

## ***EVOLUTION OF THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST***

Since a detailed history of the Minnesota Conservation Movement has never been written, it is difficult to credit all persons participating in the establishment of the Superior National Forest and its Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Available evidence indicates that the creation of the Superior by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 13, 1909 climaxed a period of approximately thirty years of efforts by a few conservation-minded Minnesotans seeking to preserve portions of Minnesota's magnificent virgin forest. In reality the creation of the Superior was an afterthought, an offshoot of interest in conserving some segment of the pine lands of the Upper Mississippi Country 1/, and more than that, it was one result of attempts by a great man to secure recognition of forestry practices in Minnesota.

Since there were other areas and other events which had a bearing on the ultimate establishment of the Superior National Forest, they are briefly reviewed. A few influential Minnesotans, inspired by Jacob V. Brower of St. Cloud, and aided by members of the Minnesota State Historical Society, had induced the Minnesota Legislature of 1891 to establish Itasca State Park at the headwaters of the Mississippi, a Federal Land Grant of 7,000 acres being the nucleus of this park. The Legislature also had memorialized the Congress of the United States to set aside a National Park of 40,000 acres in the Upper Mississippi pine lands. The suggested withdrawal of public lands for park purposes drew screams of outraged horror from residents of northern Minnesota, then greedily appropriating the public lands and timber for themselves 2/. Thus, no park was established by Congress.

Several years before the events mentioned above another St. Cloud resident, General Christopher C. Andrews, who was later to be characterized as the "Apostle of Forestry" in Minnesota 3/, the first Chief Fire Warden of Minnesota, and later Forestry Commissioner, began espousing the cause of preserving some segment of the Minnesota forests for posterity. Mr. Andrews had been Captain and Colonel in the Third Minnesota Infantry, and Brigadier General of Volunteers in the Civil War. In 1869 he was appointed Minister to Sweden and Norway and served in that position for 8½ years. In the course of his travels, he was impressed by the managed checkerboard patches of different-aged forests, with their trees in various stages of growth. This was Andrew's first lesson in forestry and it led him to study the Swedish forestry system and to prepare a report upon it. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, had the report included in the Foreign Relations documents of 1872-73. 4/

Upon his return from abroad, General Andrews changed his abode from St. Cloud to St. Paul, and took an active part in the affairs of that city without losing his interest in forestry. In February 1880, the Chamber of Commerce of St. Paul appointed a committee for the purpose of securing a donation of land by Congress for the endowment of a School of Forestry. This committee consisted of L. B. Hodges, W. R. Marshall, and Mr. Andrews as chairman. The committee did a prodigious amount of work in preparing a report, a bill and a memorial. All three documents were presented in Congress by Senator McMillan of Minnesota on March 1, 1880 and referred to the committee on public lands. Nothing further was heard of them 3/. (*The report, memorial, bill and other documents were printed and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, 46<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Senate Miscellaneous Documents, #91, Serial 1891.*)

In speaking of this project, Mr. Andrews had the following to say: 5/

“The committee spent a large amount of time and effort in the furtherance of this project. I worked hard to bring before the public the importance of making a beginning in the scientific management of our remaining forests. I cited extensively what was being done by the leading countries of Europe in systematic conservation and forestry management. While it is true that the Government had disposed of its best pine-lands in Minnesota, yet according to the best information our committee was able to gather, there remained from eight to ten million acres of timber-land, including the Indian Reservations and the waste-lands, which were only fit for bearing timber, in the limits of northern Minnesota, the title to which had not yet passed to private individuals.

“The latest report then of the United States surveyor-general estimated the unsurveyed area in northern Minnesota at thirteen million acres. The government had received only one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for the greater part of its pine timber lands, even when they had been disposed of at sale. Furthermore, according to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, it had been robbed of millions of acres of timber land by fraudulent use of the homestead laws, soldier’s additional homestead, and half-breed script. Under the system hitherto practiced, instances were not rare in this state where whole townships, once covered with magnificent pine forests, had been completely cleared of timber and were now desert wastes without a sign of timber re-growth, and so worthless that the owners had long since ceased to pay any taxes thereon.”

