## **United States Forest Service**

## Timeline of Key Events

## Nationwide

1881 The Office of the Special Agent is expanded into the newly formed Division of Forestry.

1876 The Office of the Special Agent for forest research is created in the Department of Agriculture to assess the state of the forests in the United States.

1891 The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 authorizes withdrawing land from the public domain as "forest reserves," managed by the Department of the Interior.

1901 The Division of Forestry is renamed the

Bureau of Forestry.

1905-1945 National forest management focuses on protecting lands against overgrazing, controlling and combating fire, protecting fish and game, and providing public recreation

1905 The Transfer Act of 1905 transfers management of forest reserves from the General Land Office (Department of the Interior) to the Bureau of Forestry (Department of Agriculture). The name of the agency changes to the Forest Service.

1911 The Weeks Law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase cutover, denuded, and other forested lands for flood and fire control. This new authority led to the expansion of national forests in the eastern United States and the protection and restoration of millions of acres of land.

1945-1960 National forests experience increased demand on forest resources, especially timber and recreation

1944 The Forest Service begins a campaign stating, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires," using a fire-injured black bear cub as a symbol to be careful. Today, Smokey Bear is one of the most widely recognized icons in America

1960-1980 In response to shifting public values, the Forest Service shifts focus to managing land as integrated systems, instead of individual resources

1989 The Chief's New Perspectives initiatives stresses ecosystem management and sustainability and is aimed to place timber management in line with other forest values including biodiversity, water quality, and recreation

Fire Plan is created to address the buildup of fuels unintentionally caused by decades of fire suppression, climate change, and developments adjacent to forests

2001 The National

## Shoshone National Forest

1891 The Yellowstone Park
Timberland reserve is established
by proclamation of President
Benjamin Harrison. It is a tract
23.5 miles wide by 34.5 miles long
east of Yellowstone National Park.
In September of the same year, a
second proclamation extends the
area to include other lands south
of Yellowstone National Park. The
two proclamations cover an area of
1,239,040 acres.

1902 A third proclamation further extends the reserve boundaries to the Wind River Range and other lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park. To cope with the growing area, administration is separated into four divisions: Shoshone Division (which includes most of the original reserve), Wind River Division, Absaroka Division, and Teton Division.

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1908 Pursuant to the act of March 4, 1907, forest reserves becomes known as national forests; the Wind River Division becomes the Bonneville National Forest, and the Shoshone Division becomes the Shoshone National Forest. 1910 The Bonneville National Forest is divided into three divisions:

The Bonneville-Green River Division, the Bonneville-Wind River Division, and the Bonneville-Sweetwater River Division.

1911 By executive order of President Taft, the Bonneville National Forest is split and identified as follows: The Green River Division becomes the Bridger National Forest, and the Wind River Division becomes the Bonneville National Forest.

1912 The Sweetwater Division becomes the Washakie National Forest and includes all of the present Washakie Ranger District, plus the area of the Sweetwater River.

1915 The administration of the Bonneville and Washakie National Forests is consolidated with Lander, Wyoming as the headquarters.

1916 The Bonneville and Washakie National Forests are consolidated and the Bonneville National Forest, as such, is abolished. The Sweetwater District of the Washakie National Forest is transferred to the Bridger National Forest.

1945 The Washakie
National Forest is abolished by
consolidation and becomes part of
the Shoshone National Forest, the
original and oldest national forest
in the country with headquarters
in Cody, Wyoming.

