁹ between the Ketchikan Spruce Mills and the Forest Service over timber grading and scaling and standards set by the Forest Service for road building, which resulted in a cancelled timber sale. This led to the Forest Service’s preparing of volume tables for scaling logs and a school for scalers.

Although the Georgia-Pacific Corporation made a bid in 1955 for 7.5 billion board feet for pulp manufacture, the sale was not completed, and the project was eventually dropped. In 1957, investors from Japan formed the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company and set up a site at Silver Bay near Sitka, acquiring land under the Tongass Timber Act of 1947.

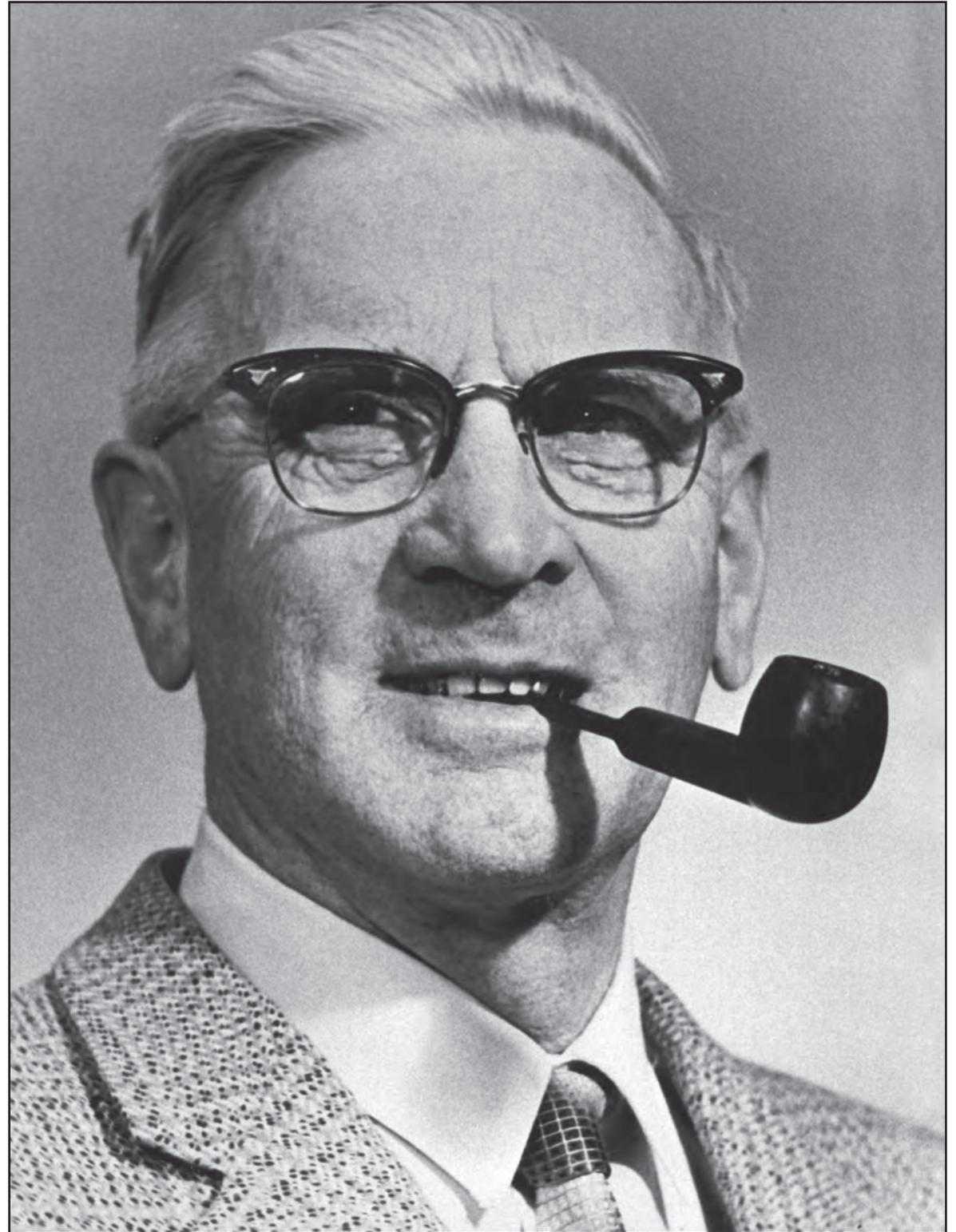
Hanson improved infrastructure, building ranger stations, warehouses, cabins and trails. The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the first Forest Service visitor center in the nation, opened in 1962.

The popularity of the Mendenhall’s trails and interpretive programs influenced the desire to have a similar center at Portage Glacier on the Chugach National Forest. A forest highway was built to Portage Glacier, as well as the Mitkof Highway in Petersburg and roads in Yakutat. New campgrounds were built on the Kenai Peninsula and old ones were refurbished.

When Alaska achieved statehood in 1959, Hanson’s ability to work with the state government became increasingly important. The Forest Service signed cooperative agreements with the state and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning timber harvests, recreation, and game management of wildfowl, elk and moose.

Hanson was concerned about multiple-use management of the forests. During his administration, a series of natural areas were either created or considered, and within a decade, a large number were reserved. Hanson was known as a planner, though many of his plans would be carried out by his successors.

Hanson died in May 1988.





Alaska Marine Highway interpreter Fred Harivish talking with travelers on one of the ferries of the Marine Highway (1969).



Kitai research station located at Afognak Island on the Chugach National Forest (circa 1970).

W. HOWARD JOHNSON

Howard Johnson began his Forest Service career in 1925 on the Olympic National Forest. He later studied forestry at the University of Washington before beginning his permanent appointment in 1935. He also worked on the Columbia, Snoqualmie, and Tongass national forests. He later spent two years in Washington, D.C., and several years in Missoula, Montana. Johnson returned to Juneau in 1964 to become regional forester, following the retirement of P.D. Hanson.

