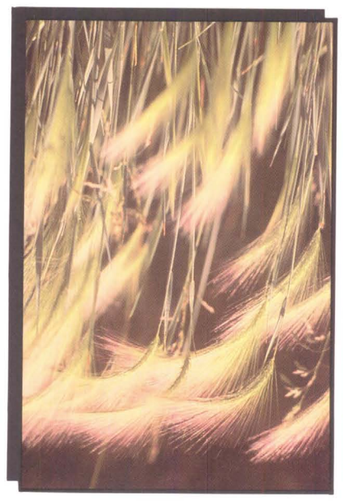
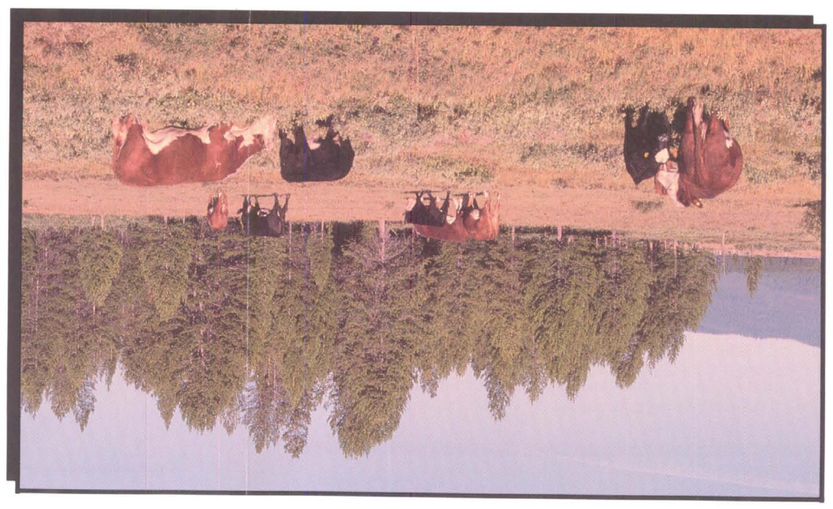
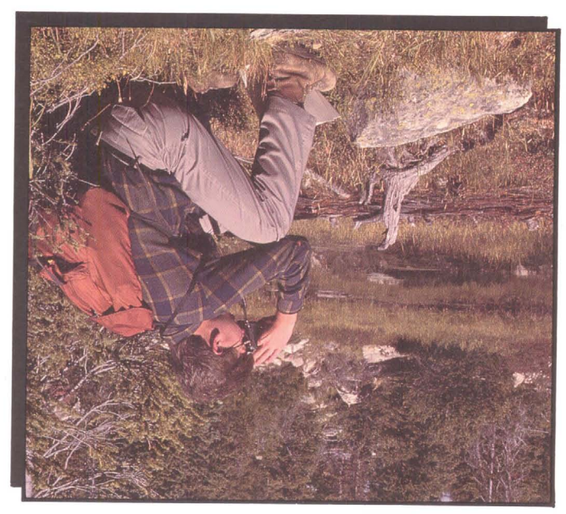
Multiple Use

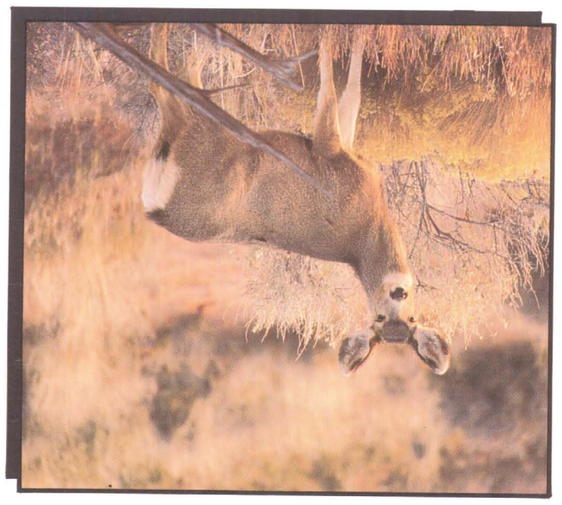
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region
Ogden, Utah