On April 26, 1882 5/, Mr. Andrews attended at Cincinnati, Ohio the National Forestry Congress (later known as the American Forestry Association). This was the first Congress for this purpose in the country. He read a paper on *The Necessity for a Forestry School in the United States*. Dr. B. E. Fernow, later Chief of the United States Division of Forestry, also read a paper. Mr. Andrews made the following comment on his paper: 5/

“In the preparation of my paper I received valuable help from James Russell Lowell, then American Minister at London, who wrote me, ‘I shall be glad to be of any use to you in helping to awaken public opinion to the conservation of our forests ere it be too late. I foresee a time when our game and forest laws will be Draconian in proportion to their present culpable laxity.’”

Mr. Andrews was out of the country from 1882 to 1885, serving as Consul General for the United States in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At every favorable opportunity he continued to promote the subject of forestry, and furnished several papers to the American Forestry Association. One of these, on *The Prevention of Forest Fires*, for the meeting of the Association in Brooklyn, New York, August 1894, was read only nine days before the Hinckley fire (*September 1, 1894*) in which some 418 persons lost their lives. On September 15, 1894, the *Northwestern Agriculturist* of Minneapolis published an article entitled *To Prevent Forest Fires* by Andrews. The forest fires so lately quenched furnished a text for an appeal for the public control of forests and the perpetuation of forest growth.

On April 18, 1895 the Legislature of the State of Minnesota passed a bill “for the preservation of forests of this State and for the prevention and suppression of forest and prairie fires”. The Bill was the work of Andrews and it was modeled after the New York law. The State Auditor was made Forest Commissioner, without increase in salary, and was authorized to appoint a chief fire warden at a salary of \$1,200 a year. Andrews was appointed to the job. (*The first year of operation, the expenses to July 31, 1896 was \$2,020.*) In addition, \$6,000 a year, with a permanent emergency fund of \$5,000 a year to be spent only during a dry and dangerous season, was appropriated to protect the Minnesota forests.

The Legislature of 1897 tried to repeal the 1895 law but was not successful. They did, however, cut the appropriation from \$6,000 to \$5,000 a year. This was all that was allowed annually until 1909 when \$21,000 was appropriated.

In his very first report to the Legislature as Chief Fire Warden in 1895, Mr. Andrews recommended a system of United States Forest Reserves in Minnesota 6/. This recommendation would be repeated. In his report of 1899, he devoted ten pages to an eloquent appeal for the establishment of a National Reserve around Cass Lake 7/. On February 1, 1900 he repeated his appeal for support for “The Minnesota National Park” of some 500,000 acres 8/, “to be treated on forestry principles”. While Andrews called the proposed area a Park and not a Forest Reserve, he was thinking and talking about forests to be managed for timber production.

His efforts attracted allies, and in early 1900 some Twin Cities’ citizens led by John S. Cooper, formerly of Chicago, and Mrs. Lydia Williams, the President of the Minnesota Women’s Clubs, began a public educational campaign in the interest of a Forest Reserve for the Upper Mississippi 9/ 10/ 5/. Through the efforts of these people and others such as Mrs. W. E. Bramhall of St. Paul, Herman Chapman, Professor S. B. Green, Gifford Pinchot, et al, the Morris Bill was passed, and on June 27, 1902 a 225,000 acre Forest Reserve was established, which was to become the Minnesota National Forest and later the Chippewa National Forest. Again, some northern Minnesotans bitterly protested, with the publisher of the *Duluth News Tribune* being among the most ardent opponents of Forest reservations 11/. Gifford Pinchot 10/ says that behind the opposition lay three things: the fierce desire for development which marks the frontier, the hunger for profit of land agents and other speculators in land, and the determination of the lumbermen to let no tree escape that would put a dollar in their pockets.

The pioneers said, “Land is there to be used, resources are there to be used, and the sooner the better. If in the using they are used up – what has the future done for us, that we should worry about the future?”

“What we want,” said the speculators, “is people and business. If the settler we bring in fails to make a go of it, well, we’ve sold him this and we’ve sold him that, and he’s been a whole lot better for the country than no settler at all.”