Johnson, who was perceived as being well suited for the job, was often compared to George Drake, a professional forester who began his Forest Service career in the Pacific Northwest in 1912. Lawrence Rakestraw said of Johnson, “A practical forester of the George Drake type, a wilderness lover, concerned with civic affairs, and with a strong sense of justice, he was a worthy successor to the previous regional foresters.”²⁰

During Johnson’s tenure, many of the old-timers in Alaska retired and were replaced by new employees. Some thought change was too rapid, resulting in a small group of highly experienced men being replaced by a larger but less experienced workforce.

Johnson benefitted from the dedicated planning and work done by his predecessors. Timber sales increased from 219 million board feet in 1955 to 405 million in 1965. By this time, research data indicated that timber could be cut on a more continuous basis due to the natural regeneration properties of hemlock and spruce. New cutting and milling techniques were developed. Logging previously done by hand was now completed with tractors and cables.

In 1968, Johnson spent eight days in the South Tongass, traveling by boat and plane, to review experimental balloon logging techniques. Balloon logging allowed for cutting in areas that were previously inaccessible, and reduced the impact of logging on the soil.

1964 - 1971

The large Ketchikan Pulp Company mill, the smaller Ketchikan Spruce Mills, and a new mill at Wrangell were making the dream of a “pulp-producing empire”²¹ a reality.

Johnson’s administration, like Weigle’s, was characterized by both accomplishments and controversy.²² Recreation management was very successful. By the 1960s, however, just as Americans were finding time for recreational activities, society was becoming more urbanized. Sensing that the public was becoming less connected to the outdoors, the Forest Service began to recognize a greater need for solid interpretive programs.

In 1968, Forest Service naturalist D. Robert Hakala created a partnership with the Alaska State Ferry System to place Forest Service information desks, staffed by seasonal interpreters, on state ferries. This highly successful program would introduce thousands of ferry patrons to the Tongass National Forest in its more than 40 years of operation. Travelers to Alaska were treated to slide shows and lectures from knowledgeable Forest Service employees who interpreted the natural landscapes and wildlife seen along the ferry routes in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska.

Many of the controversies that arose for the Johnson administration came from state politics. Competing interests on Admiralty Island, a lawsuit from the Sierra Club over a timber sale, and the approval of the transfer of 400,000 acres of National Forest System lands to the state were controversial.

Since 1960, natural resources had been managed for timber, recreation, water and wildlife under the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act. With the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, Johnson also began to look for appropriate areas to set aside as wilderness study areas. He held a public wilderness workshop in Juneau in 1969 with the Alaska Conservation Society, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society.²³ Johnson explained his plans to prepare complete studies of major wilderness areas by 1970, including the Nellie Juan area on the Chugach. On the Tongass, study areas were proposed for Tracy Arm-Fords Terror, Walker Cove, Russell Fiord, and Chichagof-Yakobi Islands. Johnson also developed a plan to protect the Sitka black-tailed deer and the 800-1,000 brown bears on Admiralty Island.²⁴

Johnson retired in February 1971 and moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington, the following year. He died March 10, 1988, at the age of 80.





In 1971, members of a stream clearing crew stand by as a section of log is winched from the stream tributary in the Craig area as a result of the 1968 windstorm.



Log and gravel bridge in Basket Bay, Tenakee, over a gorge in 1974. The number of trails, shelters, and campgrounds expanded as landscape architects were hired beginning in 1973.

CHARLES A. YATES

Charles Yates, a native of California, began his career with the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934. After attending junior college, he worked for the Forest Service on the Shasta National Forest. During World War II, he served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. After the war, he continued his education and graduated from Oregon State University in 1948.²⁵

Yates spent most of the first two decades of his Forest Service career working in California as a fire control assistant, a district ranger and a forest supervisor. In 1962, he moved to the Rocky Mountain Region to serve as assistant regional forester. He returned to California in 1966 as deputy regional forester of the Pacific Southwest Region. In 1971, he succeeded W. Howard Johnson as regional forester in Alaska.

Like those of his predecessors, Yates' administration was one of change and controversy.²⁶ Continuing with plans made by previous regional forester Howard Johnson, Yates moved the headquarters of the North Tongass from Juneau to Sitka, and added a headquarters in Petersburg. In 1973, he did away with ranger districts.

The early 1970s were tumultuous for the Forest Service in Alaska. Yates dealt with bad press and environmental lawsuits. He halted logging operations by the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company until additional studies of the West Chichagof-Yakobi area could be completed.²⁷ Groups such as the Alaska Loggers Association wanted to limit the amount of designated wilderness and manage the forests for multiple use and resource extraction. Conservation groups such as the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, which was formed in 1970, desired to see increased wilderness and no further development.²⁸

Yates spent much of his time and attention on land-use planning. He created the Alaska Planning Team and conducted many other planning activities. The Wilderness Act of 1964 required that roadless areas of more than 5,000 acres be reviewed for possible wilderness status as determined by Congress. The National

