

1 1/2 Million Acres of Forest Lands in Southern Oregon Get State Protection

Southwest Oregon District Has Job Of Fire Prevention

Responsibility Includes Most of Two Counties

Ted Maul is a heavy-set, bull-headed (by his own admission) guy who is fire chief and police chief for 1,555,000 acres of forest land in southwestern Oregon.

Specifically, Maul's job is that of district warden of the Southwest Oregon district of the State Department of Forestry. He bosses 16 year-around employees and in summer fire-season months there are 85 other employees on the district payroll—lookouts, guards, fire crewmen and foremen.

Cooperation Important

Maul would be the first to admit that the success of his work—and the record of the district under him and his predecessors has been excellent—depends in large measure upon cooperation; cooperation between the state agency, the federal agencies charged with responsibility for the nation's timber resources, and with members of the lumber industry, big and small.

The district's police functions include the duty of enforcing all state forest conservation and fire laws. This means that logging and milling operations in the territory protected by the state must be checked, and that the foresters must see that they are operated accordingly.

But as Maul says, you've got to use a little common sense in enforcing laws. In a bad fire, the district depends on the industry for manpower. And it's difficult to arrest a man for a minor violation one day, and ask him for help the next.

So the state's forest policemen and firemen work at it with the idea that the main goal is compliance and cooperation. Where necessary, of course, arrests are made.

Huge Area

The area for which the district office is responsible is tremendous, taking in most of Jackson and Josephine counties. There are a few scattered parts of the two counties where the U. S. Forest Service, or a cooperative fire prevention agency, has the responsibility. And there is an area stretching down the middle of the valley, including Medford and its environs, for which the "patrol," as the department is generally known, is not responsible.

To protect this huge area from the ravages of fire, the district has a yearly budget of about \$150,000. It has 14 lookouts and 14 regular guard stations, plus four guards stationed in their own homes.

Most of the guards do not work a full year for the district, serving only through the fire season. There are a few experienced men, however, that do spend the full year in the district's employ.

Some Stay Year-Around

Some of the other guards, usually older and seasoned men, live in the guard stations the year-around, and the state figures it is good economy to furnish the living quarters during the winter to insure that a highly-skilled man will return to work in the spring.

The lookouts are perched on peaks throughout the two counties, and between them overlook most of the forested areas of the county. One forest lookout is being planned in eastern Jackson county, and when it is completed the network of smoke observation stations will be rounded out, with few, if any, "blind spots."

Some of the lookouts return, year after year, during the fire season. Others are brand new each year. Maul says the more experienced of the lookouts get so that they can spot a strange smoke almost without looking for it—so familiar do they become with the view from their mountaintops. These older lookouts rarely if ever report a smoke that does not turn out to be a fire. The greener hands, however, not knowing the exact location of a mill, or a railroad, or a slash burning, or some other smoke source, often report these.

It is the job of the dispatcher at district headquarters to take all lookout reports, plus any other fire reports, and decide how they shall be handled. If a smoke is spotted by one lookout, then confirmed by another, a crew is dispatched immediately to the area.

The lookouts' reports are made by radio, ordinarily, although each also has a telephone. The radio network is a highly effective and integrated one, with 18 ground stations (at Jackson and Josephine headquarters, on all lookouts and at two guard stations) and in addition there are about 60 mobile units, including several "handie-talkies," or "peanut" sets, which weigh only a few pounds.

The "peanuts" were designed by a technician in state headquarters of the forestry department, and so effective are they that they have been adopted for



BUTTE FALLS GUARD STATION—The guard station at Butte Falls, shown above, is fairly typical of the 14 such stations scattered throughout the southwest Oregon district of the state department of forestry. The guard and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bean, live here

during fire season, and live in Rogue River during the winter. In addition to answering fire calls, Bean issues entry permits during forest closure periods, and is otherwise responsible for forest fire protection in state-guarded lands in the area. Some guard stations have resident crews of boys living there during the summer

use by a number of other agencies.

One of Many Tools

Radio has been used as one of the "tools" of the forester's job for a number of years. Others, all of them important, include the lookouts, the stand-by fire-fighting crews, the guard stations, the heavy equipment, including pump trucks, personnel trucks, cars, pickups and tractors, and hand tools, ranging from axes and shovels to more specialized tools designed solely for fire-fighting.

What happens when a good-sized fire gets going?

That, of course, depends on a number of circumstances—the location, the extent, weather conditions, the availability of personnel.

It is important to remember that within the state forest protective district, the district warden and his staff are charged by law with the responsibility for fighting fire. If it gets too big for state to pay the fire-fighters the Aid Pay.

In doing so, Maul is apt to call on L. L. (Doc) Simpson, of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association. Maul says that the assistance rendered the forest district by SOCTFA in the past has been invaluable in arranging for men and supplies to be brought to the scene of a big or potentially dangerous fire.

Once Maul calls for the help, it is the responsibility of the state to pay the firefighters the going wage, and a portion of his budget is allocated for this purpose. Most small fires, however, can be handled by regular district employees.

