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# National Forests *of the* Rocky Mountain Region

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service

# *Why National Forests?*

**T**HE national forests were established in order that the Nation might possess, protect, and perpetuate their many resources for the good of its citizens for all time; meanwhile permitting the use of these resources under a system of management that would save them from depletion.

Consistent with this broad purpose the water, timber, forage, and other resources are available to anyone who complies with the rules and regulations formulated for their protection and disposal.

From the total of all fees collected, for the use of forest resources, 25 percent is returned to counties within which the forests are located, for their use on public roads and schools. In addition, the Government expends large sums directly for roads, trails, and other improvements necessary for the proper use of the areas.

## Watersheds Need Forest Cover

The water which has its source in the numerous mountain lakes and streams of the national forests is highly important to all those who live within the area to which it may flow. Domestic and municipal water supplies, the irrigation of farm lands, and the development of power depend greatly upon the regularity of this flow.

The areas from which water springs must be adequately protected if the supply is to be kept steady and constant. The maintenance of a timber and vegetative cover tends to do this. Water from rains and melting snow, held in check by the forest cover, seeps into the soil and contributes to the steady flow of streams. Natural control of rain and snowfall thus prevents erosion and the resulting silting of streams and reservoirs. Destruction of the forest cover by fire, or other causes, results in floods, alternating with water shortage.

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## The Rocky Mountain Region

The Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, includes 21 national forests with a total gross area of more than 21,000,000 acres within the States of Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska. The forests in the region are administered by the regional forester located in Denver, and each forest is under the supervision of a forest supervisor, with headquarters in the immediate vicinity of the forest. Each forest is divided into a number of ranger districts, with a district ranger in charge.



Lake Marie and the Snowy Range, Medicine Bow National Forest.

## Timber as a Regular Crop

A forest is more than a group of trees. It is a complex community of plant and animal life drawn together by the protection afforded by trees. Within it are built up qualities that are the product of age-long association in nature of many forms of life. To these are added characteristic qualities of soil and water which in turn favor the continued development of the various forms of life.

The foundation of the utilization of timber lies in cultural practices designed to maintain a perpetual production without incurring the loss of other forest values. Mature timber from the national forests is sold, and with its removal the remaining trees grow more rapidly because of more crown space and sunlight, and a larger feeding area for the root system.

Management of timber production and wood utilization in the national forests is directed by the Forest Service Division of Timber Management. The sale of national forest timber is regulated in accordance with plans which take into consideration not only natural, but also economic conditions, and which have as their aim both thrifty forests and stabilized industries and communities.

The management of a resource like timber requires practical business administration as well as technical skill. On the national forests, timber is ordinarily sold under competitive bid, except for small quantities sold to ranchers for personal use. Trees that are mature, overmature, and defective are selected and marked or designated for cutting, much like the harvesting of any ripe crop. The amount cut is regulated so as not to exceed the capacity of the forest to replace the timber through growth in the remaining trees.

The total volume of merchantable timber in the national forests of the Rocky Mountain region is about 43 billion

### Ask the Forest Officers

More detailed information concerning any of the national forests of the Rocky Mountain region may be obtained by addressing the regional forester, Denver, Colo., or the forest supervisor at the headquarters town. In many cases it is possible to obtain individual forest folder maps of a larger scale. The Forest Service welcomes inquiries about the national forests and will gladly furnish such information as it has available.

#### FOREST HEADQUARTERS

##### Colorado:

Arapaho.....	Idaho Springs.
Cochetopa.....	Salida.
Grand Mesa.....	Grand Junction.
Gunnison.....	Gunnison.
Holy Cross.....	Glenwood Springs.
Montezuma.....	Cortez.
Pike.....	Colorado Springs.
Rio Grande.....	Monte Vista.
Roosevelt.....	Fort Collins.
Routt.....	Steamboat Springs.
San Isabel.....	Pueblo.
San Juan.....	Durango.
Uncompahgre.....	Delta.
White River.....	Glenwood Springs.

##### Wyoming:

Bighorn.....	Sheridan.
Medicine Bow.....	Laramie.
Shoshone.....	Cody.
Washakie.....	Lander.

##### South Dakota:

Black Hills.....	Deadwood.
Harney.....	Custer.