1607400 02/89





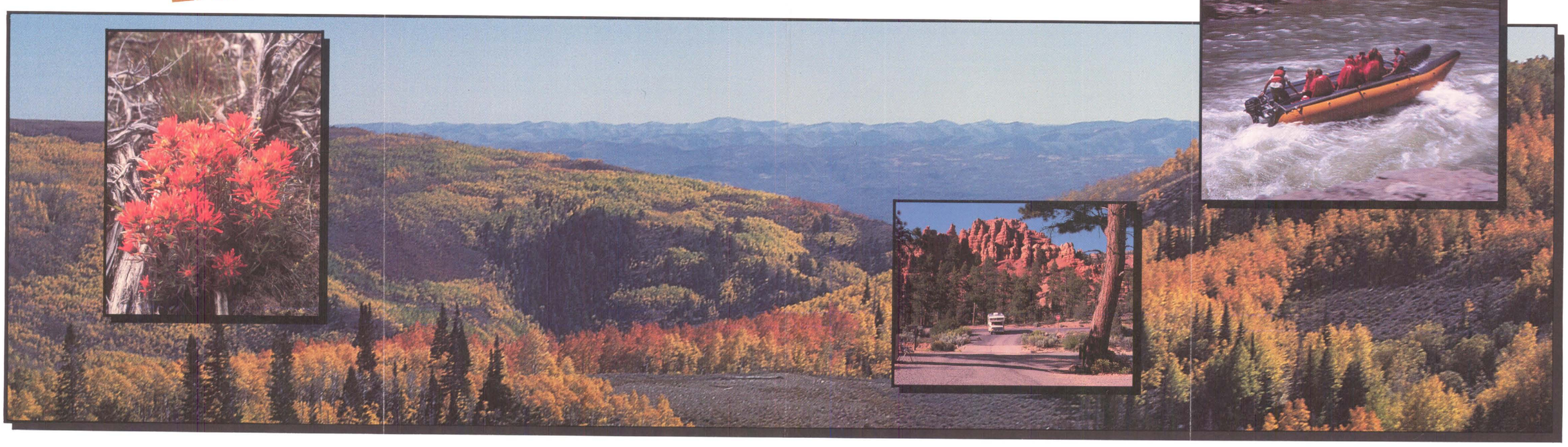




A NATIONAL FOREST? WHAT HAPPENS THERE?

A Lot– CAMPING–HUNTING–HIKING–LOGGING–GRAZING–FISHING–SKIING–MINING–EXPLORING–CONSERVING–PROTECTING AND RESTORING WATERSHEDS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT–FIGHTING WILDFIRE–SPECIAL USES–ENJOYING WILDERNESS–WATER PRODUCTION–BOATING–FISHING–HUNTING–

AND MUCH MUCH MORE.



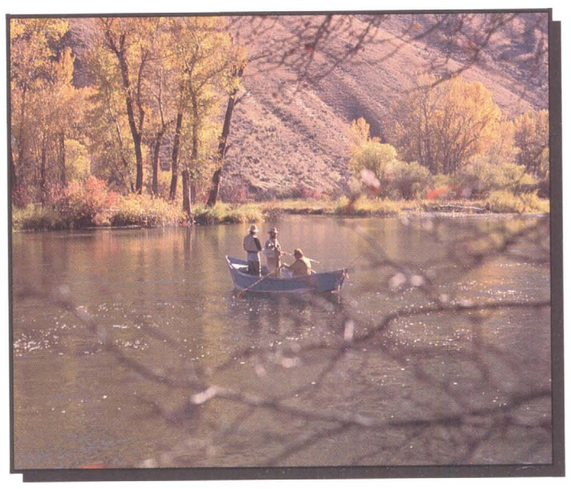
THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

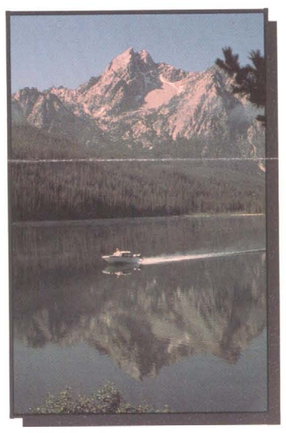
This land is yours and needs your protection, care, and concern. Long ago Indians knew if they cared for the earth, the earth would care for them. Gifford Pinchot, America's first forester said, "Caring for the land and serving the people is the goal of the U.S. Forest Service." As part owner, you are challenged to protect and use wisely all facets of your National Forests.

A National Forest is more than trees and camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. A National Forest is a land of many uses.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

For orientation, the Intermountain Region encompasses National Forests in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho, western Wyoming, and parts of Colorado and California. This Region boasts rugged mountains, fertile valleys, rivers, deserts, wildlife, campgrounds, Wildernesses, adventure, solitude, and scenery enough to saturate your aesthetic cravings.





WATERSHEDS

Before the earth was covered with people, nature dominated the land. Around the turn of the century, no one cared about the ecology. Land was used and abused. Communities downstream from denuded lands suffered flash floods and fields were filled with sediment. Citizens asked for federal management to prevent land loss and the National Forests were created partially to meet these needs.

Watersheds to help protect the earth from erosion were set aside and continue today. Sometimes you can see "scars" of the past marking the mountainsides, but other restored areas look natural and undisturbed. Where erosion was minimal, the Forest Service restored the land by planting trees, grasses, or shrubs. On steep slopes or gullies, the Forest Service built check dams in streams or contour-trenched hillsides to slow runoff. Restoration began, vegetation began to grow and, today, watershed management is an integral part of your Forests.