1971 - 1975

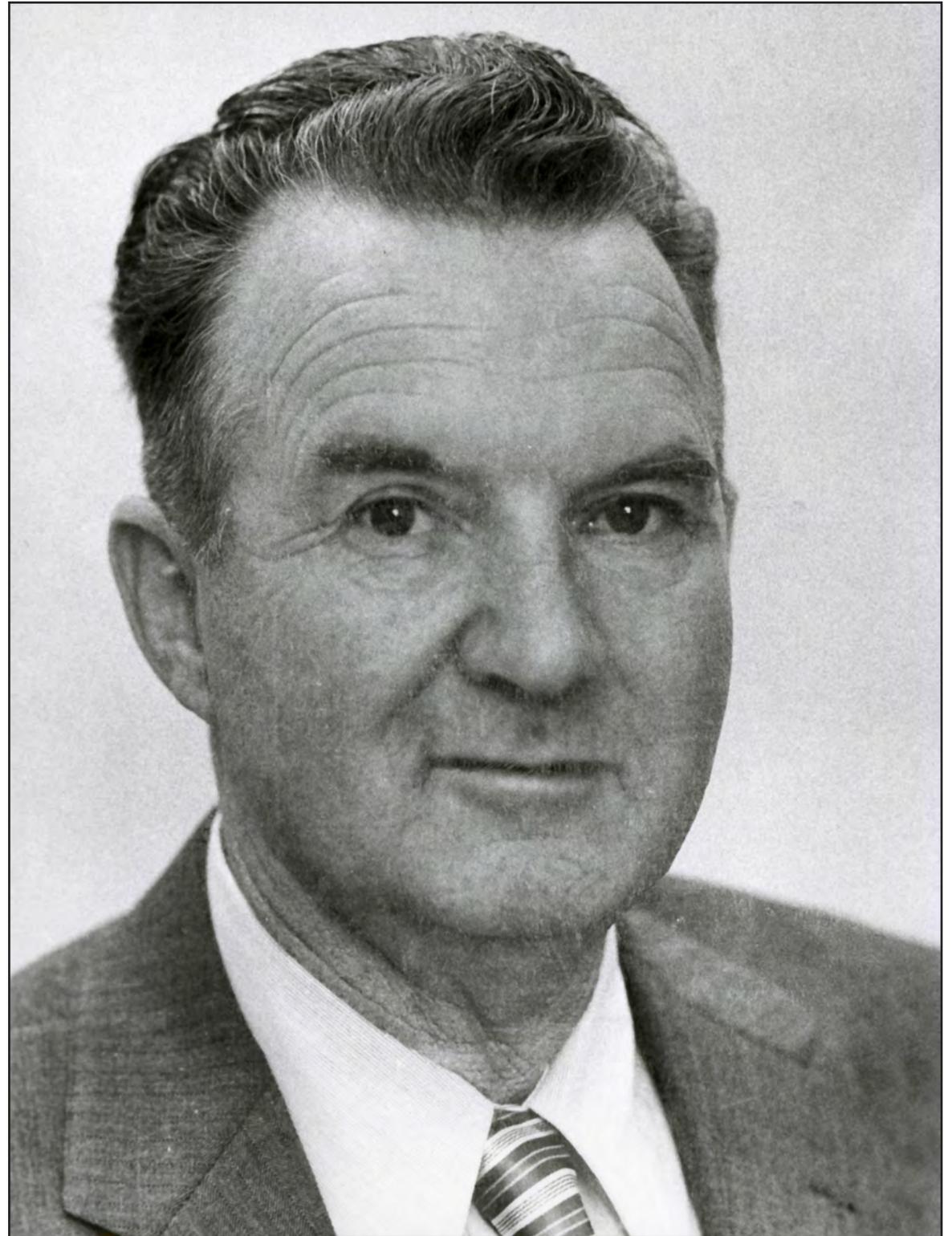
Environmental Policy Act of 1969 required the Forest Service to consider how their actions might affect the natural environment. In 1974, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act directed land managers to set up interdisciplinary teams to develop land management plans and to involve the public in decision making processes.

With the amendment of the Sikes Act in 1974, the Forest Service began to work more closely with the state in regulating fish and wildlife programs and off-road vehicle use.²⁹ More than 200 fisheries habitat improvement projects took place on the Chugach and Tongass national forests from 1962 through 1975, with the costs split between the Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.³⁰

One of the most significant laws passed during Yates' term as regional forester was the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. The act gave Alaska Natives \$962 million and approximately 44 million acres of land to settle their land claims. Regional and village corporations were set up to manage the allotments. To protect the public interest, ANSCA put a limit on the number of acres that could be withdrawn from Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. However, some leaders in the Forest Service were alarmed by amendments that increased the number of acres of Forest Service lands that could be characterized as "traditional use," and thereby available for selection.³¹

Recreation management also changed during Yates' tenure. The environmental movement and the desire by visitors to see the land in its natural state led to Yates' efforts to mitigate the visual impact of clear-cutting. In 1973, the Forest Service began hiring landscape architects to set guidelines for and to improve the visual quality of the forests.³² The number of trails, shelters, and campgrounds expanded.

Yates retired in March 1975. He lives in Novato, California, where he moved with his wife in 1976.



JOHN A. SANDOR

John A. Sandor was born December 22, 1926, in Buckley, Washington. He was an Army medic in World War II, graduated in 1950 from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in forestry, and earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University in 1959.

Sandor worked as a research forester in 1951 at the Pacific Northwest Forest & Range Experimental Station in Olympia, Washington. In 1953, he traveled to Alaska to work on forest surveys of the Tongass National Forest. Later, he served as assistant regional forester for personnel management in the Southern Region, Atlanta, Georgia; assistant to the chief, Washington, D.C.; and as deputy regional forester, Eastern Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He returned to Alaska as regional forester March 13, 1976.

By 1976, the Forest Service workforce was becoming more diverse. In a 1979 letter to historian Lawrence Rakestraw, Sandor said the biggest organizational change that happened during his assignment was the “emphasis on bringing fisheries, wildlife, and other specialists into the organization.”³³ Feeling that such organizational change had broad public support, Sandor added 30 fishery and wildlife biologists to his staff, as well as recreation specialists.

Sandor reestablished the ranger districts that had been abolished by Charles Yates in 1973. He set up three supervisor districts for the Tongass: the Ketchikan area in Ketchikan; the Stikine area in Petersburg; and the Chatham area in Sitka. The Forest Service leased nearly an acre of land to the City and Borough of Juneau to build Centennial Hall, which housed a Forest Service Visitor Information Center.

