

FOREST FIRES IN OREGON, WASHINGTON AND IDAHO DURING THE YEAR 1909

Reports Demonstrate that Even With a Very Small Appropriation and Systematic Forest Fire Fighting the Hazard to Timber Holdings Has Been Greatly Reduced.

WASHINGTON.

D. P. Simons, Jr., Chief Fire Warden of the Washington Forest Fire Association, has issued his annual report to the board of trustees. In an interview with Mr. Simons, covering the salient points in his report, he says:

"The patrolmen are appointed forest rangers at large, by the State Fire Warden and furnished with a badge of authority. Rangers execute an oath of office. They have authority to arrest without warrant persons violating the fire law, and also may prohibit burning of slashings when in their opinion adjoining property is endangered. State Fire Warden instructs his deputies to send all permits for burning to patrolmen, who deliver the permits to the applicant, after making an examination of the propriety of the burning of the slashing and fixing the date of burning. Patrolmen are equipped with proper tools. In addition to the equipment, six motor cycles, one motor boat and one saddle horse were added. The results obtained from the motor cycles were very gratifying. Men were able in some instances to cover 200 miles per day. The motor boat was placed on Hoods Canal, and provided ready means of transportation. A special report on railroad fires was prepared by an inspector who made it his business to investigate the condition of locomotives as regards cinder screens. Suggestions to the patrolmen were issued from time to time, calling the attention of loggers and millmen to the necessity for placing proper equipment on locomotives and donkey engines to prevent the escape of sparks. Five thousand notices were posted by the patrolmen. The attention of operators was called to the menace existing in the stubs of dead trees left standing, and asking their co-operation by cutting these stubs at the time of logging. Replies received indicate that the loggers realize the necessity for action along this line. Many have been cutting stubs and dead trees for several years. One noticeable feature of the past season's work was the changed attitude of the people. Patrolmen were successful in overcoming the prejudice of operators and securing their co-operation in placing spark arresters on locomotives, donkey engines and mill stacks. The sentiment favorable to forest protection is growing.

"The supervisors of National Forests were supplied with a list of patrolmen whose district joined the reserve boundaries, and the association was in turn furnished lists of Government rangers and guards, thereby co-operating in the exchange of information.

"The season of 1909 was the driest in 40 years. Despite this fact, there were fewer fires reported in the district patrolled than in the season of 1908. The first force was put to work about May 1, and increased as became necessary. The number varied from 65 to 100 during the driest period. The number of small fires reported was as follows:

June	131
July	216
August	333
September	87
Total	767

"The greatest damage was done during the latter part of July, August and September. The reports on fires in district covered by the service, gave 1128 acres of merchantable timber, 16,138 acres of cut-over land burned over, making a total of 17,167. During the dangerous period probably 1,000 men were employed by the association and the state, as extra helpers in fighting fires. It is estimated that a total area of 32,918 acres were burned. Of this amount, 3,000 acres was green timber, including logging works. There was probably 51,500,000 feet of lumber destroyed in standing timber and cut logs. If this timber had been saved there would probably have been spent in wages in transforming it into lumber, over \$500,000. The other losses, such as saw-mills, logging equipment and other property, would approximate close to \$500,000, making a total of over \$1,000,000. The territory covered by the Washington Forest Fire Association is approximately 8,000,000 acres. Washington owns \$200,

000,000 worth of timber. Had no patrol force; with only one deputy fire warden in each county, who is supposed to care for 500,000 acres of land, besides issuing permits, it is on the face of it preposterous to expect results.

"The Legislature appropriated for the year 1909 and 1910 \$46,000. This infinitesimal sum, when

measured by the \$200,000,000 of stumpage values on which will be spent when converted into lumber, \$8 to \$10 per thousand additional, providing an asset of over two billion dollars in state and private lands, a sum so stupendous as to stagger the imagination, and at the same time exhibit an almost wanton carelessness in providing some-

FOREST FIRES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 1909

(Total Reported for State, Including National Forests)