WILDERNESS

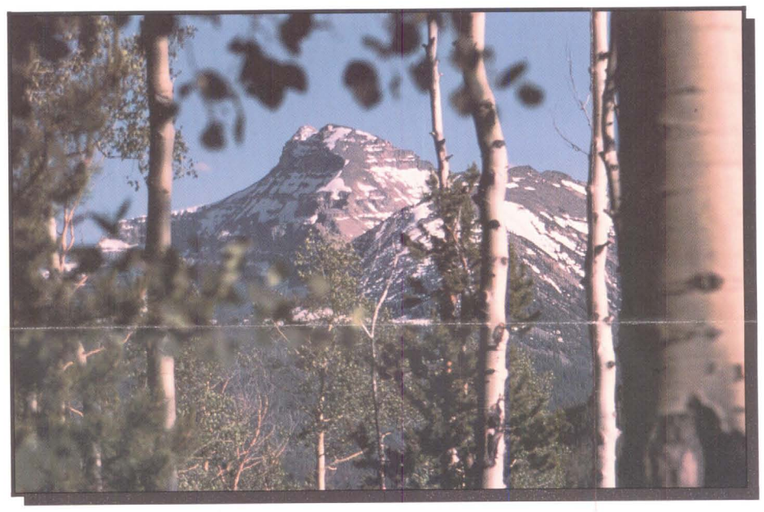
Wild and uncultivated, inhabited only by big game, soaring birds, skittering creatures, fish and native flowers, trees and grass, the Wilderness invites your visits but never a permanent one. In the 1920's, several farsighted foresters realized some parts of planet earth must be left untouched for nature to take its course. Environmentalists believe that the protection we spread over our wilderness counts as part of the rent we pay for our room on earth. In the 1960's, land designated by Congress as Wilderness was set aside to remain forever untamed. This assures us that some pieces of earth will always stay in their original form. Visitors to the Wilderness, though always welcome, owe the earth the courtesy of leaving nothing behind but their footsteps and taking nothing with them but photographs. One piece of litter is one piece too many and any evidence of a visit is a desecration. Protected by the National Wilderness Preservation System, 32 million acres of primeval Wildernesses full of unchecked luxuriance and virgin growth are yours so you may escape from the pressures of modern civilization and enjoy pristine privileges.

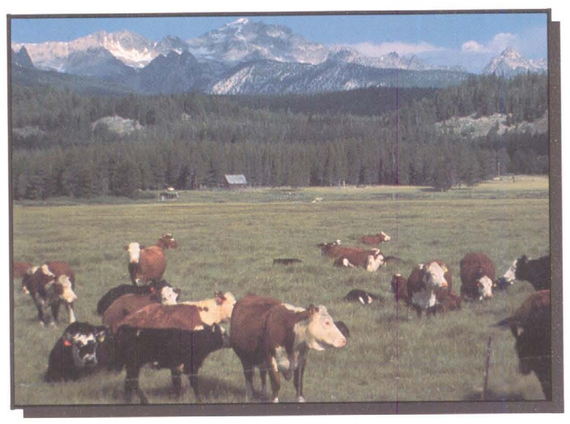
MINERALS AND ENERGY

"There's gold in those hills!" called early prospectors. They picked up their pans and headed out to find riches. Gold and many other minerals still hide in the National Forests and you are welcome to prospect, pan, and mine there. Recreationally speaking, you may prospect and pan without permits. Searching for precious minerals in National Forests whets the imagination and challenges ingenuity.

Long before the establishment of the first National Forest, Congress declared mineral exploration and development "the highest and best use" of public lands. Consequently, mineral exploration and development are allowed on most National Forest lands as long as such use complies with guidelines to protect the environment. Many communities rely on commercial mining and processing of minerals for employment and support. Common minerals, such as sand, gravel and rocks, are necessary for construction. Those associated with minerals also work as partners with the Forest Service in striving to conserve these valuable natural resources.

Besides mineral operations, energy sources are part of the National Forest scene. Oil and gas wells and associated powerlines and pipelines, radio towers, dams, and power plants share space on your National Forests. Under a master plan concerned with aesthetics, conservation, wildlife protection, ecological balance, and safety, energy sources become a part of the multiple-use pattern.





LIVESTOCK GRAZING

In early settlement days, cattle and sheep roamed freely over the ranges and grazed where they wished, but their activities were devastating to the land. Livestock denuded natural watersheds, causing floods and depriving townspeople of summer grazing land for their domestic stock. Citizens requested creation of National Forests to protect their grazing rights.

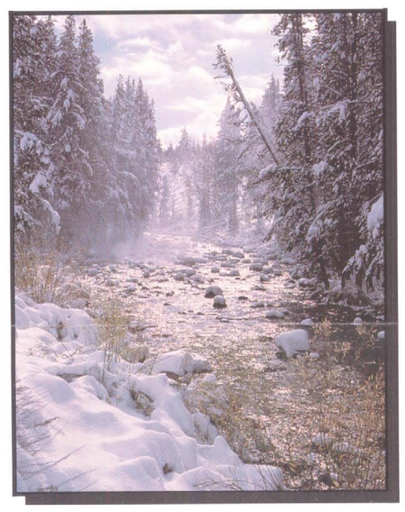
Since the settlers were already using the lands, grazing by domestic livestock was accepted as a valid use of public lands when the National Forests were created. Improper grazing caused long term damage, so the Forest Service studied the grazing capacity of the land and set up protective guidelines, often reducing livestock numbers. Vegetation was re-established to provide more forage and rangeland for wildlife and domestic animals.

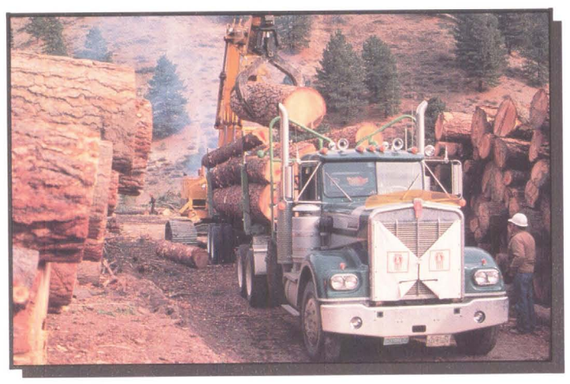
Here in the West, agriculture and livestock provide not only food and fabrics for the nation, but a livelihood for many families. Permits are issued for livestock to graze the National Forests but locations and numbers are monitored to assume rangeland protection and a balance of uses. Today, as you journey through the National Forests, you may still encounter cowboys rounding up cattle. Your children may be excited as you drive slowly through a band of sheep moving from lowland pastures to high mountain summer ranges where wildlife and domestic animals share adequate forage. Livestock grazing, one of the multiple uses of the National Forests, continues in a traditional manner, blending harmoniously with the many other Forest uses.

WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT

A Canada goose, honking high in the autumn sky, seeks refuge on a riverbank. Spotted fawns nestle down in shadowed glades, camouflaged from the world. Giant salmon lurch and lunge upstream, fighting to return to their homewaters to spawn and die. Bears hibernate in dark caves while night birds swoop down upon rodents scurrying across the snow on a moonlit night. Eternal, rhythmic, and naturally balanced, wildlife cycles repeat themselves, over and over again, until an outside force interrupts their flow. As civilization spreads, it alters the landscape, and decreases habitats for wild animals, birds and fish. Where once fresh streams flowed freely and animals lived according to natural balance, man has encroached, leaving some plants and animals in danger of extinction. To turn this tide, the Forest Service maintains and improves major areas of wildlife habitat for all plants and animals native to National Forest lands.

With each extinction, we lose another piece of our planet. As you visit your National Forests, note the marks of guardianship. Sometimes motorized travel is restricted to protect woodland babies. Perhaps a Forest Service sign asks you to stay off a trail or part of a mountain, or not fish in a particular stream. Compliance will protect and perpetuate the environment for our fish, flora and fauna.





TIMBER

When you think of forests, you immediately think of trees. A panoramic view of stately spruce, quaking aspens, and ramrod-straight lodgepole pines pop into your mind. Without a good plan, however, this aesthetic picture disappears. In the late 1800's, settlers assumed forests were eternal. The frontier provided virgin timber, first in New England and then the Lake states. When timber cutting started in the Northwest, conservationists realized the "cut and run" methods would destroy the forests and that trees need replacing to provide wood for the future.

Conservation, now part of the laws governing every National Forest, includes "sustained yield," which is cutting only as much wood as can be replaced. Cutover areas must be restocked within five years, either naturally or by planting. Before cutting takes place, the terrain and tree species must be considered to minimize erosion and perpetuate the stand. When a catastrophe occurs, such as forest fire, volcanic eruption, or an insect epidemic, the Forest Service attempts to salvage as much damaged material as possible so new growth can begin as soon as possible.

National Forest timber is managed to accomplish many objectives: commercial logging, personal wood cutting, removing decaying trees for safety purposes and providing a wide range of wildlife habitats. In snow catchment areas, timber harvests are laid out to retain, and slowly release, winter snows so you will have water during summer droughts.

If we use our National Forests wisely, stands of healthy trees will grow forever, sheltering woodland creatures and supplying timber, wood cuttings, picnic spots, and beauty.

RECREATION

Leave your stress behind and spend time with nature. Toss a tent, sleeping bag, cooking gear, and food in the car, and in a couple of hours from any place in the Intermountain Region, you can pull into a Forest Service campground, pitch your tent, and spend a great get-away weekend in the hills. Fishing for the big ones or dabbling a hook in the stream, swimming, canoeing, and cooking over a campfire erase the worries of the work world. Rock hounding, exploring Indian ruins, reading petroglyphs, or soaking in a natural hot spring will give you a new lease on life.

You want to go farther from civilization? Backpacking space abounds. Please consult Forest Service maps and handouts for information on where to go and how to get there, and heed the directions. Since 1905, the Forest Service has been striving to make your lands better, safer, and more accessible for your use.

Feeling adventuresome? White water river running, big game hunting, winter campouts and sports, mountain climbing, and horseback riding are challenges to be explored in your multiple-use Forests.

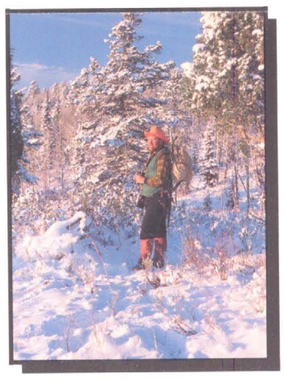
For those who prefer a less robust trip, how about scenic drives, photography excursions, birdwatching, pine cone gathering, and a picnic. All these experiences, and more, wait for you.

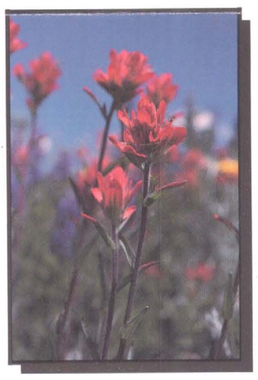
Load up your all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), check your maps and handouts for directions. Spend a few days with family and friends exploring the back country. Tread lightly, protect the earth, and have fun.

Woodcutting, a popular family outing in the Intermountain Region, starts early in the summer and continues through the fall. Contact your local Ranger District for information and a woodcutting permit.

These suggestions only scratch the surface. When you play in a National Forest, let your imagination lead you into exciting (safe) adventure in the out-of-doors.

"Forest" comes from Latin, meaning "out of doors," and there is more to the Forest than outdoor recreation. Your Forests are lands of many integrated uses working together.





