



10

Things You Never
Knew About the

USDA
Forest Service



healthy balance



The focus of the Forest Service is far broader than you might think.

In addition to fighting fires and providing Americans with timber, minerals, firewood, and other traditional uses, today's Forest Service focuses on the full range of values that Americans want from their forests and grasslands, from experiencing outdoor wonders to exploring the treasures of our national heritage.

recreation



1

The Forest Service fosters America's love affair with the great outdoors.

The Forest Service maintains thousands of campgrounds and other facilities and 133,000 miles of trail on more than 192 million acres of national forests and grasslands—an area the size of the original 13 colonies.

2

native species

The Forest Service is helping To save our national bird.

The Forest Service is dedicated to maintaining and restoring the conditions that our native species need to survive. Through programs to improve or reestablish native habitat and to control or eliminate invasive plants and animals, the Forest Service is working hard to conserve our precious national heritage.



clean water

3



The Forest Service protects water supplies for more than 60 million Americans.

The national forests are the single most important water source in the United States, furnishing more than 3,400 communities, including major cities such as Portland, Denver, and Salt Lake City. The value of water flowing from national forest land is estimated at \$3.7 billion per year.

5

After September 11, 2001, a day of infamy, the Forest Service was there.

The Forest Service sent highly trained teams to help manage the recovery at both the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington, DC. Long ago, the Forest Service assisted in developing the Incident Command System (ICS) for responding to firefighting emergencies. Today, the ICS is used to respond to emergencies of all sorts, including hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and oilspills.



6

communities and fire management

Learning from nature, the Forest Service uses fire for healthier forests.

Fires caused by lightning are inevitable in America's forests, and many forests need periodic fire to thrive. The Forest Service works with partners to prevent damage from unwanted fires while restoring fire to the landscape where it is needed—restoring a healthy balance between people and the land.



healthy lands

7



The Forest Service has turned millions of acres of land that nobody wanted into flourishing forests.

By the early 1900s, generations of abuse had left many lands treeless and fire-scarred. From the 1920s through the 1950s, Congress designated many such wastelands as national forests. Through careful stewardship, the Forest Service slowly brought the land back to life. Today those lands are a proud testament to what visionary, dedicated people can do for your public land.

8

research

The Forest Service helped develop the “lickless” stamp.

Presented with the problem of postage stamps gumming up recycling machines, Forest Service researchers, helped develop a new pressure-sensitive adhesive that can be recycled without “gumming the works.” The Forest Service has one of the world’s leading research organizations entirely dedicated to conservation.





The Forest Service established America's first wilderness area.

In 1924, the Forest Service created the Gila Wilderness, jumpstarting the wilderness movement. Today we manage some 35 million acres of designated wilderness, a third of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

10

national heritage

The Forest Service protects ancient cliff dwellings, part of our national heritage.

The signature on the land left by America's earliest peoples helps to tell the story of who we are. National forest land is treasured and used by American Indians and Alaska Natives in special ways. National forests and grasslands provide an avenue to learn about the past and connect to our cultural heritage.



more information

Conservation is everybody's business.

To learn more about the Forest Service, visit
our Web site at

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

or contact:

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Office of Communication
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090