One of the major problems of the local office is deciding what to do about fires—particularly those valley fires—which occur in the valley area which it is not the responsibility of the district to protect. Frequently there is no other fire-fighting equipment available, and on most occasions a forestry pumper will respond to the call, simply as a matter of courtesy and common humanity.

But when equipment is tied up on other fires, or when it is out of service in the winter time, these calls for help sometimes simply have to be turned down. Maul hopes that formation of rural fire districts, such as are in process of formation in the Central Point and Medford areas at present, will solve this problem for him.

One of the things that makes life easier for foresters is the growing public consciousness of the danger of fires in the woods. There were two recent examples of this—once when three fires in the Applegate-Ruch area were extinguished by residents and lumber workers this week almost before state crews arrived; another near Prospect where a fire in slash spread to 100 acres, and where most of the lumber mills in the area, alerted through the SOCTFA radio system at Maul's request, sent in men and equipment to quench the blaze within less than a day and a half.

The work of the Keep Oregon Green association, with its emphasis on fire prevention and education, has done a great deal to aid public awareness of the problem.

Sometimes it happens that a fire occurs on the border between areas under state protection (which include O and C as well as privately-owned land in the two counties) and areas protected by the U. S. Forest Service, or some other agency.

In this case, according to Maul, the procedure is for both responsible agencies to pitch in to put out the fire, and settle arguments later.

Southern Oregon foresters—federal, state and private—are generally encouraged by the increasing effectiveness of fire fighting organization on all levels. They believe the public is becoming educated to the necessity of saving this area's most important crop—trees.

But they are equally emphatic in stating that only with continued efforts on the part of forest professionals, and with continued support from the public, can this progress be maintained and extended.



DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS—The headquarters of the southwest Oregon district of the state department of forestry is located on Table Rock Road, north of Medford and just past Four Corners. It is shown in the picture above. At left is the office, which contains the major land station of the district's radio network, and the office of the district forester, assistant district forester, and the two inspectors assigned to this county. A similar office is maintained in Grants Pass. The lookout tower in the background has been little-used in recent years, since better-placed lookouts have been in operation on peaks throughout the district. Out of the picture at the right is the mess hall and bunkhouse, where the resident crews live. Behind the bunkhouse are garages housing much of the district's automotive equipment, and a warehouse, where there is stored everything from hazelhoes and axes to radio tubes.



LADY LOOKOUT—Mrs. Thelma Sims, Jacksonville, is the lookout stationed atop Soda Mountain this summer. The lookout cabin, which serves as both "home and office" for her during fire season, is shown above. This particular lookout has one of the most spectacular views available anywhere in Jackson county: clear view up the Rogue valley with Mt. Ashland and Grizzly Butte to the left, and Mt. McLoughlin to the right. Turning around, one can look down on the Copco lake on the Klamath river in California, with Mt. Shasta rising in majestic isolation beyond. Mrs. Sims, in common with many other veterans, appears to enjoy thoroughly her lonely summer-long vigils. Her lookout is one of few which does not have to perch high on a tower to look over surrounding mountain-top trees.

Poor Diet Causes Many TB Cases

Sydney, Australia—(U.P.)—Almost every second girl who contracts tuberculosis in this city does so as a result of failing to eat lunch, according to the medical director of the anti-tuberculosis association, Dr. H. Wilson.

"There are an amazing number of pretty girls in sanatoria who are there because they go out too much and do not spend enough time eating properly or getting sufficient sleep," Dr. Wilson said.

Dr. Wilson agrees with the dean of the London School of Hygiene, Dr. Andrew Topping who says that many girls develop tuberculosis through spending their lunch money on luxuries.

Too many parties and dances and too much interest in dresses and such things are sapping the vitality and strength of our young womanhood," Dr. Wilson said.

"Almost half the girls who come to T-B clinics admit they haven't time to eat breakfast, and they tell us they spend their lunch-hours shopping or at films.

They then rush home and get ready to go out again, and often do not even bother to have a decent evening meal.

"This senseless and unhealthy

Parasite in Brain Of Sheep Discovered

Ithaca, N.Y.—(U.P.)—A hitherto-unrecorded parasite in the brain and spinal cord of sheep has been discovered by veterinarian research workers at Cornell university.

Cases have been found in sections of New York and New Hampshire.

The parasite is a worm about one inch long which crawls through a sheep's spinal cord and brain and destroys tissue as it goes, said Drs. John H. Whitlock, Peter C. Kennedy and Steven J. Roberts.

Some animals are made completely helpless by the damage done by the parasite.

The parasite, they said, probably is transmitted by mosquitoes or biting flies. The likelihood is that some other animal than the sheep is its natural host.

The three scientists said the disease has never before been described in this country. A similar disease is known in Asia, but there it has been attributed to a different parasite.

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existence deprives them of their powers of resistance to disease and they finish up with tuberculosis."

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