##### Nebraska:

Nebraska.....	Halsey.
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board feet. The annual growth capacity of this stand is estimated to be 700 million board feet. The principal species of trees included in this estimate are Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir. Of lesser importance are limber and bristlecone pine; white, alpine, and corkbark fir; and blue spruce. Douglas-fir and

the various species of pine are used for the production of lumber, railroad ties, and poles. The true firs—white, alpine, and corkbark—and the spruces are of value for the manufacture of wood pulp and paper, Engelmann spruce possessing outstanding qualifications for this use because of its unusually long fibers. More than half the total volume is made up of these pulpwood species.

### Planting New Timber Crops

Millions of coniferous tree seedlings are grown in two nurseries maintained by the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain region. These nurseries are the Monument Nursery, located 3 miles west of Monument, Colo., and the Bessey Nursery, located 2 miles west of Halsey, Nebr. Each nursery furnishes about 5,000,000 transplants annually to the Forest Service and cooperating agencies.

Seedlings from the nurseries are used in planting fire-denuded lands on the national forests, where the original forest cover must be replaced and natural restocking is inadequate, and, also, for afforesting treeless lands. In many cases where the original forest has been destroyed by fire, it would take hundreds of years for the forest to restore itself naturally. About 60,000 acres have been successfully planted to date in this region.

### Stock Raising Is Important

Some 12½ million acres of national-forest land in the Rocky Mountain region are grazed annually during the summer months by 350,000 cattle and 1,240,000 sheep, under permit to 5,000 ranchers. The average permit is for 90 cattle or 1,149 sheep.

Because nature's balance is so precarious in this semiarid region, and because of coarse soils and occasional torrential rains, the range lands must be managed most carefully to prevent overuse with resultant depletion of forage, followed by serious erosion and loss of soil, our basic resource. The numbers of stock which are permitted to graze on the national forests are therefore limited, and management plans, made after consultation with stockmen, are used as guides for proper range use.

The cooperative handling of the forest ranges is encouraged, and in the Rocky Mountain region 188 livestock associations have been organized for this purpose. In many cases, stockmen pool the livestock in a given range allot-

*Enjoy Your Visit but Leave*



F-228229

Above left.—A trail through the aspens.

F-87646

Above right.—A dense stand of Engelmann spruce.



F-385830

Above.—Enjoying the cool shade at Crazy Creek campgrounds, Shoshone National Forest.



F-376866

Ponderosa pine logs on the way to market.



F-221156

Above.—Making grass into mutton.

Below.—A tense moment on a national-forest trout stream.

F-382528



*a Clean Camp*



### NATIONAL FORESTS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION REGION 2

1940

Scale

LEGEND

- NATIONAL FORESTS IN REGION 2
- NATIONAL FORESTS IN ADJACENT REGIONS
- FOREST SUPERVISOR'S HEADQUARTERS REPORT FIRES HERE
- MAIN HIGHWAYS
- OTHER ROADS
- REGION HEADQUARTERS, DENVER, COLORADO

Development roads make the forest resources available and open inspiring vistas

About 146,000 cattle and sheep find summer range in the forest, and the local lumber industry cuts over 1,000,000 board feet of timber.

Recreational use has been fostered by the improvement of many attractive camp sites along the three highways and the several forest roads. The Tenley Meadows Recreational Area is attracting many visitors. Winter sports in this vicinity also are gaining in popularity. The western dude ranch industry had its origin within and adjacent to this forest, and several dude ranches use the Big Horn Wilderness Area and other sections of the forest for their park trips.

The Medicine Wheel on the north end of the forest is an interesting relic of prehistoric origin.

**Medicine Bow National Forest**—Long before the time of the Oregon Trail, Wyoming Indians made annual visits to the country now within the Medicine Bow National Forest, to obtain mountain molybdenum, which grows abundantly along the streams, and from the wood fashioned their bows. In the "medicine bow" festivals of the Indians originated the name given to the forest.

Since the arrival of the first settlers, timber products from this forest have been in demand throughout southern Wyoming. Railroad ties and large quantities of props used in Wyoming coal mines come from this forest. A large timber treating plant is maintained by the Union Pacific Railroad at Laramie. This heavily timbered forest supports a stand of nearly 3,000,000,000 feet of timber from which over 2,000,000,000 board feet are cut annually without depriving the forest of its natural beauty.