County—	No. of Fires.....	Area Burned Over.			Merchantable Timber Destroyed.			By State, County or Town.....	By Individuals, Lumber Companies, Etc.....	
		Merchantable Timber, Acres.....	Second Growth not yet Merchantable, Acres.....	Cutover Land, Acres.....	Total Acres.....	Board Feet.....	Value if Manufactured.....			Value of Improvements and Stock Destroyed.....
Chehalis	45	10	785	715	725	250,000	\$ 3,250	\$ 421.90	\$ 3,100.00	
Chelan	29	10,229	785	750	11,764	7,373,000	95,849	1,000	302.50	
Clellan	2	20	20	220	260	500,000	6,500	50	654.10	
Clarke	15	100	1,700	1,800	1,800	2,500,000	32,500	360	721.22	
Cowlitz	47	51	676	627	1,275,000	16,575	185,250	500	419.01	
Ferry	22	3,200	1,800	1,045	6,045	4,000,000	52,000	500	613.30	
Island	46	570	4,355	4,925	14,250,000	185,250	3,000	823.95	900.00	
Jefferson	2	129	310	439	3,275,000	42,575	3,600	520.25	1,700.00	
King	154	443	10	1,772	2,225	11,075,000	143,975	7,000	1,120.90	
Kitsap	57	90	820	784	1,694	2,250,000	29,250	300	537.55	
Kittitas	20	4,981	1,944	6,925	7,062,000	91,806	26,000	458	190.25	
Klickitat	1	150	350	30	530	2,000,000	26,000	458	934.55	
Lewis	127	351	50	1,312	1,713	5,941,000	77,233	1,106.27	3,598.50	
Mason	39	400	320	1,660	2,380	10,000,000	130,000	510.75	1,300.00	
Okanogan	27	2,002	2,040	4,042	4,450	1,148,000	14,924	13,000	30	
Pacific	6	40	410	450	1,000,000	13,000	409.60	1,900.00	30	
Pierce	192	558	1,340	1,898	13,950,000	191,350	950	2,399.07	3,100.00	
Skagit	156	640	920	2,636	4,196	16,000,000	208,000	3,225	1,837.50	
Skamania	11	8	2,670	430	3,108	11,410,000	148,330	1,038.00	1,837.50	
Snohomish	213	304	160	3,552	4,016	7,600,000	98,300	1,535	3,145.00	
Stevens	6	427	425	750	1,602	1,817,000	23,521	850.46	25	
Thurston	31	10	520	530	250,000	3,250	649.73	1,550.00	25	
Whatcom	50	2,310	297	554	3,161	21,882,000	284,766	1,400	1,645.00	
Yakima	11	4	20	24	1,000	13	13			
Total	1,309	27,027	12,631	25,421	65,079	146,809,000	\$1,908,513	\$23,378	\$15,705.24	\$34,308.52

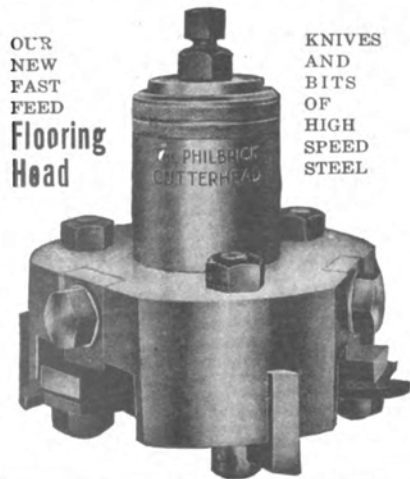
Note.—Expenditures under "Cost of Fighting Fire, by Individuals, Lumber Companies, Etc." include cost of three months patrol maintained by the Washington Forest Fire Association, it being impossible to separate the time its rangers spent in actual fire fighting from that spent in patrol. Expenditures "By State, County or Town" represent for the most part actual fire fighting. This table does not take into account expenditures by the Forest Service, which amounted to \$11,710.80 additional.

FOREST FIRES IN THE STATE OF OREGON 1909

(Total Reported for State, Including National Forests)

