

# State, Forest Service Land Areas Reviewed

There is an old Scotch song that goes something like this: "You take the high road and I'll take the low."

Substitute lands for road and the song could be sung by the state forestry department to the U.S. forest service, for that's the forest management pattern in Oregon.

This is a good thing to know, foresters point out, as the annual fire season approaches. The high country is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. forest service, and the low country is in the state forestry department's realm. The bureau of land management enters this forest picture as owner of the Oregon-California railroad lands, the public domain and manager of the watershed. The BLM, however, contracts with the state forestry department for fire protection.

### Fire Protection Agency

The state may protect one side of the road and the federal government the other. The state forestry department is chiefly a fire protection agency and owns little land.

The state forestry department has manned 12 lookouts for the 1963 season. The Rogue River National forest will have 13 lookouts in operation, one more than last year. Devil's Peak is still snowbound but will probably be manned this week. It is normally opened the last week in June or the first week in July, according to Carroll E. Brown, forest supervisor.

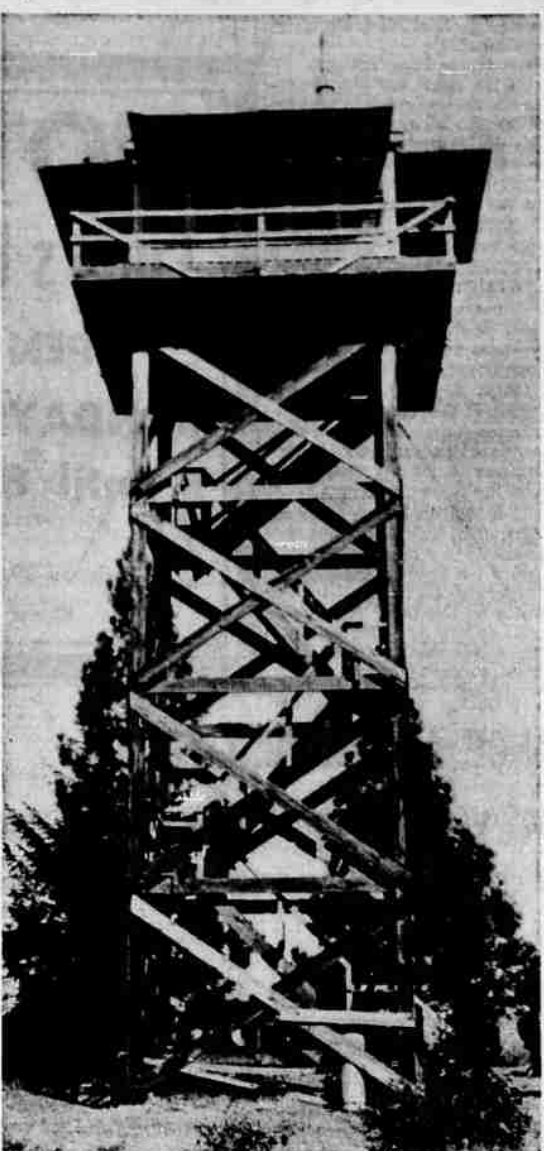
The lookouts manned in the national forest are Whiskey Peak, Squaw Peak, Dutchman's Peak, Cinnabar, Wagner Butte, Robinson Butte, Blue Rock, Rustler's Peak, Devil's Peak, Bessie Rock, Hall's Point, Abbott Butte, Mt. Stella and Hershberger.

### State Lookouts Noted

The 12 lookouts in the state forest area are White Point, Fredenburg, Soda Mountain, Round Top, Battle Mountain, Tallow Box, Manzanita, Pea Vine, Sexton, Mt. Reuben, Waldo and Buck Rock.

"The basic law of Oregon places upon each forest landowner the responsibility of protecting his own lands from fire."

This brings the forest industry into the mosaic or tapestry of fire protection. The forest industry in southern Oregon is "very cooperative," according to Curtis Nesheim, district warden,



**TYPICAL LOOKOUT**—This state forestry department lookout on Battle Mountain, manned for the 1963 season, is just like many others from which southern Oregon woods and lands will be guarded against fire by trained fire finders. Battle Mountain is north of Wimer.

and Wayne Peterson, administrative assistant, of the Southwest Oregon district.

This cooperation makes fire protection a three facet thing and each spring the representatives get together for their annual planning conference.

Why does anyone need to know all this? The answer is "it could help greatly in speeding up action in case of fire or in obtaining a fire

permit." During the 1962 fire season, 3,401 burning permits were issued by district personnel.

Know where you are and how to report your location! The state forestry department issues fire permits outside the rural fire districts and city jurisdiction. There are seven public rural fire districts on the Southwest Oregon district—Shady Cove, Talent, Medford, Rogue River, Central Point, Wimer and Illinois Valley. Another one is being organized at Prospect.

When a call comes into the state forestry department headquarters on Table Rock road, reporting a fire or requesting a burning permit, the warden looks at the map. He then tells the caller in what jurisdiction he is located. If a permit is wanted, he tells the person which warden to contact.