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) was passed in 1976 and required that each forest create a forest plan using an interdisciplinary approach and allowing for public involvement. One of Sandor's highest accomplishments was the completion of the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan, the first plan in the nation completed under NFMA.³⁴



John Sandor accepts the Gifford Pinchot Medal from the Society of American Foresters in 2007.



Sunny Creek fish ladder located at Sunny Creek on Prince Of Wales Island, (August 1984).

1976 - 1984

Like his predecessor, Yates, Sandor was involved with controversy and legal issues. Much of this was attributed to the scope of legislation that was passed during his administration. Groups such as the Sierra Club and Sitka Conservation Society took issue with complex legislation such as the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, which took effect in January 1970, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Enacted in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), codified the subsistence hunting and fishing rights of Alaskans.

Sandor is active in the Society of American Foresters and helped to form the Alaskan chapter. He served on the Board of Directors for the Natural Resources and Environmental Administration Section of the American Society for Public Administration.

Sandor was a participant in the 1978 World Forestry Trade Mission to Japan and the People's Republic of China. In 1979, Sandor received the State Conservationist Award in Alaska presented by the Alaska Wildlife Federation and Sportsman's Council. In 1981, he received an Outstanding Alumni Award in Forestry from Washington State University. He also received the Department of Agriculture's Superior Service Award in 1983.

Sandor retired from the Forest Service in 1984. His contributions to the State of Alaska did not end, however. He was the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation from 1990 to 1994 and served as a member of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

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

In announcing Sandor's retirement, Chief of the Forest Service R. Max Peterson said, "John has made a major contribution to the Forest Service and especially to the national forests in Alaska. During the delicate negotiations involved in writing the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, he was known as a man of honesty, and professional integrity by members of Congress and the various interest groups."³⁵

John, and his wife, Lenore, live in Douglas, Alaska.





Forest Service employee standing on the oil-coated beach of Eleanor Island (April 6, 1989).



Opened to the public in 1986, and rededicated with new exhibits in 2001, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center is built upon the terminal moraine left behind by Portage Glacier in 1914. Photo courtesy of Ron Neibrugge.

MICHAEL A. BARTON

*M*ike Barton was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. He began his Forest Service career in 1959 as a research technician while attending the University of Michigan. He received a bachelor of science in forestry degree in 1961. After serving in the U.S. Army, he obtained his master's degree in forest hydrology in 1965 from the University of Michigan.

Barton worked three years as a watershed scientist on the Superior National Forest and was promoted to chief of water quality section in the Eastern Region. From 1971-1974, he was the deputy forest supervisor of the Ottawa National Forest in Minnesota. In 1974, Barton moved to Washington, D.C. He held the positions of water rights and water quality specialist; program evaluation and system development specialist; and director of Watershed Management. During his Forest Service career, Barton received many awards for natural resource management. He was on the National Fisheries Task Force which developed and marketed a national system to revitalize and strengthen the Forest Service fisheries program.

In 1979, Barton moved to Juneau to serve as deputy regional forester for the Alaska Region. In 1984, he was appointed regional forester. Like other regional foresters who came before him, Barton would be called on to deal with issues that were both problematic and controversial. One of the most difficult and unprecedented was the worst environmental disaster in American history at that time.

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez supertanker hit a reef in Prince William Sound, spilling almost 11 million gallons of North Slope crude oil. The spill would eventually cover 11,000 square miles of ocean, killing untold numbers of birds, seals, otters, and whales, and decimating the sound's fishing industry. As part of a criminal plea agreement, Exxon paid a \$150 million fine and cooperated with cleanup efforts. Barton became a founding member of the Oil Spill Trustee Council, representing the Secretary of Agriculture in an interagency group that included the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

1984 - 1994

Restoration work in the previously pristine Sound would continue many years after Barton's retirement.

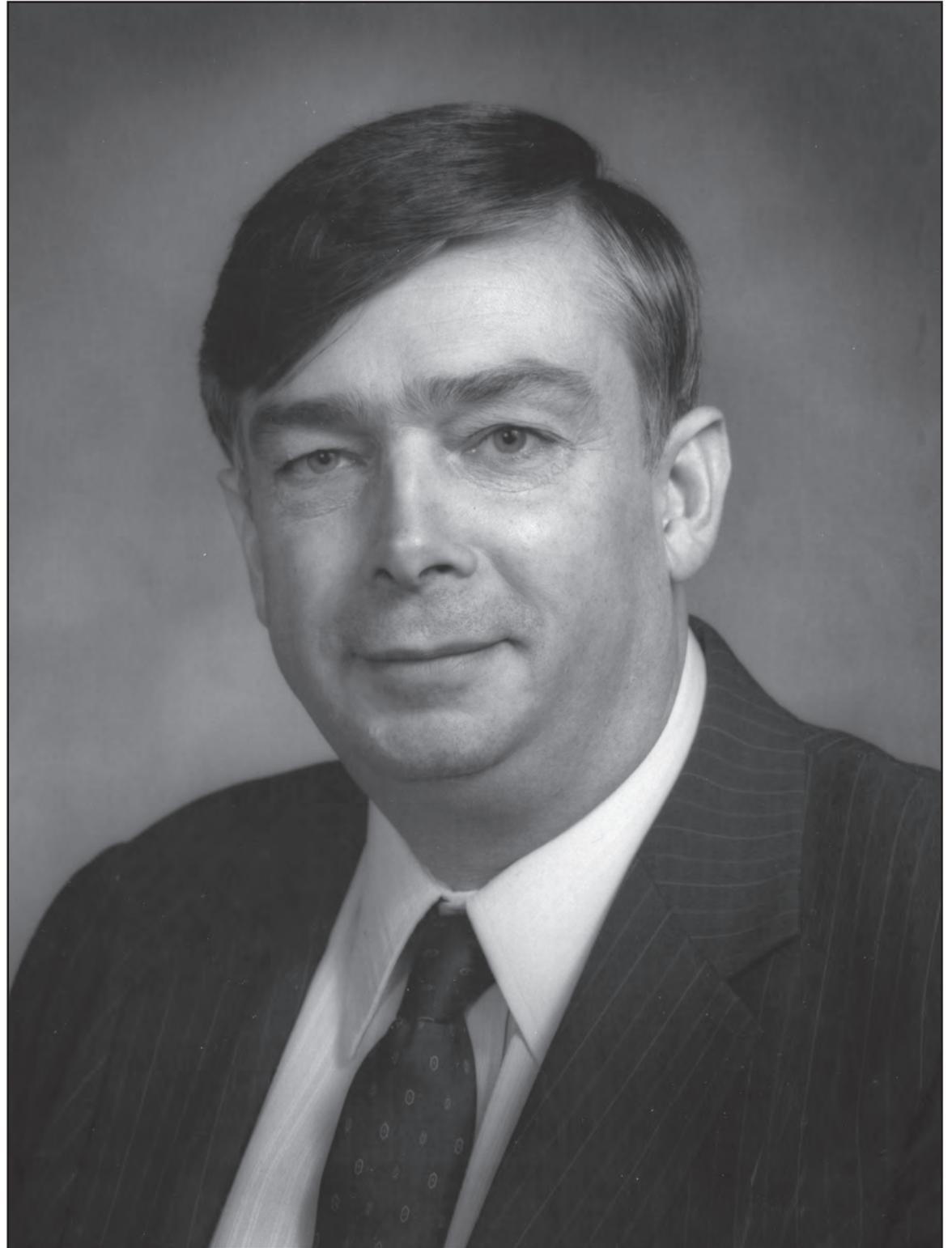
Native subsistence hunting and fishing rights were debated and litigated in Alaska for 60 years before Barton was appointed regional forester. In 1990, the Federal Subsistence Board was established to set up a program for subsistence management on federal public lands in Alaska. Barton served on the board as the representative for the Secretary of Agriculture. The workload was heavy. Regional advisory councils were set up, public meetings were held, various subsistence hunting proposals were evaluated, and determinations were made concerning customary and traditional use of subsistence areas by rural residents.

The Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 modified long-term timber sale contracts in Alaska to "enhance the balanced use of resources on the forests and promote fair competition within the Southeast Alaska timber industry."³⁶ Pulp mill owners, who were supported by the Alaska congressional delegation, tried unsuccessfully to have the law overturned. Ketchikan Pulp Company and the Alaska Pulp Company were losing a great deal of money and faced huge expenses to update their mills to comply with new pollution standards. In 1993, APC closed their mill, blaming the price of timber. In 1994, Barton, under direction from the Washington Office, terminated APC's 50-year contracts. A series of lawsuits between the Forest Service and both pulp mills ensued.

Barton was active in the Society of American Foresters, the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, the American Forestry Association, the American Fisheries Society, the National Woodland Owners Association, Ducks Unlimited, the Rotary Club, and the Little League Baseball Program.

In 1994, Barton retired from the Forest Service and became the Commissioner of the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. In 2010, Gov. Sean Parnell appointed Barton to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees.

Barton lives in Douglas, Alaska with his wife, Sharon.





The Russian River Trail on the Chugach National Forest descends from the campground to the river.



Mill near Craig, Alaska. Photo courtesy of Tom Iraci.

PHILLIP J. JANIK

Phillip Janik was born on February 8, 1945, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Montana, Missoula, in 1967. He moved to Virginia in 1967 to join the Navy. He served as a naval officer at sea during the Vietnam conflict and was a naval ROTC instructor at Oregon State University. After his military service, he received a master's degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University.

Janik joined the Forest Service in 1974 as a forest biologist on the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon. He assisted with the design of timber sale projects and worked with forest leadership on issues relating to fish and wildlife management. He worked in Oregon during the spotted owl debate. From 1979 to 1983, he worked in the Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. He moved to Alaska in 1983 as the regional director of Wildlife, Fisheries and Subsistence.

Janik was considered to be personable, a good leader and decision maker, and dedicated to the principles of sound land management. These traits gained him increasing levels of responsibility. From 1989 to 1994, Janik served as assistant director of Wildlife and Fisheries in the Washington Office. On May 4, 1994, Janik moved to Juneau to become the eleventh regional forester for the Alaska Region.

In 1994, the Tongass National Forest used a new approach to traditional forest planning. Research scientists from the Pacific Northwest Research Station joined the forest planning team "to bring objective, independent thinking into the planning process and to maximize development and application of the most up-to-date science in the plan."³⁷ It was hoped that the formulation of the interdisciplinary Tongass Land Management Planning (TLMP) team would produce a "scientifically credible, legally defensible, and resource sustainable Forest plan"³⁸ that could be quickly developed.

Janik believed that stewardship of the land was non-negotiable and should be the baseline to ensure sustainability of all forest resources over time. He thought it

1994 - 1997

was vital to base the size of timber sales in Alaska on valid scientific data, including the effects of logging on wildlife habitat. He thought the failure to do so would open the door for the courts to become involved in the agency's land management decisions.