“This is our bailiwick,” said the lumberman. “This timber is here to be cut, and we are going to cut it, come hell or high water.”

Passage of the Morris Bill did not end the fight against the Reserve. In speaking of this period, Mr. Pinchot 10/ had the following comments:

“A meeting of the American Forestry Association, at that time no appeaser but a fighting friend of Forestry, held in August of 1903, helped to maintain public interest and support. Yet in 1905 the opposition made a new attack, which might have succeeded except for the vigorous backing of the Commercial Clubs of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

“Hartley headed the assault. With him was Senator Nelson and ‘the gang of skimmers who have been exploiting the northern portion of the State’, to quote C. R. Barns of the editorial staff of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in a letter to me of May 15, 1905.

“ ‘As for Nelson,’ said Mr. Barns, ‘when I came to Minnesota nine years ago, I had a high opinion of him. That opinion has vanished before abounding proof that he is a treacherous, dishonest, time-serving politician. He will stab Roosevelt at the first opportunity, just as he has joined in stabbing the Forestry Movement, so far as it concerns Minnesota.’ ”

Later Mr. Pinchot, in *Breaking New Ground* 10-p465/, also had some comment about Senator Nelson:

“He was also Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Lands. As such he had been friendly to the Forest Service, but times had changed. As chairman of the joint committee, he showed himself to be bitterly and openly partisan, “Old Guard” to the fingertips, and relentlessly determined to carry out the whitewashing of Ballinger according to plan.

“Under the pressure of this drive, the Legislature asked Congress to repeal the Morris Act. Congress did not repeal it. And that was the last serious threat to the Minnesota (*now the Chippewa*) National Forest, which has since proved its value beyond dispute. Because it was a new thing in the world, and because its establishment was a triumph of intelligent public sentiment over selfish special interest, the Minnesota National Forest was a milestone on the road to better things.”

After this success in the Mississippi country, General Andrews began maneuvering for further forest reservations. A vigorous traveler, he covered most of the northern forest country by foot or canoe. His travels in Koochiching and Cook Counties in 1901 had acquainted him with the beauties of the Border country, he was impressed with what he saw, and hereafter we see his attentions to Forest Reservations concentrating on what is now largely the Boundary Waters Canoe Area 12/. By this time his judgment on Forestry matters was highly respected by Washington officials. Also he had acquired a national reputation as a lecturer on Forestry topics.

Actually it was Andrews’ zeal for a system of Minnesota State Forests which ultimately brought about creation of the Superior National Forest. For years he had passionately sought lands in Minnesota which would be permanently dedicated to forestry. However, aside from a donation of 1,000 acres in north-central Minnesota, by the Pillsbury family, lands for State Forests simply were not forthcoming from a farming-minded Legislature and people. In most cases County Commissioners would not even turn over long tax-delinquent lands for forestry. Accordingly,

Andrews hope to induce the Federal Government to withdraw from entry substantial tracts of its northern Minnesota public domain forest to be used for forestry purposes. On May 10, 1902 Andrews petitioned the General Land Office to withdraw from entry 500,000 acres of forest in Lake and Cook Counties. This letter follows:

St. Paul, Minn., May 10, 1902

Honorable Binger Hermann  
Commissioner General Land Office  
Washington, DC

Dear Sir:

I have the honor hereby to recommend that the following townships, all public land situated in Cook and Lake Counties in Minnesota, and comprising (after deducting water surface) an area in round numbers of five hundred thousand acres, be set apart by the President as a Forest Reserve, namely: *(there follows certain designated ranges in townships 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63)*. Ten of these townships are surveyed and all of the lands are practically vacant.

I enclose a map of these lands, with notes showing their character, compiled from the field notes in the United States Surveyor General's Office of this State.