**All Become Involved**  
Sometimes "a big cloud runs a circle," Peterson said, and rural departments, state fire patrols, U.S. forest service crews and industry volunteers become involved in the fire suppression. Each crewman is working to keep the fire from spreading into his area or to put out the fire already there.

Suppression crews are called in as conditions warrant. Some were called up in May and by July crews will probably be at peak strength. At the time of the Hepsie mountain fire there were 48 fires going all at once. It was a lightning strike fire. Fires for the most part, however, occur where the people are, Peterson commented.

Last year 75 per cent of the man-caused fires on the Southwest Oregon district occurred within a 12 air mile radius of Grants Pass, Nesheim said. In 1961 there were more in the Medford vicinity.

**Finance Protection**  
In the forests the taxpayers finance the protection. For fighting fires two cents an acre is budgeted. This money cannot be used for any other purpose.

The state emergency fire cost fund is supported entirely by the lumber industry with a severance tax of four cents per thousand board feet. When this fund reaches \$750,000 the tax drops to two cents. That is what it is now, according to District Warden Nesheim.

The Southwest Oregon district controlled 213 fires between April 10 and Nov. 3, 1962. These fires burned 2,404 acres with two of the fires accounting for some 835 acres and five others burning some 1,050 acres.

A total of \$35,417.59 was expended on fire fighting over and above the regular district men and equipment. Of this amount, \$2,310.39 was expended on grazing zone fires, leaving a total of \$33,107.20 expended on forest lands. The sum of \$878.46 was collected by the state for-

ester on fires that occurred during this fire season.

There were 19 incendiary fires on the Southwest Oregon district during the 1962 season. If a responsible party is responsible for one of these fires the state is obligated to collect the fire costs from him. All the 1962 fires were investigated and three parties were apprehended.

The state is suing to collect the fire costs. Another suit pending was filed in connection with the Wilderville fire.

The six lookouts in the state forestry district that will not be manned this summer are Chimney Rock, Table Mountain, Anderson Butte, Burnt Peak, Mt. Isabelle and King Mountain. These can always be manned in case of emergency.

It is the cooperation of the public in reporting incidence of fires that has enabled the state forestry department to adopt this economy, the foresters said. The state protection budget has been reduced during the last two years. The operation goes on with the same amount of money in spite of rising costs. The department is assisted greatly in meeting this problem by the budget advisory committee, Peterson said.

**On District Staff**  
There are approximately 110 people on the Southwest Oregon district staff at the peak of the season. The wardens' assignments are very flexible, controlled by the weather. If they go on duty early and then a rainy season develops, they are called off duty.

In the dry years the grass doesn't grow so tall, therefore it doesn't create as great a hazard during the fire season. Thus nature has ways of balancing the increased problem in the forest by reducing the danger in the fields.

The forests of Oregon provide the state economy with its number one income producer. So even to those persons who fail to appreciate the scenic and recreational gifts of the outdoors, the trees are worth saving.

## Area Students on University Honor Roll Are Noted

Eugene—Sixty students, out of a total of 429 listed on the University of Oregon's honor roll for spring term, made the perfect grade score of 4.00 or all A grades.

The honor roll includes the names of all students making grade point averages of 3.50 or higher, based on not less than 12 term hours.

The honor roll included the following students from Medford:

Mary Margaret Barker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Barker, 2430 Hillcrest rd.

Hannah Margaret Booth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Booth, 2133 Siskiyou blvd.

Susan L. Coffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Coffman, route 2.

Jacklyn Lee Creager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Creager, 27 Glen Oak court.

Thomas Alfred Emmens, son of Col. and Mrs. R. G. Emmens, 1511 East Main st.

Harlow Zinser Head, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Head, 1415 Euclid ave.

Linda Faye Hess, who achieved a 4.0 GPA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hess, 750 Lozier lane.

Nancy Chandler Hinman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Hinman, 675 Oakdale ave.

Richard Victor Kengla, son of V. W. Kengla, 2995 Old Military rd.

Richard James Lichtl, who achieved a 4.0 GPA, son of Mrs. Carl A. Lichtl, 544 Whitman place.

Patrick Eric McLaughlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. McLaughlin, 3384 Jacks on nville highway.

James Craig Miller, son of Darrell Miller, 317 South Groveland ave.

Micka Kae Noble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Noble, 430 Haven st.

Michael Victor Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth V. Phillips, 1909 Roberts rd.

Sandra Dee Shugart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Shugart, 400 Barnes ave.

From Shady Cove: John Ashton Donat, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Donat, Star route; and from Talent: Rebecca McAlaster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McAlaster, route 1.

**AIRMAN KILLED**  
Belchertown, Mass.—(AP)—One airman was killed and three others escaped serious injury early today when a \$3.5 million KC135 jet strato-tanker burst into flames during a driving rain storm, crashed and exploded.

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