“His most notable achievement as Alaska regional forester was the completion of the revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan in 1997. He involved scientists throughout the revision process, pioneering a science-based forest management strategy focusing on conservation of this unique, old-growth rainforest.”³⁹

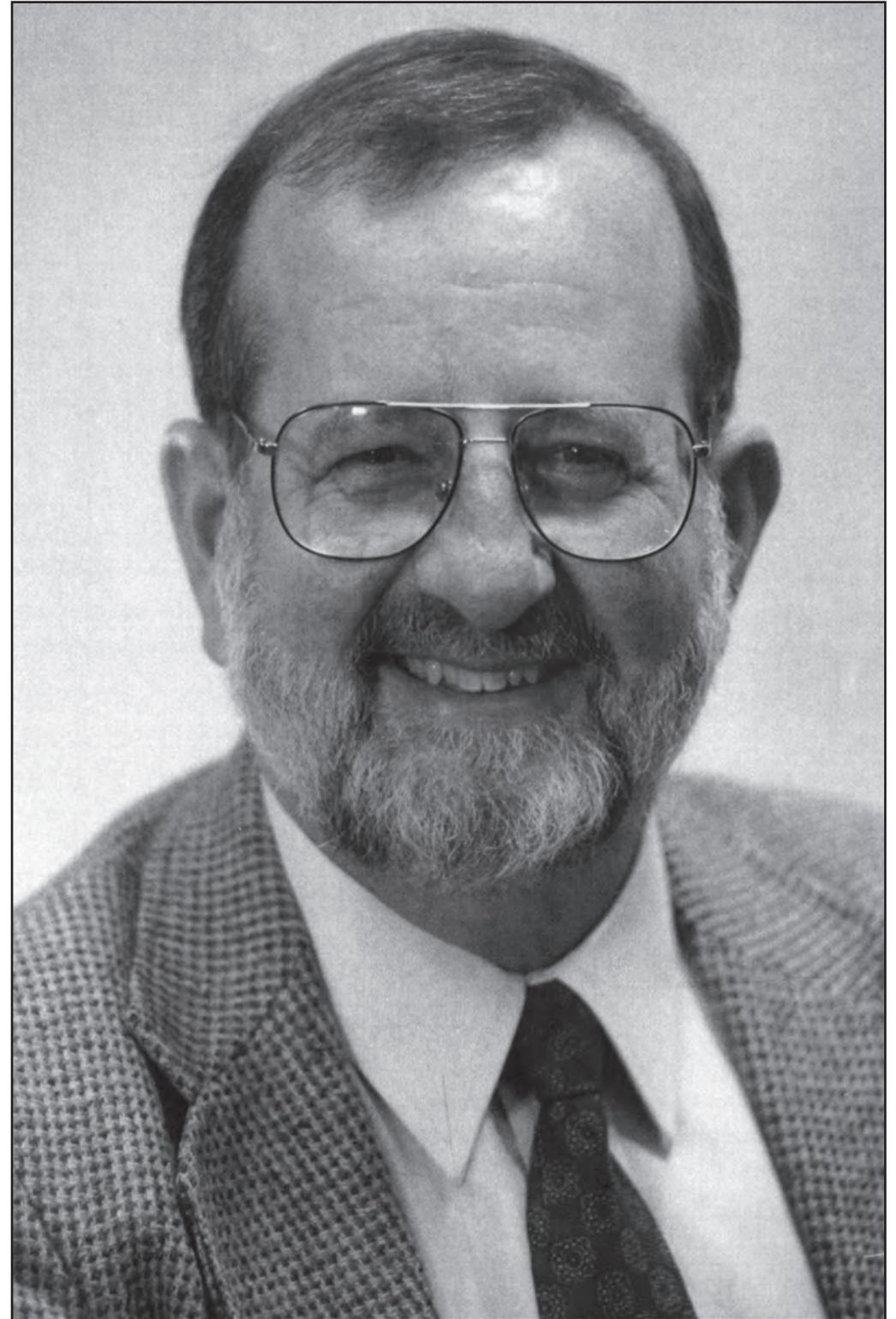
After leaving Alaska, Janik returned to the Washington Office. From 1998 to 2004 he served as chief operating officer and deputy chief for State and Private Forestry.

In the latter part of his career, Janik focused on sustainability and the responsibilities of public land managers to be good stewards. He was a member of the Chief's Sustainability Roundtable and served on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative External Review Panel. He was active in the Society of American Foresters and the American Fisheries Society, served on the board of the Institute for Culture and Ecology, and was involved with numerous conservation organizations.

Janik was described as having a, “...cheerful, energetic, and positive attitude that engaged every person around him and he valued ideas from any source. His dedication to forest conservation and sustainable forestry was both obvious and infectious, and his constant search for better and more effective ways to promote good forest management was an inspiration to all who worked with him.”⁴⁰

Janik was an active member of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees' organization called Old Smokeys. He played a large role in the success of the 2005 Forest Service Centennial Reunion in Portland, Oregon, serving as the key liaison with the Chief's staff.

Janik died unexpectedly at age 61 of pneumonia in Vancouver, Washington, April 28, 2006. He is survived by his wife Pat, two sons, and one daughter.





Subsistence lifestyles play a major role in Alaska. Here, locals seine for sockeye in Sitkoh Lake. Photo courtesy of Ben VanAlen.



Balls Lake Trail. Under Cables' tenure, recreation infrastructure, including cabins and trails, was improved, and the road system was developed on Prince of Wales Island.

RICK D. CABLES

Rick Cables was born in Pueblo, Colorado, January 5, 1954. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Northern Arizona University in 1976 with a bachelor of science degree in forestry. In 1990, he graduated from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

From 1972 through 1975, Cables worked as a wildland firefighter for the National Park Service. In 1976, he became a forestry technician on the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. He was a second-generation Forest Service employee—his mother Jackie worked for the Forest Service in Colorado. Cables was a forester on the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico; a silviculturist and district ranger on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona; a natural resources staff specialist in Washington, D.C.; forest supervisor for the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine; and forest supervisor for the Pike and San Isabel national forests and Comanche and Cimarron national grasslands in Colorado and Kansas.

In May 1999, Cables moved to Alaska to become the regional forester during a period of great change. He spent his initial weeks on the job traveling to all the ranger districts to meet with employees and visit local communities. From those visits, he developed a paper called “A View from Here” to lay out his vision for the future of the Alaska Region. He developed a five-year strategic plan based on Communities; Alaska Natives; Recreation and Tourism; and Organizational Effectiveness.