Grazing, recreational use, and watershed protection also represent large values. The forest provides range for about 150,000 head of domestic stock and a large game herd. Winter recreational areas have been developed at three sites within the forest.

**Shoshone National Forest**—The Shoshone has the distinction of being the oldest of all national forests. The original area was withdrawn from public entry by President Harrison March 30, 1891, and lies along the eastern slope of the Absaroka Mountains adjoining Yellowstone National Park.

The timber resources of the Shoshone are large, but have been utilized to a very limited extent. The watershed protection value of the forest is high because of the irrigation development. On the Shoshone River, which has its source on this forest, the United States Reclamation Service has built the Shoshone Reservoir of 450,000 acre-foot capacity.

Cody, Buffalo Bill's home town, is the locale of the forest headquarters and here many resorts, hotels, and dude ranches outfit park trips into the mountainous Absaroka Wilderness Area. Five roads radiating from Cody lead into various parts of the forest. U.S. 20 extends across the forest from Cody to Yellowstone National Park and is one of the most attractive of Wyoming's many scenic routes.

**Wind River National Forest**—The Wind River National Forest is located on the east side of the Continental Divide, in the rugged mountains at the headwaters of Wind River and its tributaries. The lodgepole pine forests at the headwaters of Wind River have been a source of railroad ties for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad for many years.

Livestock owned by ranchers in the Wind River Valley utilize forage on the forest ranges during the summer season. The two highest mountain peaks in Wyoming—Gannett and Fremont—are located along the divide forming the west boundary of the forest. The forest includes many beautiful lakes, and some of the largest living glaciers in the United States lie on the eastern slope of the divide, including Fremont, Gannett, and Dinwoody.

Three large areas, totaling about 400,000 acres and including some of the most scenic and rugged sections in the Rocky Mountains, have been set aside in the Wind River Forest and will be retained as nearly as possible in their primitive condition. They have been designated as the Glacier Peak and Stratified Wilderness Areas and the Popo Agie Area. The timber products which can be obtained from these areas can be obtained from the forest headquarters.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

**Black Hills National Forest**—The Black Hills National Forest, established by President Cleveland in 1892, occupies the northern part of the Black Hills of South Dakota and extends into Wyoming. The gross area is 797,614 acres.

In 1898, the 100,000-acre Black Hills National Forest was made to the Homestead Mining Company, at Nemo, S. Dak. Since that time, a continuous supply of timber has been furnished to that and other mines, and to the general lumber market. Over 2,000,000,000 board feet of lumber has been taken from the Black Hills region since 1876.

Beginning with the discovery of gold in 1874, mining has been an important industry, and timber products from the forest has contributed to the successful development of the large mines at Lead and Deadwood.

Other resources include forage for the local stock-raising industry, water for power and recreation. Many sites for recreational use have been improved by the Forest Service.

**Harney National Forest**—This forest was segregated from the original Black Hills in 1892 and takes its name from Harney Peak, the highest point in the Black Hills and in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains.

Near the present site of Custer, now headquarters for the Harney Forest, the first discovery of gold in the Black Hills was made on July 27, 1874. Following the treaty of 1875, whereby the Indians surrendered their title to the Hills, gold seekers occupied the country.

The development of the mines, construction of railroads, and the conversion of suitable lands into ranches and farms created a need for large quantities of timber. The present annual timber cut on the Harney exceeds 25,000,000 board feet, the largest on any national forest in the region. Fires and insect attacks have destroyed immense amounts of valuable timber. Most of such areas are restocking with young growth, however, and under protection and forest management are being made as productive as ever.

#### NEBRASKA

**Nebraska National Forest**—Unlike the national forests of Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, the Nebraska Forest, located in the sand hill region, is in the process of making. Pine trees do not now occur naturally in this part of the sand hills, but are being planted by the millions. Remnants of a pine forest in scattered parts of the country surrounding the Nebraska Forest indicate the possible existence of a former much larger forested area in northwestern Nebraska.

The Bessey Nursery, started in 1902, on the Middle Loop River, 2 miles west of Halsey, is the forest headquarters, and produces millions of seedlings annually for planting on the Nebraska and other national forests. Trees are also raised for the State Extension Foresters of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota for distribution to farmers for shelterbelt and woodlot planting.