County—	No. of Fires.....	Area Burned Over.			Merchantable Timber Destroyed.			Exp. Fighting and Preventing Fires by Individuals, Lumber Companies, Etc.....
		Merchantable Timber, Acres.....	Second Growth not yet Merchantable, Acres.....	Cutover Land, Acres.....	Total Acres.....	Board Feet.....	Value if Manufactured.....	
Baker	23	266.5	606	630	1,502.5	210,250	\$ 2,733.25	\$ 183.64
Benton	*							
Clackamas	11		1	490	491			52.50
Clatsop	14	230	50	234	514	3,300,000	29,900.00	5,434.00
Columbia	21	295	50	1,392	1,737	3,470,000	45,110.00	4,194.41
Coos	8	630		321	951	3,075,000	39,975.00	5,078.75
Crook	24	1,314	487		1,801	1,784,500	23,198.50	345.97
Curry	8	2,012	72.5	1,285	3,299.5	5,500,000	23,500.00	126.12
Douglas	49	2,265	790	30	3,085	9,500,000	31,500.00	152.94
Gilliam	*							
Grant	16	1,189	175	6	1,370	387,000	5,031.00	148.84
Harney	*							
Hood River	3		240	35	275			96.00
Jackson	27	17,025	335	1,500	18,860	138,800,000	1,804,400.00	
Josephine	32	4,000	1,700		5,700	9,501,000	123,513.00	451.46
Klamath	14	9			9	90,000	1,170.00	10.60
Lake	8	8			8	44,840	582.92	8.15
Lane	66	1,172	661	14,078	15,901	6,752,000	87,776.00	351.27
Lincoln	2			100	100			
Linn	8	10		2	12	100,000	1,300.00	
Malheur	1	+						
Marion	5			81	81			
Morrow	*							320.00
Multnomah	6	+						320.00
Polk	*						3,705.00	500.00
Tillamook	8	28	20	28	76	285,000		4,267.06
Umatilla	2	1	40		11			
Union	14	160		555	715	411,000	5,343.00	507.00
Wallowa	7	274	20		294	231,000	3,003.00	15.00
Wasco	11	1,580		850	2,430	3,652,000	47,476.00	120.00
Washington	21	645	440	675	1,760	4,875,000	63,375.00	1,242.00
Wheeler	4							
Yamhill	4	24			24	245,000	3,185.00	559.00
Totals	413	33,137.5	5,607.5	22,292	61,037	191,213,590	\$2,495,776.67	\$26,164.71

* No fires reported. +Area burned over and damage not given. † Acreage and damage not given. Note.—Expenditures Fighting and Preventing Fire, by Individuals, Lumber Companies, etc., include cost of patrol during the fire season, it being impossible to separate the time spent in actual fire-fighting from that spent in patrol. The figures naturally show less than actual expenditures, for the reason that all reports to the State Board of Forestry were voluntary, the State not furnishing any funds either for reporting or fighting fire. In addition to the cost of fighting fires as above, the Forestry Service expended \$5,220.84.



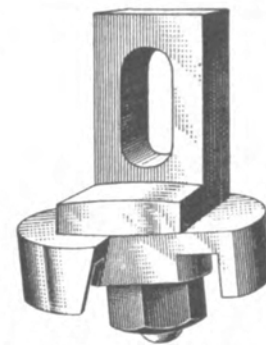
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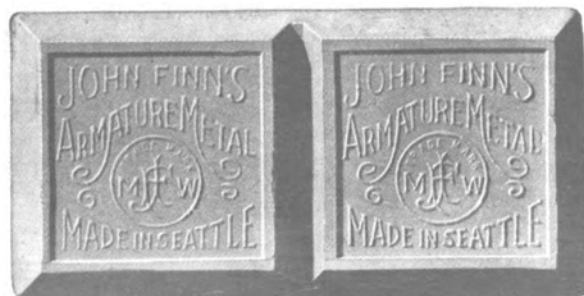
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thing like adequate measure of protection through patrol system. Sixty per cent. of forest fires originate from sparks from locomotives. Fires starting from rangers' slashings, those set by cinders, campers and fishermen, contributed to the balance, with no fires from lightning during 1909.

"The use of fuel oil cannot be too strongly recommended. It reduces fire hazard to a minimum. The C., M. & St. P. railroad is utilizing oil, with very beneficial results. The hazard originating from ranchers' slashings is a hard problem, owing to the difficulty in obtaining permits to burn. The law should be more elastic, as ranchers cannot burn unless conditions are favorable, and this often happens before the permit reaches them or after the date set for burning by the Fire Warden. The greatest peril to the forests of Western Washington lies in the slashings left by loggers, debris on rights of way and public highways. It has been suggested by some loggers that the brush should be piled in wind-rows, leaving it in shape to handle when it is set afire. Railroads should be compelled to plow a strip on each side of the right of way.

OREGON.

Secretary Wastell, of the State Forestry Board, in his report on the forest fires of Oregon during the year 1909, says:

The total figures are shown below:

Number of fires.....	413
Merchantable timber.....acres	33,137.5
Second growth, not yet merchantable.....acres	5,607.5
Cut-over land.....acres	22,292
Total acreage.....	61,037
Merchantable timber destroyed, feet, B. M.	191,213,590
Value if it had been manufactured.....	\$2,485,776
Cost of fighting and preventing fires by individuals, lumber companies, etc.....	\$26,164
Cost of fighting and preventing fires by forest service.....	\$5,220

For the sake of comparison, figures were submitted of the expenditures, number of fires, etc., in the State of Washington, indicating that while Oregon had only 413 fires, Washington had 1,309 fires; but while Oregon lost nearly 200,000,000 feet, board measure, of standing timber, Washington, with three times as many fires only lost about 150,000,000 feet of standing timber.