I make this recommendation for the following reasons:

1. The land has a general elevation of about 1,200 feet above Lake Superior, is generally hilly and rocky and more valuable for the production of timber than for agriculture. It is natural timber land, but much of the original timber was killed by fires many years ago. Its soil is only third or fourth rate, and the fact that although fairly accessible, none of it has been taken by settlers, is of itself evidence that it is undesirable for agricultural purposes.
2. The benefit that will accrue to Minnesota by having this waste and vacant land utilized for forestry purposes. Everyone knows that the supply of pine timber in Minnesota is fast diminishing. Already several kinds of lumber from the Pacific Coast are competing here with our home products, and as our home supply decreases the price of lumber from the coast will be advanced. Expensiveness of lumber will tend to retard the development of agricultural lands, farmers being among the principal consumers of lumber. On this land proposed to be created a Forest Reserve, it will require about eighty years for pine timber to grow to merchantable size. The population of the United States in eighty years from now, according to the estimate, will be 320,000,000. Everyone can see that the demand for lumber will then be very much greater than at present.

3. The land in question contains many fine lakes and streams, and will, if administered as a Forest Reserve, prove valuable also as a fish and game preserve.
4. The educational effect of such a reserve would be useful in promoting forest economy in this State.
5. I have been reflecting upon this matter for over a year. I have also seen occasional expressions in the public press favoring a Forest Reserve to include some of the highlands north of Lake Superior. I have examined the Government plats of all the surveyed lands in Minnesota north of Lake Superior, and those herein contained are about the only lands that are available from being vacant. This is the only opportunity (outside of Indian Reservations) of securing a number of townships in a body in this State for a Forest Reserve. Of course, it is understood that the State of Minnesota is entitled to Sections 16 and 36 in each township as school lands; also that the State will have a right to any swamp lands there may be in either township. Also, should any of the Reserve be found to be good agricultural land, I, for one, would expect that the law would be made to permit, if it does not now permit, the use of such lands for agricultural purposes.

I do not expect the Reserve to be a wilderness, nor to shut out any necessary means of communications.

Very truly yours,

C. D. Andrews  
Chief (Forest) Fire Warden

Mr. Binger Hermann replied on June 30, 1902 that temporary withdrawal of the land had been made. This letter follows:

Under the date of June 30, 1902, the Commissioner of the General Land Office made the following favorable reply:

*PROPOSED LAKE SUPERIOR FOREST RESERVE, MINNESOTA.*

Mr. C. C. Andrews  
Chief Fire Warden  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Sir:

Referring to your letter of May 10, 1902, recommending the establishment of a Forest Reserve to include certain lands in Lake and Cook Counties, Minnesota, I have to advise you that the matter has been favorably reported to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior by me, and also by the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Honorable Secretary has directed me to make temporary withdrawal of lands substantially in accordance with your recommendation.

On account of the extensive adverse holdings thereon, certain portions of the lands mentioned by you may not well be included within the Reserve.

Very respectfully,

BINGER HERMANN, Commissioner

This exchange of correspondence is reported in the Chief Fire Warden's Eighth Annual Report 13/.

Immediate action was taken to withdraw certain lands from all forms of disposal under the public land laws. This withdrawal was dated June 30, 1902, and covered essentially all of the area described in Mr. Andrew's letter of May 10, 1902. The following year at a meeting of the State Forestry Board, held on May 27, 1903, a resolution drawn by Andrews declaring that all vacant public land of third or fourth grade should be declared better adapted to Forestry than agriculture, was adopted. On September 2<sup>nd</sup> of the same year the Executive Committee of the Board of which Andrews was a member and secretary, was instructed to prepare and have introduced in Congress a bill for an Act to grant to the State for Forestry purposes, all such vacant public lands as the Surveyor-General might from time to time certify to be third or fourth grade. Senator Knute Nelson introduced the Bill, which met with immediate opposition on the grounds that it was too far-reaching and that it set a dangerous precedent. On October 26, 1903 Andrews wrote to the Secretary of Interior, E. A. Hitchcock, inquiring if a tract of 230,000 acres of Federal Forestlands could be transferred to the State of Minnesota for permanent State Forests 14/. This request was not favorably received for the reasons stated above, but an exchange of correspondence followed between Andrews and Pinchot 15/.