Planting has been carried on here for more than 30 years, and approximately 14,000 acres have been successfully planted. Thinnings in plantations are now yielding fuel wood and poles.

Cloud Peak across Lake Helen, Big Horn National Forest

4880  
4881  
4882



# Be Sure Your Fire Is Out — Dead Out!

## Rules for Fire Prevention

1. Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles. Don't smoke while traveling through the woods.
3. Use firetraps at improved campgrounds and observe the rules for building and extinguishing fires. Before building a campfire at places where no grates are available, scrape away all inflammable material from a place about 4 feet in diameter. Keep your fire small and never build it against trees or logs, or near brush.
4. Never break camp until your fire is out, dead out.
5. Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn burned sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire and be sure the last spark is dead.
6. Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.

## Forest Health Rules

1. Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water.
2. Burn all paper, old clothing, or rubbish. Bury or place in pits or receptacles provided, all garbage, tin cans, bottles, and other refuse.
3. Do not wash soiled clothing or utensils or bathe in springs, streams, or lakes. Use a container and throw dirty water where it cannot get into the water supply without first filtering through the ground.
4. Use public toilets if they are available. Where not provided, bury 2 feet deep all human excrement, at least 200 feet from water.
5. Observe the rules of sanitation and protect yourself and others. Report all insanitary conditions to the nearest health or forest officer.
6. Obey the posted rules for the use of improved campgrounds.

directly upon the careless individual. Until every person who enters or passes through the forest learns to put out his campfire, his match, or his burning tobacco, he is a menace to the safety of the forest. Forest visitors are requested to cooperate in every possible way to reduce forest fires, to report any fire discovered, and to help put it out. Observance of the fire prevention rules should be strictly followed.

If you find a forest fire, put it out if you can. If you cannot put it out, report it to the forest supervisor, the ranger, the sheriff, or the nearest telephone operator. Locations of the headquarters of the supervisors are indicated on the map.

## COLORADO

**Arapaho National Forest.**—The Arapaho National Forest is situated on both the western and eastern slopes of the Continental Divide. The greater part of the approximately 1,000,000 acres within its boundaries is on the headwaters drainage area of the Colorado River. One ranger district is in the Clear Creek drainage, which is a part of the South Platte watershed. The timber stand is more than 2,688 million board feet and the local lumber industry cuts over 3,000,000 feet each year. About 58,000 cattle and sheep find summer pasture on the forest ranges.

Winter sports use is higher here than in any other forest in the State. Because of the close proximity to Denver of Berthoud Pass, Loveland Basin, and Winter Park, where runs, tows, and shelters have been provided, skiing is attracting large crowds regularly throughout the winter. The Denver & Salt Lake Railroad runs snow trains which carry many people to Winter Park at the west portal of the 6-mile Moffat Tunnel.

Summer recreational use is high, and many camp and picnic sites have been improved for use. The Gore Range-Eagle Nest Wild Area in the Arapaho and Holy Cross National Forests has been set aside to retain primitive conditions on one of the most remote, rugged, and inaccessible mountain areas of the State.

**Cochetopa National Forest.**—The Cochetopa National Forest includes the headwaters of the Arkansas River a region noted for its rough, rugged mountains, extending southward from the vicinity of Leadville, and an area along both sides of the Continental Divide from Monarch Pass southward to the La Garita Mountains. Its gross area is 1,350,034 acres.

Mount Elbert and Mount Massive, near Leadville, are the highest peaks in the Rocky Mountains between Canada and Mexico, and second and third highest in the United States. The Collegiate Range of mountains, west of Buena Vista, and Mount Shavano, west of Salida, are well known landmarks. In early summer remnants of snow on this mountain outline the figure of a woman, known as the "Angel of Shavano."

Two separate tracts, containing the most beautiful and rugged parts of the forest, have been set aside as wild areas on the Cochetopa and will be preserved in their primitive condition. One, the Mount Shavano Area, centers around the peak of the same name. The other, La Garita Wild Area, in the southern part of the forest includes the northern exposure of La Garita Mountains, Sheep Mountain, and the upper reaches of Saguache Creek.

