

Patriotism Shown by Fire Caution

The forest service urges patriotic fire caution this week on the part of recreationist throngs that will "migrate" to Oregon and Washington national forest playgrounds over July Fourth, according to C. J. Buck, U. S. regional forester.

"The forest fire season is here in dead earnest," said Buck. "Recent rains have had a tendency to lull people into the belief that the fire hazard is negligible and this in itself is a dangerous condition. Experience shows that it takes only a few days at this time of year to create a new critical forest fire condition, heightened this time by lack of public understanding of the danger."

Beginning July 1 national forest regulations require camp fire permits from all campers and picnickers who expect to build campfires in national forests, except at designated and protected camp grounds, the forest service states. Permits can be obtained from rangers or other forest officers. Regulations also ban smoking while traveling in the national forests after July 1 and require that all parties entering the forest by ve-

hicle or pack train and camping at unimproved and undesignated camp grounds be equipped with a shovel, axe, and one gallon bucket. Fireworks are banned from the national forests.

"The records show that careless smokers, 'cigarette tossers,' and campers cause more than half the man-caused fires," Buck said. "These people don't want to destroy their own playgrounds, but they do. Each year some choice recreation area or roadside strip is permanently scarred by preventable fire. It looks as if we are not going to get away from this condition till the public is thoroughly aroused at the loss a little carelessness kindles."

The forest service points out that the "no smoking while traveling" rule grew out of the discovery that fires caused by lighted cigarettes or matches usually come from persons traveling along a trail or road and absent-mindedly dropping these potential fire brands. The shovel, axe and bucket requirement makes it necessary for forest visitors to go properly equipped to protect their campfires by digging around them and thoroughly drenching them when they are abandoned. Tossing burning matches or cigarettes from an automobile on forest land is prohibited by state law.

Number of fires and acreage burned within the national forests of Oregon and Washington already exceeds the marks set for the same period in 1936, the forest service states. Total fires for the season to date are 166 against only 127 for last year, and area burned within national forest boundaries totals 1,238 acres as compared with 257 acres in 1936.

OREGON SPECIAL CROPS NOT ESTIMATED

Government estimates of Oregon's cash farm income for the past 10 years, which averaged slightly less than \$100,000,000, have included the principal national farm commodities but not numerous specialty products grown in Oregon, the current report on the agricultural situation by the O. S. C. agricultural extension service points out. Among these specialty products are numerous kinds of grass and forage crop seeds, vegetable and flower seeds, flax fiber, filberts, peppermint oil, turkeys, and miscellaneous poultry, furbearing animals, and others.

"This lack of data concerning the production and marketing of Oregon's specialty products has been a serious handicap and has caused the state to be shown as of much less importance agriculturally than the facts would warrant, as the trend of Oregon agriculture has been toward specialty products to a far greater degree than the available statistics indicate," says L. R. Breithaupt, author of the report. The Oregon state legislature of 1937 took cognizance of the need for more agricultural data in a law providing for the cooperation of the agricultural extension service with the bureau of agricultural economics, and a survey is now in progress, Breithaupt says. The problem is so complicated, however, that the first annual figures are not expected to be available for some time.

The development of crop and livestock estimates as an official activity of the government dates from the year 1839 when Congress first appropriated money for the purpose. Full-time federal agricultural statisticians were assigned to the respective states in 1914. By 1933, approximately three-fourths of the states had begun to cooperate in order that the data might be more complete.

"It is particularly desirable that the official crop reports should show Oregon's production of specialty products," says the college circular, which points out their value in advertising and marketing farm products. The data have been found valuable or essential for the benefit of the agricultural industry in many other ways, including planning agricultural production to meet market demands, in setting up marketing organizations and programs, in connection with tariff legislation and reciprocal trade agreements, in transportation matters involving facilities and rates, and for such vast projects as the agricultural adjustment and soil conservation programs.

CLAIM BLANKS MUST BE FILLED

Recent amendments to the gasoline tax law simplified methods of filing claims, however, it is still necessary for claimants to make complete statements regarding the use made of the gasoline and the equipment operated, as well as other information requested on the application forms. Each claim must be signed, although it is no longer nec-

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LAST WEEK'S PROOF

The steam engine was not invented by Watts. The Encyclopedia Britannica confirms the fact that he simply improved upon Newcomen's engine and completed the application of steam to power. There were steam engines in existence before his time.

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