Senator Knute Nelson subsequently presented a revised Bill to grant to the State for experimental Forestry purposes not more than twenty thousand (20,000) acres of vacant public lands described as third or fourth grade in the Field Notes of the Government Surveyors. The report of the House Committee on Public Lands, of which Volstead and Lind of Minnesota were members, informed the House that Minnesota had a well-organized Bureau of Forestry engaged in reforestation and could make good use of the land. The Bill became a law on April 28, 1904, and the Grant was accepted by the State Legislature on March 30, 1905.

Mr. Andrews, Professor S. B. Green of the University Forestry School, and a young Forester, William Cox, made the selection, with W. R. Mayer serving as cruiser. The tract selected became the Burntside State Forest in T63 and T64 North, Range 13 West, Northwest of Ely, Minnesota 16/.

Thereafter, Mr. Andrews undertook a program of contact work and publicity designed to bring about the establishment of United States Forest Reserves along the Minnesota/Ontario border. His next step was to induce the State Forestry Board, of which he was the secretary, to recommend that the Federal Government establish a 70,000-acre Forest and Game Preserve in the Lac La Croix/Crooked Lake area. Forestry Board member, Frederick Weyerhauser made the motion 17/. Andrews, thereupon, communicated this petition to the General Land Office. The second withdrawal was dated August 18, 1905 and covered approximately 141,000 acres which is twice the area mentioned in the petition.

By this time Andrews obviously nurtured the idea of an International Forest or Park along the Border, since no sooner were the American lands on La Croix/Crooked Lake withdrawn than Andrews wrote to Thomas Southworth, Director of Forests for Ontario, Canada, suggesting that a Canadian Park or Forest Preserve be created on Crooked Lake and La Croix 18/. The Ontario Forestry Chief presumably replied that this would be possible, as the Canadians were not opening for settlement the lands in question, which information Andrews communicated to Gifford Pinchot in January 1906. And on the same day of the Pinchot letter, Andrews also wrote to Secretary of Interior Hitchcock, suggesting an International Park along the Border.

Only sketchy information is available on the progress of the Border Forest Reserve idea over the next several years. Big blocks of the Minnesota border pine were falling under the control of large-scale lumbermen, with the St. Croix Lumber Company and Swallow-Hopkins pushing substantial operation in the heart of the present Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Records indicate that Andrews was in this area during the summers of 1906 and 1907. In the summer of 1907 he took an extended canoe trip from Winton to Grand Portage, and on August 25, 1907 he lectured to a Duluth audience on the highlights of his trip and the beauties of the canoe country 20/. (*He was 77 years old at this time.*) It seems that wilderness canoe recreation was also catching popular fancy. In the fall of 1908, a Duluth newspaper carried a full-page story on the canoe routes of northern Minnesota. Ten days later a second canoeing story appeared describing a canoe trip of the Weyerhauser and Hornby families down the Elbow and Vermilion Rivers, a trip on which these prominent timbermen's families had a very narrow escape from a lightning strike 21/.

While the above events were in progress, other things were also happening. Mention has been made of land withdrawals in 1902 and 1905. On April 22, 1908 an additional withdrawal from entry was made of approximately 518,700 acres.

Following the first withdrawal of June 30, 1902, a report on the area withdrawn was prepared by Mr. E. A. Braniff in the summer of 1903. The report covered essentially the same area of 477,000 acres as described in Mr. Andrews' letter of May 10, 1902. The report recommended that the area be created as the Lake Superior Forest Reserve.



A second report dated October 31, 1908, was prepared by S. M. Higgins, Forest Expert. It covered approximately 659,700 acres and included essentially the same areas as withdrawn on August 18, 1905 and April 22, 1908. The report recommended additions to the proposed Lake Superior National Forest, and that it be created.

During the course of Mr. Higgins' study, General Andrews had continued to be busy and it appears that he had enlisted the aid of wildlife enthusiasts for his dreams of the International Park (*probably through Carlos Avery, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Game and Fish Commission*). The North American Game and Fish Protective Association, meeting in Toronto in early February 1909, strongly endorsed the Forest Reservation idea as a device for saving the American moose. A number of prominent Americans and Canadians participated in this meeting, among whom were a Mr. Arthur Hawkes of the Canadian Northern Railroad, W. A. Preston, member of Parliament from Fort Frances, A. R. Davidson of Winnipeg, and Carlos Avery of Minnesota, representing the Minnesota Game and Fish Commission. Congressman Volstead of Minnesota announced that he was introducing a Bill in Congress to provide this Reserve 22/.