By 2000, local economies were suffering from the reduction of the timber program, which had been winding down for over a decade. The mill in Sitka was closed, and the mill in Ketchikan was struggling. At the time, the Forest Service workforce was designed to sustain a large timber program and a large engineering program related to road building. Without them, the need for staff in small communities diminished. Forest Service employees were generally well educated, came with stable salaries and families, and were civic minded. The loss of even a few employees could affect the tax bases to support schools and other services. Cables wanted to address the consequences of downsizing, saying the federal

1999 - 2000

government built whole communities around the timber industry and “...then, in a blink of an eye, they took it away.”⁴¹

Cables thought future opportunities to provide jobs and sustainable economies would be associated with recreation and tourism, programs that had been historically overshadowed in Alaska. Under his tenure, recreation infrastructure, including cabins and trails, was improved, and the road system was extended on Prince of Wales Island.

The sustainability of economic growth could not be separated from the economic growth of Alaska Natives. Like his two immediate predecessors, Cables was the Secretary of Agriculture’s representative to the Federal Subsistence Board. He thought it incumbent on the Forest Service to recognize the commitment of Alaska Natives to the subsistence lifestyle, and to dovetail the interests of the Forest Service to theirs. When Forest Service staff were cut in the Native community of Hoonah, Cables allowed the locals to make use of the Forest Service office, bunkhouse and other outbuildings. Furthermore, Cables directed State & Private Forestry, headquartered in Anchorage, to redirect many of their grants to Southeast Alaska. The decision was controversial with some S&PF employees whose previous interests were centered on forests in Southcentral and Interior Alaska.

While the Alaska Region contained the two largest national forests in the system, it was still a region with just two forests. Cables examined traditional roles and responsibilities of the ranger districts, forest supervisors offices, and the regional office to determine how to make necessary internal shifts to maximize the organizational efficiency of a 21st Century workforce.

Cables moved to Colorado in late 2000 with his wife Cindy and three children to become regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region. In 2011, the Governor of Colorado appointed Cables to head the newly-combined Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks. He maintains close ties with the Forest Service.





2008 Central Council President William Martin and Denny Bschor meet at the 73rd General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes.



Lynn Young and Denny Bschor are two of the founding members of the Fiddlin' Foresters, a group of employees who use old-time music to spread the agency's message of natural resource conservation.

DENNIS E. BSCHOR

Denny Bschor was born in Peoria, Illinois, July 17, 1947. He earned a bachelor's in forest management from Iowa State University in 1969. He served two years with the U.S. Army in Italy and returned to Colorado in 1971. His Forest Service career started on the Rio Grande National Forest. He also held positions on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, and Pike and San Isabel, Bighorn, and White River national forests.

In 1985, Bschor became the assistant director in planning and the Office of Information for the Rocky Mountain Region and was promoted to director of Public Affairs in 1986. In 1993, he was acting director of Recreation and Public Services. In 1994, he was forest supervisor of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. In 1998, he became the Director of Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Resources in Washington, D.C.

Bschor was intrigued by the wildness and uniqueness of Alaska and the commendable reputation of the Forest Service employees in the region. He became Alaska's thirteenth regional forester in January 2002. His strong background in recreation, wilderness and cultural heritage would serve him well in his new position.

During a 2005 Forest Service Centennial event, names of employees who died in the line of duty were read. Spurred by the ceremony as well as recent employee fatalities in the Alaska Region, Bschor increased his commitment to the employee safety program. In 2006, the region celebrated an important milestone of 10 years of aviation safety.

By 2005, it was clear that the demand for visitor services and facilities could impact the wildland character of the very forests visitors came to see. Bschor emphasized the need for strategic planning related to recreation. In 2008, almost 50,000 people visited the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan and 436,000—mostly cruise ship passengers—visited Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau. The Alaska Railroad and the Forest Service developed whistle stop stations

2002 - 2009

between Anchorage and Seward to allow for people of all abilities to access the roadless backcountry. In 2009, the Chugach was designated a Children's Forest to promote stewardship, education, and volunteerism in area youth.

Bschor was aware of the ongoing economic hardships facing communities due to the decline of the timber industry. On January 25, 2008, he released the Record of Decision for Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment which was developed through a collaborative effort with the State of Alaska and the public. Changes included the addition of old growth reserves and protection for goshawk nests, karst lands, and Native sacred sites. The amount of timber that could be sold was generally unchanged. The Nature Conservancy established the Tongass Futures Roundtable to open a dialogue among a diverse group of stakeholders, with Forest Service support.

On April 16, 2008, Bschor participated in an historic and unprecedented ceremony to acknowledge the Forest Service's removal of Alaska Native traditional smoke houses, cabins and fish camps in Southeast Alaska from the 1930s to the 1960s. This greatly improved relations between the Forest Service and Alaska Natives. When a new experimental forest was established in 2009 by the Pacific Northwest Research Station, the region facilitated the naming of the new forest to Héen Latinee, which means "River Watcher" in the Tlingit language.

In 2008 through 2009, the region faced budget cuts and an imperative from the Washington Office to make the organization leaner and more efficient. Along with other regional foresters across the nation, Bschor worked with his leadership and the union to reorganize and downsize the workforce. Bschor desired to be known for creating "...an organizational climate where diversity of viewpoint is accepted, where bad news can be safely delivered, where honesty is consistently rewarded, and where we can all pull together to carry out management decisions that are openly made."⁴²

Bschor was a founding member of the Fiddlin' Foresters, a group of employees who used their music to share a message of conservation in America. He retired in 2009. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Carefree, Arizona.



BETH G. PENDLETON

Beth Pendleton was born April 15, 1958, at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia. She received a bachelor's in wildlife biology from the University of Vermont, a master's in wildlife and fisheries from South Dakota State University, and a master's in journalism from the University of Wyoming. She was a graduate of Harvard's Senior Executive Fellows Program and American University's Key Leadership program.