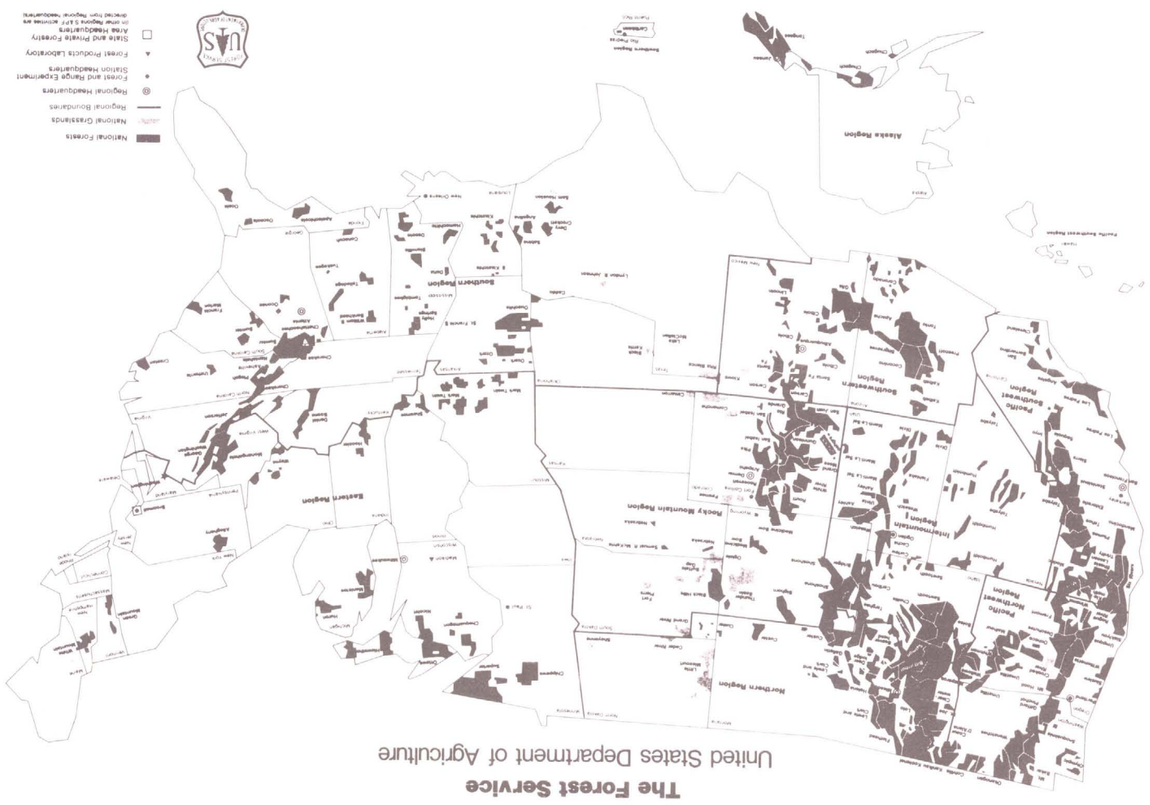
ROADS

Roads take you to and bring you back from farflung corners of your National Forests. Every road, designed with a purpose in mind, serves many uses. Some roads invite you to enter the Forest. Other roads, closed after timber hauling, mineral extraction, or other uses, ask you not to intrude. Oftentimes these roads are closed to provide privacy and protection for animals. In springtime, wild mothers prefer to give birth to their young away from the prying eyes of humans. Sometimes, the flowers and grasses need to grow untrampled by visitors. Closed roads invite you to explore on foot. As stewards of the National Forests, heed the "closed-road" signs but follow and enjoy the open roads as they beckon you to outdoor adventures.

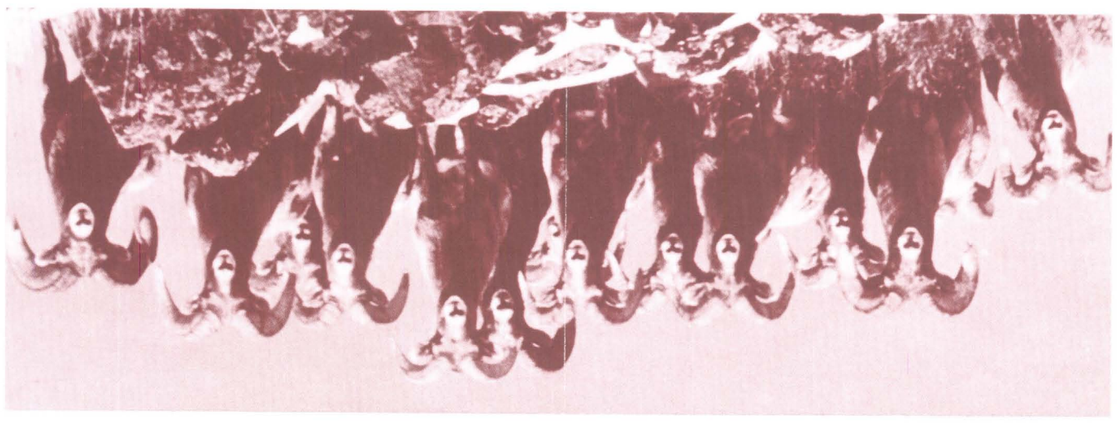
LAND OF MANY USES

Each generation, in turn, becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of National Forest resources and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance, intact, on to the future. You and the Forest Service are partners in seeing that the National Forests fulfill and magnify the intent of their creation. Your partnership decrees the right to enjoy but not destroy any facet of the National Forest System. Managing the multiple uses of the National Forests, protecting trees, earth, and wildlife, as well as providing nature's best for all, takes many dedicated people.

Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, their staffs, and volunteers live and work in the National Forests. They answer your questions, serve your needs when you visit the National Forests, and dedicate themselves to protecting these lands, your lands, so you can enjoy the magnificence of the mountains; the serenity of Wilderness; the thrill of skiing and kayaking; the miracles of spring flowers, baby animals, and majestic big game; the sound of birds; a camping trip; and the fun of a summer picnic in your National Forests—the Land of Many Uses.



The Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture



FOREST SERVICE MINERALS PROGRAM POLICY

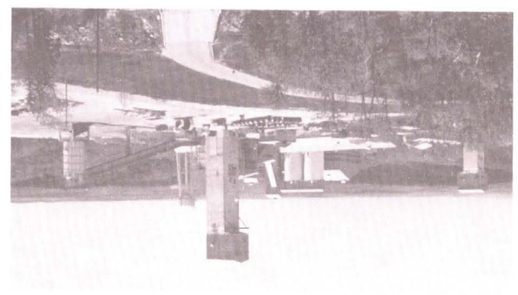
The availability of mineral and energy resources within the National Forests and Grasslands significantly affects the development, economic growth, and defense of the Nation. The mission of the Forest Service in relation to minerals management is to encourage, facilitate, and administer the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System land to help meet the present and future needs of the Nation.

The Forest Service administers its mineral program to:

1. Encourage and facilitate the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources within the National Forest System in order to maintain a viable, healthy minerals industry and to promote self-sufficiency in those mineral and energy resources necessary for economic growth and the National defense.
2. Ensure that exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources are conducted in an environmentally sound manner and that these activities are integrated with the planning and management of other National Forest resources.
3. Ensure that lands disturbed by mineral and energy activities are reclaimed for other productive uses.

The Forest Service policy is to:

1. Process mineral applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits and other use authorizations in an efficient and timely manner.
2. Ensure the integration of mineral resource programs and activities with the planning and management of renewable resources through the land and resource management planning process, recognizing that mineral development can occur concurrently or sequentially with other resource uses.
3. Plan and provide for access to and occupancy of National Forest System lands for mineral resource activities, consistent with the overall management objectives and the rights granted through statutes, leases, licenses, and permits. Eliminate or prevent occupancy that is not reasonably incident to and required for mineral operations.
4. Prior to applying for the administrative withdrawal of National Forest System lands from mineral entry, ensure the consideration of (a) the National interest in strategic and critical minerals, (b) the value of the mineral resource foregone, and (c) the value of the resource or improvement being protected.
5. Ensure that valid existing rights have been established before allowing mineral or energy activities in congressionally designated or other withdrawn areas.
6. Coordinate and cooperate with other Federal and State agencies having authority and expertise in mineral-related activities.
7. Maintain an effective professional, technical, and managerial work force that is knowledgeable in mineral exploration and development.
8. Ensure the uniform application of exploration, development, and reclamation standards.
9. Require a reclamation plan for all mineral exploration and development proposals that would create environmental disturbance, to return the land to other productive uses consistent with land and mineral management goals.



Please write to any of the addresses listed below for information:

Chief, USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service:

Northern Region
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Pacific Southwest Region
630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, CA 94111

Rocky Mountain Region
1177 West 8th Ave.
P.O. Box 25127
Lakewood, CO 80225-2098

Pacific Northwest Region
319 SW Pine St.
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208

Southwestern Region
Federal Bldg.
517 Gold Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Rd., NW
Atlanta, GA 30367

Intermountain Region
Federal Bldg.
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

Eastern Region
310 West Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Alaska Region
Federal Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Director, USDA Forest Service:

Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
240 West Prospect St.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

North Central Forest Experiment Station
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Southeastern Forest Experiment Station
P.O. Box 2680
Asheville, NC 28802

Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
370 Reed Rd.
Broomall, PA 19008

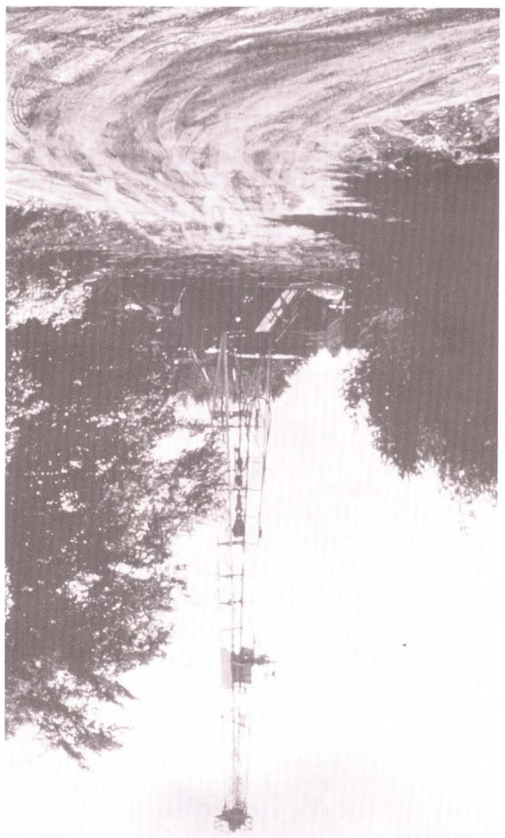
Southern Forest Experiment Station
T-10210, U.S. Postal Service Bldg.
701 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70113

Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, OR 97208

Forest Products Laboratory
Gifford Pinchot Dr.
Madison, WI 53705-2398

Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station
1960 Addison St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

April 1988



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Program Aid No. 1404

Minerals, Multiple Use, and You!