This was not to be necessary. Following the third withdrawal order of April 22, 1908, and submission of Higgins' report in 1908, steps were taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to have the area officially designated as the Superior National Forest. This was formally requested by letter during the early part of 1909 by the Secretary of Agriculture. On February 13, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Superior National Forest by Proclamation #848 as follows:

WHEREAS, the public lands in the State of Minnesota, which are hereinafter indicated, are in part covered with timber, and it appears that the public good would be promoted by utilizing said lands as a National Forest;

Now, therefore, I, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section twenty-four of the Act of Congress, approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, entitled, "*An Action to repeal timber-culture laws, and for other purposes*", do proclaim that there are hereby reserved from settlement or entry and set apart as a public reservation, for the use and benefit of the people, all the tracts of land in the State of Minnesota shown as the Superior National Forest on the diagram forming a part hereof.

The withdrawal made by this Proclamation shall, as to all lands which are at this date legally appropriated under the public land laws or preserved for any public purpose, be subject to, and shall not interfere with or defeat legal rights under such appropriation, nor prevent the use for such public purpose of lands so reserved, so long as such appropriation is legally maintained, or such reservation remains in force.

The Proclamation covered an area of approximately 1,018,638 acres. The Proclamation was some 137,000 acres less than the acreage as listed in the three withdrawals. Fourteen thousand acres were eliminated by the Proclamation itself. The balance of 123,000 acres was included in the temporary withdrawal order of April 22, 1908, but was not included in the first Proclamation dated

February 13, 1909. The lands outside of the proclaimed boundary were formally released from the temporary withdrawal under date of September 22, 1909.

Apparently just prior to the Forest being proclaimed, the Minnesota Game and Fish Commission established the Superior Refuge of about 1,200,000 acres. This was the result of close work with Canadians, W. A. Preston, Arthur Hawkes, et al. The original purpose was to preserve the natural forms of wildlife for posterity. Control of predators was allowed and nuisance beaver could be removed. At that time no thought was given to hunting surplus animals and birds because the greatest concern of most conservation groups was the preservation of existing game populations.

Soon after the Proclamation, several members of the Game and Fish Protective Association visited St. Paul and Duluth in connection with the International Forest Reserve <sup>23</sup>/. By this time the Ontario members had been in contact with their government. Mr. Hawkes told Forest Reservation enthusiasts that his government was willing to imitate American action.

An editorial in the *Duluth Herald* of February 22, 1909, voiced the following opinion of the Proclamation:

“The 900,000 acres of timberland which have been set aside for a Forest Reserve are said to be rough and rocky, and so unsuited for settlement as compared to hundreds of thousands of fertile acres in this (*the Duluth*) section of the state which are not yet being cultivated, so that it is probable that the tract of the Reserve would never become an agricultural country. The new Reserve is quite likely to be a permanent Forest Reserve, and by reason of its size and location, it will become in time one of the most important in the country. The setting aside of this Forest Reserve is also hailed with satisfaction by all who are interested in the movement to establish an International Game Preserve in Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. Such a Preserve will attract thousands of sportsmen to Minnesota, and the state will benefit from the resources.”

The tone of the editorial was quite a radical change from that being employed five years and more before this event.

On April 1, 1909 the Quetico Forest Reserve was set aside by an Order-In-Council under the Forest Reserves Act. It was deemed expedient that the area be “kept in a state of nature as far as that is possible ...”. It recommended the creation of a staff under a Chief Ranger to cruise the timber and protect it from fire.

In 1913 an Order-In-Council under the Provincial Parks Act changed the Quetico Forest Reserve to Quetico Provincial Park – “set apart as a public park and forest reserve, fish and game preserve, health resort and fishing ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of Ontario ...”.

A. J. McDonald of Cochrane, Ontario was to be appointed Superintendent at a salary of \$1,300 per annum and a free house.