While the State of Washington bore \$15,705 of the expense of fighting fires, the State of Oregon spent no money in this direction. The forest

service expended \$5,220 in Oregon and \$11,710 in Washington.

The splendid showing in Washington, considering the large number of fires and the comparatively small amount of timber destroyed, is due to the organized effort of private timber owners through the medium of the Washington Forest Fire Association, as well as to the state and government, which participated so fully in this work. A few big fires in remote districts of Oregon continued burning for weeks, covering a large area, whereas in Washington the fires were subdued promptly through having fire fighting forces available.

IDAHO.

The fourth annual report of the Coeur d'Alene Timber Protective Association has been issued and shows in a comprehensive manner the splendid progress which this Association has made in effective fire fighting during the year 1909. President Flewelling, in his report, says:

Gentlemen of the Association:—This is the close of the fourth fiscal year of the Coeur d'Alene Timber Protective Association, the pioneer in this work in the Pacific Northwest.

Four years ago the timber owners in the Coeur d'Alene basin, which included the timber tributary to the drainage of the Coeur d'Alene river and lake, the St. Joe and St. Maries rivers, associated themselves for the purpose of patrolling the forests in their territory and preventing, as far as possible, the setting of fires in the dry season and controlling and extinguishing fires that might become dangerous and destructive. Into this work was brought the most aggressive, modern, scientific methods of fire protection, the work being done along broad and intelligent lines by the thorough business men who composed the official board of the association.

The business has been financed by a pro rata assessment on an acreage basis on the land of the members.

In the second year of our existence our legislative committee drafted and succeeded in passing through the Idaho legislature the "Fallon Fire Law," under which the state pays its pro rata portion per acre on its land in our territory the same as private owners. The government has also in districts, where practical, co-operated with us in our work.

Our patrolmen covered 1,200,000 acres during the last season; and the total loss of timber by fires in our district was only 400,000 feet of standing timber and 250,000 feet of sawlogs, which were burned on the skids. The total cost to the members for the service for the year is approximately two cents per acre for their holdings. For a detailed statement of the amounts collected and expended, the number of fires and the method of handling the same and the number of miles of trails and roads cut, etc., I refer you to the annual report of the fire committee, which will be

furnished each member, which shows conclusively the splendid success of careful business methods applied to forest protection.

From the nucleus we have formed have sprung three additional fire associations in the state of Idaho, viz: The Pend d'Oreille Timber Protective Association, covering the Panhandle of Idaho, north of Coeur d'Alene lake; the Potlatch Timber Protective Association, covering the territory tributary to the river bearing that name, and the Clearwater Timber Protective Association, covering all the territory embraced in the great Clearwater districts so called. Each of these associations is modeled after this, the pioneer association; each having a uniform system of management and accounting, and each is carrying out the same good business principles which have brought success to us and which is bringing success to them.

As the direct result of our successful operation the Washington Fire Association, covering the territory west of the Cascades in the state of Washington, has been formed, and its work for the last two years has been highly gratifying. So was there also resulted from our beginning organizations of similar character in the states of Montana, Oregon and California.

As we look back over the four years last passed I think we may be pardoned if we point with pride to our accomplishments, which have resulted from hard, unselfish work and the co-operation of our friends, and I wish now to publicly thank the National Forestry Bureau, the state officials of Idaho and the officers and members of this association each for the part they have had in contributing to our success.

The secretary's report showed the following membership, with number of acres of timberland represented by each:

NAME.	ACRES.
Milwaukee Land Company.....	100,150
State of Idaho.....	89,180
Coeur d'Alene Lumber Company.....	38,210
C. R. Smith.....	20,520
McGoldrick Lumber Company.....	14,320
Potlatch Lumber Company.....	17,260
Stack-Gibbs Lumber Company.....	9,000
W. E. McCord.....	4,840
Reeves-Ferrell Lumber Company.....	3,200
Cameron Lumber Company.....	23,800
E. Rutledge Timber Company.....	49,670
Clearwater Timber Company.....	1,960
Blackwell Lumber Company.....	8,840
Connolly Bros.....	6,960
Lane Lumber Company.....	6,320
Rose Lake Lumber Company.....	3,740
Springston Lumber Company.....	1,600
A. A. D. Rahn, Agent.....	9,820
Federal Mining & Smelting Company.....	600
S. H. L. Lumber Company.....	480
Bradford-Kennedy Company.....	320
Bonnors Ferry Lumber Company.....	680
Bunker Hill & Sullivan Company.....	720
O. C. Rice.....	320
Geo. Steele.....	880
Leon Demers.....	320
H. R. Freeland.....	160
H. C. Glidden.....	120
Northern Pacific Railway Company.....	75,900
Individual Owners.....	1,840
	490,830

THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE OREGON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The regular quarterly meeting of the Oregon Conservation Association was held in the Portland Commercial Club at 8 P. M., December 20, 1909, with good attendance.