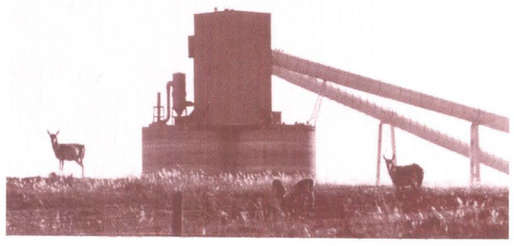
Minerals, Multiple Use, and You

Our human civilization is highly dependent upon minerals and fossil fuels extracted from the earth—from the common metals such as iron, copper, tin, lead, and molybdenum to rare and precious metals such as titanium, platinum, gold, and silver; from minerals such as uranium, phosphates, gypsum, and silicon; from precious gems to building stone, gravel, and sand, to coal, oil, and gas.

If these materials were to become unavailable, our present way of life could not continue. For example, without phosphate fertilizers, metal tools, cans and glass containers, and energy, our vast food production and distribution system would not be possible. As our society becomes more and more complex, it has created a much greater need for minerals, metals, and fuels.

Energy and mineral resources provide the foundations of the American industrial base and are important to our country's economic and national secuity. Although imports can satisfy a part of our needs for minerals and energy, if we depend heavily on other countries' resources, we become vulnerable to the economic and political decisions of foreign countries. Thus, wise use and conservation of the mineral deposits within the United States are vital to this country's well being.

Most lands are valuable for more than the mineral resources in them. We need land for farming and silviculture, for building homes and factories, for recreation, for preservation as wilderness, and for many other activities. Thus, obtaining land for mining operations is becoming more difficult.



The National Forest System

The 156 national forests, 19 national grasslands, and 16 land utilization projects represent 191 million acres of Federal land and are an important part of our Nation's natural resource base. They are located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These National Forest System lands include a wide diversity of geological features and biological systems: mountains, glaciers, forests, deserts, range and grasslands, lakes, streams, and tropical and temperate rain forests.

The natural resources on these lands represent some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for Americans. These resources are managed for a variety of purposes, including maintaining watershed health, preserving habitat for wildlife and plants, timber production, recreational use, grazing range animals, and mineral extraction.

Mineral Resources of the National Forest System

Geologically, the National Forest System lands contain some of the most favorable host rocks for mineral deposits in the United States. We already know of about 6.5 million acres underlain by coal reserves and 300,000 acres with phosphate resources. Significant deposits of other mineral resources have been found on national forests. Between 1960 and 1985, about 140 major mineral deposits were discovered in the world. More than 50 of these are on public lands in the United States, and about 20 are on the National Forest System. World-class deposits of lead/zinc, molybdenum, silver/copper, and gold have been found on National Forest System lands.

The richest and most easily mined mineral deposits are always used first. As these become depleted, we must turn to other deposits. In many instances, these mineral resources are of low grade or are located in remote areas where exploration and development are impeded by forbidding terrain and harsh climatic conditions. However, new technologies for discovering and extracting mineral resources as well as increased demand and higher prices have spurred U.S. industries into expanding their prospecting, exploration, and development of previously unexplored areas and have enabled them to develop mineral resources that were once uneconomical.

The energy shortage this country faced a few years ago reminds us that our reserve of mineral resources is limited. As with oil supplies, there will undoubtedly be a considerable tightening of world supplies of some minerals. Such a trend is leading to expansion of domestic mineral prospecting, exploration, and development. Much of this expansion is taking place on the national forests, where the majority of the land is open to these mineral activities.

Forest Service Responsibilities

The Forest Service, as one of the agencies responsible for Federal land management, has a responsibility to ease U.S. dependency on foreign mineral supplies by facilitating mineral and energy development within the National Forest System yet maintaining harmony with other resource values and uses.

The agency is dedicated to multiple-use management of these lands for sustained yields of renewable resources. Under this management concept, the best combination of uses benefits the American people and assures the productivity of the land and quality of the environment for present and future generations.

Although not renewable, minerals are important resources of the national forests. In fact, they are vital to the Nation's welfare. By accident of geography and geology, the National Forest System contains much of our country's remaining stores of minerals—prime examples being the national forests in the Rocky Mountains, the Basin and Range Province, the Cascade-Sierra Nevada Ranges, the Alaska Coast Range, and the States of Missouri, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Lesser known but good mineral potential exists in the southern and eastern national forests.

These same lands, however, also contain valuable nonmineral resources, including wildlife, timber, forage, water, scenic landforms, and wilderness. Public holdings of such nonmineral resources are currently among the most significant in the world.