Mining at Leadville was an important industry at the turn of the century, and some of its famous mines are still producing ores. The largest mining operation on the forest and the largest of its kind in the world is the molybdenum mine at Climax, on Fremont Pass. That mine furnishes 90 percent of the molybdenum mined in the United States, and in 1938 produced ores valued at \$18,000,000.

Timber, grazing, and recreational use, as well as very high watershed protection, represent other outstanding values of this forest.

**Grand Mesa National Forest.**—The Grand Mesa National Forest was established by proclamation of President Benjamin Harrison in 1892. The principal topographic features are the Grand and Battlement Mesas, high tablelands at an average elevation of 10,300 feet. Grand Mesa is one of the largest flat-topped mountains in the world, and has over 100 lakes, many of them old craters. Excellent automobile roads cross this mesa, which is a mile above the adjacent Colorado and Gunnison River Valleys.

The cool, invigorating climate, the good fishing, and pleasant surroundings attract visitors not only from the warm valleys nearby, but also from more distant places. Many attractive camp sites have been improved for summer recreation, and tows and runs are being developed for those interested in winter sports.

Timber cutting is limited, but grazing and watershed protection values are very important. The waters on Grand Mesa and elsewhere on the forest, besides affording excellent fishing facilities, are intensively used for irrigation in

the farm lands and extensive fruit orchards of the surrounding valleys. The forest range provides summer pasture for more than 34,000 cattle, the largest number grazed on any forest in the region, and 31,000 sheep.

**Gunnison National Forest.**—This forest lies west of the Continental Divide, in a horseshoe shape, around the upper slopes of a high, forested region, drained by the upper branches of the Gunnison River. It produces large quantities of timber, much of which is used locally in towns, ranches, and coal mines.

The use of portions of the forest is practically indispensable to the raising of livestock, which is the principal pursuit of the ranchers in the region.

The forest is an important part of the Colorado River watershed, and the Uncompahgre Reclamation Project, as well as numerous private projects, derives its water supply from streams rising within the national forest. Taylor Reservoir has been constructed to provide additional water for the Uncompahgre Project. The dam is 165 feet high and will impound 106,250 acre-feet of water. The reservoir will have a total water surface of 2,060 acres, and when full will be the largest body of water in the Colorado mountains.

Large recreational use is made of this territory, and numerous resorts on the Gunnison River and in other places provide accommodations for those seeking stopping places. Many roads lead to various places where excellent fishing streams are to be found.

**Holy Cross National Forest.**—The Holy Cross Forest is located on the western slope of the Continental Divide, and south of the Colorado River. It spreads out in fan-shape over the watersheds of the Eagle, Frying Pan, Roaring Fork, and Crystal Rivers. It derives its name from the Mount of the Holy Cross, which displays very clearly a huge cross of snow on the face of the mountain during several weeks of the early summer. The Holy Cross National Monument, embracing an area of 1,392 acres, includes this world-famous mountain.

Mining in the region is important. Aspen is famous for its silver mines, and Gilman has large deposits of zinc ores. At the head of Crystal River on Yule Creek is an enormous deposit of white marble. Large quarries are operated here and many well-known buildings have been constructed of Yule marble.

The Maroon-Snowmass Wild Area has three times been selected by the American Forestry Association for a Trail Riders of the Wilderness expedition, a pack trip of 2 weeks duration sponsored by that organization in rugged mountain areas, where only foot or horseback travel is possible.

**Montezuma National Forest.**—Located in the southwestern part of Colorado, the northern and eastern portions of this forest are in high rugged mountains, while the southwestern part is a region of high plateaus adjoining the cliff-dweller country. Automobile roads cross various portions of the area, and the Denver & Rio Grande Southern narrow-gauge railroad serves this territory.

This forest includes valuable ponderosa pine stands, important in the local lumber industry. The total timber stand is placed at 2,071 million board feet. The annual cut is nearly 19,000,000 feet, the largest of any Colorado national forest.

Two tracts have been set aside to retain natural conditions and afford areas for recreation and the preservation of timber types. The Wilson Mountain Wild Area includes many lofty peaks in the San Miguel Range. The Narragunnep Natural Area is in the canyon of that name about 25 miles northwest of Dolores. The beauty and charm of these areas is enjoyed by all who take time to go into them.