Pendleton worked as managing editor for the National Wildlife Federation's Institute for Wildlife Research in Washington, D.C. After joining the Forest Service, she held several key positions in the Alaska Region, including team leader for the 1997 Tongass Forest Plan Revision; director for Recreation, Lands and Minerals, and deputy regional Forester for Operations. She also worked as program manager for Wildlife and Fisheries in Washington, D.C., and held short-term assignments as Rocky Mountain Region deputy regional forester and as Pacific Southwest Research Station director. In 2006, she became the deputy regional forester for Natural Resources for the Pacific Southwest Region.

It had taken many years for women to be admitted to the professional ranks of the agency. In 1992, Elizabeth Estill became the first female regional forester. In 2007, Abigail Kimbell became the first female chief in the 102-year history of the Forest Service.⁴³ In March 2010, Pendleton was selected as regional forester for Alaska. She had the respect of her colleagues and was perceived as well qualified and even tempered. When asked how significant it was for a woman to be appointed to the top job, she replied, "The time had come."⁴⁴

One of Pendleton's first challenges was addressing the needs of local communities that depended on the national forests for their livelihoods. The nation was in a drawn-out economic recession. In Alaska, timber jobs were at their lowest levels in 50 years. Outmigration from rural towns to the urban areas of Anchorage and Juneau threatened the economic stability of small communities and made it difficult to keep schools open.



Beth Pendleton with Richard and Janice Jackson, presidents of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood Grand Camp, wears the button blanket commissioned by the Tongass National Forest in 2002 in recognition of the Forest's Centennial.



Kayakers enjoy the pristine beauty and solitude of Misty Fiords National Monument.

2010 - PRESENT

The Tongass Transition Framework was instituted in May 2010. The Forest Service joined two other USDA agencies (Farm Services Agency and Rural Development), along with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration and the State of Alaska, to work with stakeholders to focus on job creation in Southeast Alaska. The group is making investments in four sectors: forest products, ocean products, visitor services, and renewable energy.

By 2010, more than 400,000 acres of second growth timber have been inventoried in Southeast Alaska, much of which is in the 30- to 60-year age bracket. Emphasis is being placed on pre-commercial thinning, growing a more integrated forest products industry, and offering second growth timber sales. Broad authorities encourage the agency to develop integrated timber projects and allow for stewardship contracting. The Forest Service is using receipts from the harvest of commercial products to invest in the restoration of salmon habitat and trails or the replacement of old culverts (red pipes) on the forest.

The region is improving visitor services for one million annual visitors to the Tongass and Chugach and working to ensure the relevancy of recreation services. There is a surge in new proposals for renewable energy, including hydroelectric and biomass, which could aid remote communities that still depend on diesel as a heat source. Both the Chugach and the Tongass are designated as Children's Forests, actively engaging thousands of youth annually.

In 2012, Alaska is at the forefront of climate change, with visibly receding glaciers, yellow cedar decline, and changes in species composition. Significant investments are being made for climate science research and education.

Pendleton's personal and professional passion is to develop stronger relationships with Alaska Natives and grow a workforce that better mirrors the population served by the Forest Service. Her service on the Federal Subsistence Board reinforces her understanding of the economic necessity of subsistence to rural residents, recognizing that the subsistence lifestyle means, "...putting food on the table, creating handicrafts, and maintaining the spiritual and cultural connections Alaskans have to the land."⁴⁵

Pendleton embraces the transformational change in the agency around employee and public safety. She actively engages employees in risk assessment and focuses on getting the job done safely, continuous learning, and returning home safely each day.

Pendleton lives in Juneau with her husband, Grey. They have one son.



End Notes

¹Rakestraw, Lawrence. A History of the United States Forest Service in Alaska, USDA Forest Service, 2002 reprint, p. 17.

²Rakestraw, p.18.

³Biographical record of the graduates and former students of the Yale Forest School, New Haven, 1913.

⁴http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/forest_facts/resources/heritage/rangerboats.html.

⁵Rakestraw, p. 65.

⁶Rakestraw, p. 81.

⁷Biographical record, Yale Forest School.

⁸Rakestraw, p. 84.

⁹Rakestraw, p. 86.

¹⁰<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/exforests/maybeso/index.shtml>.

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¹²www.foresthistory.org/ead/Greeley_Family.html.

¹³Rakestraw, p. 141.

¹⁴Rakestraw, p. 135.

¹⁵Rakestraw, p. 141.

¹⁶The National Forests of the Northern Region, Living Legacy, <http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Publications/region/1/history/chap9.htm>.

¹⁷Rakestraw, p. 141.

¹⁸Rakestraw, p. 141.

¹⁹Rakestraw, p. 142.

²⁰Rakestraw, p. 141.

²¹Rakestraw, p. 141.

²²Rakestraw, p. 141.

²³Rakestraw, p. 152.

²⁴Rakestraw, p. 153.

²⁵Rakestraw, p. 156.

²⁶Rakestraw, p. 157.

²⁷Rakestraw, p. 157.

²⁸Rakestraw, p. 158.

²⁹Rakestraw, p. 158.

³⁰Rakestraw, p. 171.

³¹Rakestraw, p. 159.

³²Rakestraw, p. 168.

³³Rakestraw, p. 155

³⁴http://tongass-fpadjust.net/Documents/Final_EIS_Volume_I_Part_1.pdf.

³⁵SourDough Notes, Issue 401, June 1984.

³⁶Tongass Timber, James Mackovjak, 2010, The Forest History Society, pg. 263.

³⁷<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/keyfind.pdf>.

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³⁹http://www.foresthistory.org/ead/Janik_Phillip_J.html.

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⁴¹Interview with Teresa Haugh, 2011.

⁴²Interview with Sandy Frost, 2002.

⁴³Women in the Forest Service: Early History, Gerald W. Williams, Ph.D., <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/history/women.shtml>.

⁴⁴Interview with Teresa Haugh, April 2012.

⁴⁵Haugh, 2012.

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