Minerals Management in the Forest Service

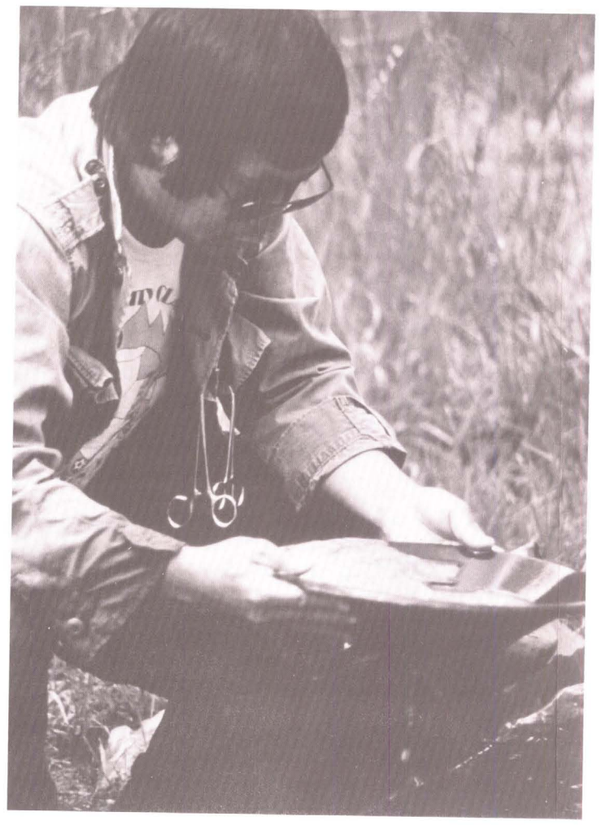
In the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, Congress declared that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in the national interest, to foster and encourage private enterprise (among other goals) in the development of domestic mineral resources and the reclamation of mined land. This Federal policy obviously applies to National Forest System lands.

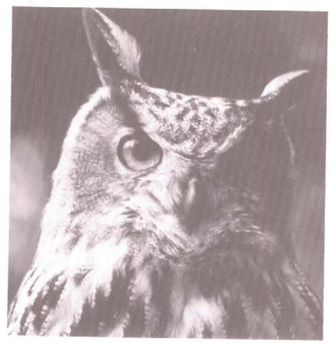
The Forest Service recognizes the importance of National Forest System mineral resources to the well-being of the Nation and encourages bona fide mineral exploration and development. But it also recognizes its responsibilities to protect the surface resources of the lands under its care. The Forest Service minerals management program focuses on land availability, timely response to industry proposals, coordination with other values, and the reclamation of disturbed land.

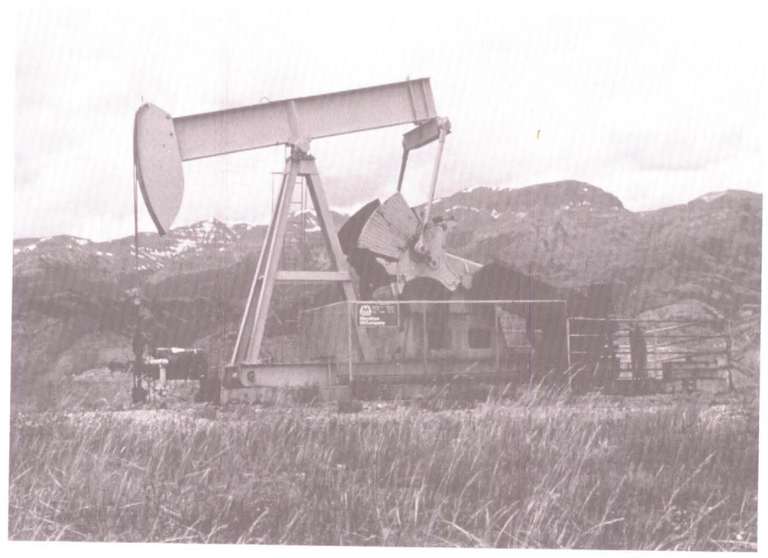
Land Management Planning

Land management planning, as mandated by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, is an essential tool for management of the national forests. The implementing regulations assure that mineral resources are given proper consideration. Before plans are developed, specialists gather mineral resource information from several sources, including the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines, to use in forecasting probable mineral opportunities and activities. Planners and decisionmakers then formulate plans to minimize potential conflicts and maximize the various uses and values of the lands. Each plan integrates minerals management into the day-by-day operations of the Forest Service. The plans establish standards for systematic and orderly development of minerals operations, performance checks, public health and safety, environmental protection, and reclamation of disturbed lands. Since minerals are usually hidden and relatively rare, the land management planning procedures provide for flexibility and availability of minerals activities where possible.

Minerals management on National Forest System lands also requires interagency coordination and cooperation. Although the Forest Service is responsible for the management of the surface resources, the Bureau of Land Management is primarily responsible for management of Government-owned minerals. Since it is impossible to divorce mineral operations from surface management, the agencies have developed cooperative procedures to accommodate their respective responsibilities.







Reclamation

Reclamation is the process of returning disturbed land to suitable production and use. Reclamation goals include reshaping the land, enhancing vegetative cover, and maintaining water quality and wildlife habitat.

Forest Service research centers at Berea, KY, and the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Forest Range and Experiment Stations conduct research and develop new methods for the reclamation of mined land. These centers work with National Forest administrators, State Governments, and private industry on a variety of projects reclaiming arid lands, high-elevation sites, large strip mines, and oil and gas drill sites.

* * *

Today, we must solve worldwide material shortages and increasing energy demands while maintaining a high-quality environment. The United States is gradually becoming dependent upon others for raw materials vital to its economy and well-being.

New technology and cooperation will help meet the challenges of the future. Your National Forest System will continue to play a major role in the development of our Nation, through "Minerals, Multiple Uses, and You."

— Starlight, Page 14F

— Sports, Page 1D

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

VIEWPOINTS

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