**Pike National Forest.**—The Pike Forest, which takes its name from Pikes Peak, one of the most widely known mountains in the United States, is located approximately in the center of Colorado, on the east slopes of the Continental Divide. It was the second of our present Colorado forests to be established. The area within this forest has, since the earliest settlements, been intimately associated with the State's development. It has furnished large quantities of timber for uses of all kinds, such as mining, railway construction, and home building. The local Christmas tree market is supplied from trees thinned out of dense timber stands.

The Pike National Forest has exceptionally high values for watershed protection. Colorado Springs, Denver, and many smaller towns derive their entire water supply from its mountain streams. The effectiveness of these watersheds has been accentuated by the tree-planting activities of the Forest Service. All the trees planted are grown from seed at the Monument Nursery, 3 miles west of Monument.

The forest has a network of automobile roads throughout its area, and its proximity to several large towns and cities makes it a favorite with summer visitors. Many people have constructed summer homes, and numerous resorts and summer hotels provide accommodations for visitors.

**Rio Grande National Forest.**—The Rio Grande National Forest is located in the southern part of Colorado, east of the Continental Divide, at the headwaters of the Rio Grande. The history of the area is rich in events connected with early explorations and mining development.

The forest has over 3 billion feet of timber, largely of Engelmann spruce. Grazing of livestock is important, and about 15,100 cattle and 146,300 sheep use the forest ranges for summer pasture, the second largest use of this kind in Colorado forests. Recreational use is developing rapidly, and the Forest Service has improved many attractive camp sites for the convenience of the public.

The Wheeler National Monument, which can be reached from Creede or Wagon Wheel Gap by trail is within this forest. A large tract of the more rugged mountain land has been joined with a like area on the San Juan National Forest and forms a part of the wilderness area of that name. Such areas are to be kept in as nearly natural conditions as possible. There will be no commercial improvement or timber cutting and only such development as is needed for protection.

**Roosevelt National Forest.**—This national forest, named in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, extends along the Front Range on the eastern slope of the Continental Divide from the Colorado-Wyoming line, south for a distance of about 84 miles. The forest provides an important local timber supply which has been drawn upon heavily since the early development of the State.

Fire protection is of more than ordinary importance on the Roosevelt and Pike National Forests because of the heavy recreational use and the intensive demands made for watershed protection by established towns and irrigation interests. Prompt location of fires on the Roosevelt, Pike, or Medicine Bow Forests or on the Rocky Mountain National Park, adjoining the Roosevelt on the west, is provided by eight fire lookouts stationed on high peaks within these areas.

The Rawah Wild Area, located along the Medicine Bow

Range, includes many beautiful lakes, streams, and peaks which are accessible only by trail. The Brainard Lake area, a highly improved tract in the southern part of the forest is, however, easily accessible and affords camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and nature study at the end of a 5-mile road off the Peak to Peak Highway.

**Rout National Forest.**—The Rout National Forest, named for Colorado's first elective Governor, John L. Rout, includes lands on both slopes of the Park Range, a section of the Continental Divide west of North Park, and a portion of the Gore Range lying west of Middle Park. Its forests supply lumber and timbers for use in an extensive local ranching and coal mining territory, adjacent to the forest, and for the general market. The annual timber cut is about 7½ million board feet.

The Rout Forest plays an important part in the livestock industry by supplying summer range for about 135,000 head of livestock. The water resource is utilized for irrigation in North Park and in the Yampa River Valley, both of which are important agricultural sections. Many lakes and streams offer excellent fishing opportunities. As a part of the Colorado River watershed, the forest also materially assists in regulating streamflow and preventing erosion.

**San Isabel National Forest.**—The San Isabel Forest is composed of three units. These include the majestic Sangre de Cristo Range, the relatively low but thickly wooded Wet Mountains, the Culebra Range, and the Spanish Peaks. All of this forest is within the watershed of the Arkansas River, except the western slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range, which drains into the Rio Grande del Norte.

Without interfering with the fundamental purposes of the forest, the region has been developed through the cooperation of the people in nearby communities and the Forest Service into one of the most intensively used recreation areas of the State. Roads make the areas readily accessible, and many delightful motor trips may be made. One of these, 114 miles in length, encircles the Spanish Peaks, via Walsenburg, Trinidad, Cucharas Pass, and La Veta. Community houses, campgrounds, resorts, and hotels help to attract visitors to these mountain forests, where they may enjoy fishing, mountain climbing, exceptional scenic beauty, historical places, and interesting natural features.