On account of the absence from the city of President Mulkey and Vice-Presidents Teal and Hawkins, the meeting was called to order by A. B. Wastell, secretary, and H. D. Langille elected temporary chairman.

The report of the financial secretary showed the general condition of the treasury as follows:

Sept. 20—Balance cash on hand.....	\$ 162.10
Received dues active members.....	2.00
Received dues sustaining members.....	10.00
	\$ 174.10
Disbursed per Vouchers 23 to 26 inclusive.....	\$ 53.45
Dec. 20—Balance cash on hand.....	110.65
	\$ 164.10

H. D. Langille then submitted a report of the special committee appointed at the September meeting to investigate the depredations of insects injurious to forests, which is printed elsewhere.

Upon motion the report of the special committee on insect pests was accepted, the committee given a vote of thanks and requested to continue its research and report at the next meeting, with the understanding that the widest possible publicity would be given to the committee's report, which was fully approved and declared one of the most interesting and comprehensive reports compiled in connection with this very important subject.

The secretary was instructed to again write to Oregon's Senators and Congressmen in connection with previous correspondence reminding them of promised co-operation in urging increased appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, so that the Bureau of Entomology could further investigate insect pests.

E. T. Allen, forester for the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, was then requested to address the meeting, informally, in relation

to the aims and purposes of this new organization.

The Western Forestry and Conservation Association represents and is maintained by the state and local associations as a central medium to further the harmonious effective execution of forest fire prevention, conservative forest management, reforestation of cut-over land, improvement of tax methods, preservation of stream flow, and all other practical conservation measures.

It works to encourage and assist timber owners in organizing forest fire associations to protect standing timber, and to adopt systems which will insure reforestation of denuded lands. This was the object in employing Mr. Allen as forester. Part of his work is to make plans for handling timber lands by owners who have signified a desire to try advanced methods.

The Pacific Coast has peculiar advantages for reforestation. There is no reason why its lumber industry should not be perpetuated, or why timber should not forever supply tax revenue to support the government. All that is necessary to insure it is a reduction of the fire hazard and a modification of the methods of taxing cut-over land so as to have only a low fixed burden during the non-productive period, and have the full tax postponed until the timber is ready to cut.

Mr. Allen believed that in Oregon one of the first steps should be taken by timber owners themselves, by organizing forest fire associations like those of Idaho and Washington. Although they now do a great deal in the way of patrol, more perfected organizations would lead sooner to state and public co-operation in protecting what are really public resources.

F. C. Knapp supported what Mr. Allen had said and stated that up to this time the conservation movement in the Northwest had largely been carried forward by timbermen who came from the East where timber had been destroyed.

As far as the Oregon Conservation Association is concerned, its interest is not only timber, but water power, irrigation and reclamation; and other rich resources of the state, such as its minerals, will require the thought and study of the Conservation Association.

Mr. Langille then expressed his opinion that the Oregon Conservation Association and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association could work together admirably, while the larger organization could get out on the firing line and do things. We in our state organization could mold public sentiment, arrange for popular meetings addressed by good speakers, and take care of many features of this kind as well as give attention to the other resources of the state to which Mr. Knapp had referred.

He considered that it was of extreme importance that every effort should be made looking to the extension of the work of the geological survey, in which, the state has failed to do its part. A topographic atlas of the state is essential and legislation should be urged to make an appropriation for a part of the expense, and the geological survey will appropriate an equal amount to that furnished by the Legislature for this very important work.

He further stated that the Oregon Conservation Association should stand back of the interstate organization up to its full strength, and proposed a resolution, as follows, which was duly seconded and unanimously carried:

"The Oregon Conservation Association heartily endorses the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, and pledges itself to stand back of and assist in any way possible to extend the very important work of the interstate association."

M. J. Kinney then brought out some pertinent facts in regard to the harm that insects do in the timber, by killing the seed of the trees, and thought special attention should be given to this feature by the Bureau of Entomology.

General discussion was then held on the good of the association and as to means of getting more members, and it was announced that members joining now would be credited for a period of fifteen months until March, 1911, for regular annual dues of \$2 for active members, and \$10 for sustaining members.

Respectfully submitted,
A. B. WASTELL, Secretary.