Establishment of the Chippewa National Forest, the Superior National Forest and the Quetico Provincial Park culminated a thirty-year effort on the part of many conservation-minded people in Minnesota and the Province of Ontario. Who initiated the great movement? Well, Christopher C. Andrews on page 293 in his book *“Recollections of Christopher C. Andrews 1829-1922”* says,

“It is but truth to say that I initiated the movement that resulted in the creation of the Minnesota National Forest, situated in the vicinity of Cass Lake, and the Superior National Forest, north of Lake Superior.”

There is ample evidence to support this statement. Being an honest, forthright man, Mr. Andrews acknowledged the many people and organizations both in Minnesota and Ontario who assisted in attaining the desired objective.

The ideas were initiated locally, were fought for locally, and attained largely through the support of local people and organizations. This positively reflects the true situation, although even today some persons, deficient in historical background, may be heard to make such untrue statements as, “just another land steal by foreign bureaucrats”.

John S. Baird, lumberman, was sent by the Forest Service to Ely, Minnesota to open a Supervisor’s office and to place the recently created Forest under administration. On May 1, 1909, Scott Leavitt arrived from the Fremont Forest in Oregon to assist with the task. Mr. Baird served for ten (10) weeks as Acting Supervisor and then transferred to the Deer Lodge Forest in Montana. He was replaced by Mr. Leavitt, who served as Acting Forest Supervisor for the period July 15, 1909 to April 21, 1910 when he transferred to the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana. He was replaced by Joe A. Fitzwater. The force on the Superior in 1909 consisted of the following:

Alex Cummings  
John Handberg  
Charles Taylor  
Leslie M. Brownell  
Mel. J. Cummings  
Calvin Dahlgren  
Scott Leavitt  
Guy M. Terry

All but Acting Supervisor Leavitt were at first guards, and he gave them the ranger’s examination at Ely.

Other Forest Supervisors and their tenure in office follows:

Joe A. Fitzwater	4-21-10 – 1914
Leslie M. Brownell	1914 – 1919
Calvin A. Dahlgren	1919 – 1924
A. L. Richey	1924 – 1926
Al Hamel	1926 – 1930
S. D. Anderson	1930 – 1931

R. A. Zeller	1931 – 1932
Leslie S. Bean	1932 – 1933
Earl Pierce	1933 – 1934
R. V. Harmon	1934 – 1939
Clare W. Hendee	1939 – 1944
Arlie Toole	1944 – 1945
Galen W. Pike	1945 – 1955
Louis C. Hermel	1955 – 1958
L. P. Neff	1958 – 1965
John O. Wernham	1965 –

The Forest was expanded by President William H. Taft, by Presidential Proclamation #1215 dated September 19, 1912. This Proclamation added 380,552 acres to the Forest. It also eliminated 14,455 acres which previously had been added to the Forest by Proclamation #848 dated February 13, 1909.

On April 9, 1927, President Calvin Coolidge issued Proclamation #1800 (*the third Proclamation adding lands to the Superior National Forest*), which added approximately 359,580 acres to the Superior National Forest and included all of the Superior National Forest Purchase Unit as approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission on March 31, 1926. It also gave National Forest status to all of the public lands (11,114 acres) described in Executive Order #4522 of October 14, 1926.

On December 28, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Proclamation #2213 (*the fourth Proclamation adding lands to the Superior National Forest*). This Proclamation added approximately 1,215,000 acres to the Forest. It also made the Mesaba Purchase Unit a part of the Forest.

The fifth addition of land to the Superior National Forest was accomplished by Executive Order #11072, executed by President John F. Kennedy on December 28, 1962. This Executive Order added to the Superior National Forest a gross area of 136,777 acres, of which 70,821 acres were at the time federally owned. It also provided for a major retraction of purchase unit boundaries.

As of June 30, 1966, land status on the Superior National Forest was as follows:

Gross acres of land within proclaimed boundaries	3,030,406 acres
Net National Forest acres therein	2,040,344 acres
Net acreage of National Forest land in exterior Purchase Units	<u>97,598 acres</u>
Total area administered by Forest Service	2,137,942 acres