**San Juan National Forest.**—The San Juan Forest includes extensive forests of Engelmann spruce and ponderosa pine. The livestock industry has always been important in the San Juan Basin, and the forest grazing resource is very valuable. In these mountains are ore deposits and several famous mining towns have grown up in the San Juan Mountain region, including Silverton, Ouray, and Telluride. The Needle Mountains are well known for their ruggedness and scenic beauty.

This region was visited by several early Spanish explorers, missionaries, and gold seekers, the earliest being Coronado's expedition, which penetrated the San Juan Mountains in 1541. Father Escalante visited the region in 1776 and is credited with having assigned Spanish names to a number of the more important rivers and streams. In 1873 the region was released by the Ute Indians and opened to settlement. It is rich in historical interest, and in the vicinity of Chimney Rock are ruins of old cliff dwellings.

The San Juan Wilderness Area includes large tracts of mountainous land in this and the Rio Grande Forest. It is the largest area of this kind in the Colorado forests and one of the most remote and attractive wilderness areas in the West. The area is accessible only by trails, and its rugged grandeur can be seen only by those who "rough it" on a hiking or pack trip.

**Uncompahgre National Forest.**—Two units make up the Uncompahgre National Forest—the Uncompahgre Plateau and the rugged mountain section in the vicinity of Ouray. The forest supports extensive stands of Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, and aspen. Forage for livestock and watershed values are also important. The waters from these mountains are used extensively for irrigation.

The Ouray Division is in an important mineralized section of the State, and its scenic beauty and the grandeur of its lofty mountain peaks are inspiring. Automobile highways and railways bring many visitors to this region. The more remote areas of this division are included in the Uncompahgre Wild Area, a tract which includes Uncompahgre, Wetterhorn, and Sneffels Peaks, all of which exceed 14,000 feet in elevation.

The timber stand is placed at 1,665 million feet, board measure, of which about 2,500,000 are cut annually.

**White River National Forest.**—This forest was created by Presidential proclamation October 16, 1891, and was the first national forest established in Colorado and the second in the United States. It includes a high, comparatively level plateau, bordered by river valleys on all but the west side. This high tableland, known as the Flat Tops, or the White River Plateau, rises to an elevation of 9,500 to 12,000 feet and breaks off sharply on all sides. Many beautiful lakes and streams, well stocked with fish, are within the forest and these, together with the scenic features, attract many summer visitors, campers, and picnickers. The Forest Service has improved many camp sites for the use of visitors.

Part of the Flat Tops is included in the wilderness area of that name, a large tract in the most rugged part of the forest. Here are natural conditions for those who enjoy life in the primitive forest, and all those who travel the trails of this large tableland will be charmed with its attractive alternating ridges and rolling open parks.

The forest provides range for 27,700 cattle and horses, and 94,100 sheep, the greatest number of livestock grazed on a Colorado forest. In addition, it supports more game than does any other forest within the State.

## WYOMING

**Big Horn National Forest.**—Extending from the Montana-Wyoming line, along the Big Horn Mountains, in a southeasterly direction for 80 miles, is the Big Horn National Forest, with a gross area of 1,121,534 acres.

National forest administration seeks to make the national forest an asset to the community as well as to the Nation. Timber, grazing, water, and other forest resources are so handled as to make them essential factors in local development and local industry. A close relationship exists between the forest ranges, timber, and water resources and surrounding ranches in the vicinity of the Big Horn National Forest.

Right.—Winter recreation at Berthoud Pass, Arapaho National Forest. P-339814



Below.—A riding party in the Maroon-Snowmass Wild Area. P-339814



Above.—Fire—the forests' greatest enemy. P-339814  
Below.—A watchful sentry, Boulder Hill Lookout, Harney National Forest. P-339814

Right.—Timber cover conserves the snow. P-339814

Below.—Locating a forest fire at Cement Ridge Lookout, Black Hills National Forest. P-339814



Forest established by planting, Nebraska National Forest. P-339814





F-37686

*Mystic Falls, Montezuma National Forest.*