

History of the Ochoco National Forest and the Changing Boundaries over the Years

From the very beginning, the Ochoco National Forest has been a land system with changing administrative boundaries. In 1907, the Forest Service considered dividing the Reserves into separate administrative units, but it was not until 1913 that the Ochoco National Forest was divided into seven ranger districts. In 1932, the district boundaries were all changed again, resulting in five ranger districts. In 1939, the land amounts within the five districts were changed. In 1941, the districts went from five down to four. And, just in the past few years, these districts were reduced to the two current administrative units: The Lookout Mountain and the Paulina Ranger Districts. Administration of the Snow Mountain district was transferred to the Malheur National Forest. The following is a chronology of the early growing pains of the Forest Service in the Ochoco Mountains.

24 July 1902: Land in township 15S 22E and 14S 22E was withdrawn on this date for the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve.

28 July 1902: The Blue Mountains withdrawn under the Public Land Laws for proposed Forest Reserve purposes. Two divisions were proposed: Elk Creek Forest Reserve (that portion of the Blue Mountains lying in back of Baker City) and the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve (the remaining portion). Both totaled 3,053,178 acres.

25 April 1903: 62,480 acres of land on Maury Mountain withdrawn for the proposed Maury Mountain Forest Reserve.

21 August 1904: Land within the proposed Blue Mountain Forest Reserve was surveyed by the GLO.

1905: The Forest Reserves were transferred by President Theodore Roosevelt from the Department of the Interior to the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Agriculture, soon to be the Forest Service, and the forest reserves were thereafter to be national forests.

24 March 1906: By Forest Service Order E, A.S. Ireland became the first Forest Supervisor of the Western Division of the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve and the Maury Mountain Forest Reserve.

1 April 1906: A.S. Ireland took over his duties as Forest Supervisor. His office was in his home in Prineville.

25 January 1907: It was proposed to divide the Reserves into administrative units.

2 March 1907: A new proclamation was issued to combine the Maury Mountains with the Blue Mountains (West) National Forest. The Deschutes National Forest was also proposed at this time but no action took place until 1908.

4 March 1907: Forest Reserves were renamed National Forests by an Act of Congress. It took a while for people to catch on to the new name.

8 March 1907: Forest Supervisor Ireland proposes to the Washington office to divide the Blue Mountain Reserve in two at a different boundary:

"That the South Fork of the John Day River be the division line so as to include that part of the Reserve lying west of said stream and north of the township line between townships 15 and 16 in that portion with headquarters at Prineville and would suggest the name Blue Mountain West for this portion. Would further recommend that all that part of the present Blue Mountain Reserve West Division lying east of the South Fork John Day River, and that part lying south and west of said stream and situated in Grant and Malheur Counties be included in the new division, with headquarters preferable at John Day."

15 May 1908: Supervisor Ireland received notice from the Washington Office that a plan would be put into effect on 1 July to redistrict the National Forest boundaries. A proposed boundary for the Deschutes National Forest was sent to him and he was told to take charge of this piece of ground on said date with headquarters at Prineville. The district adjoining the Deschutes on the east will be known as the Malheur National Forest, with Supervisor Bingham in charge at John Day; on the south as the Fremont National Forest with Supervisor Ingram in charge at Lakeview; on the west as the Cascade National Forest with Supervisor Seitz in charge at Eugene, and on the southwest as the Umpqua National Forest with Supervisor Bartrum in charge at Roseburg.

The new Deschutes National Forest encompassed all of the former Blue Mountains (West) National Forest, part of the Cascade National Forest, and part of the Fremont National Forest.

1 December 1908: Forest Service Regions (then called Districts) were established with headquarters in six Western cities:

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| 1. | Missoula, Montana | District Forester W.B. Greeley |
| 2. | Denver, Colorado | D.F. Smith Riley |
| 3. | Albuquerque, New Mexico | D.F. A.C. Ringland |
| 4. | Ogden, Utah | D.F. Clyde Leavitt |
| 5. | San Francisco, California | D.F. F.E. Olmstead |
| 6. | Portland, Oregon | D.F. E.T. Allen |

All business formerly transacted with the Washington office now went through the District Office.

30 June 1911: The boundaries of many of the Forests in the District were rearranged. The Paulina Mountains and that region formerly included in the old Cascade National Forest were pulled from the Deschutes National Forest. The Paulina Mountains became the Paulina National Forest. The region formerly included in the old

Cascade National Forest and another area on the east slope of the Cascades was named the Deschutes National Forest. The main division of the old Deschutes National Forest, including the Maury Mountains and the Snow Mountain region, was renamed the Ochoco National Forest, by Proclamation 1165. Under this Proclamation, the permanent boundary between the Ochoco and Malheur National Forests was delineated as the divide between Silver and Emigrant Creeks. Executive Order 816 transferred this land from the Deschutes to the Ochoco National Forest.

September 1913: The Ochoco National Forest was then divided into seven ranger districts.

From the Ochoconian, March, 1932: "As a result of a careful tabulation of the volume of work on the Forest, a change of ranger district boundaries has been effected in an attempt at a more even distribution of work among all district. The need for such change has been apparent for some time but owing to various local projects, it has not appeared practical to make the adjustment previous to this time. The new scheme provides for the re-occupying by rangers of Beaver Ranger Station and Maury Ranger Station, two stations that were previously occupied as ranger headquarters but in late years have only been used as fireman stations.

"It is felt that under present conditions the new plan will work toward better efficiency in administrative and fire control problems. A shift of rangers and the creation of some new ranger district names was made necessary by the district boundary changes. The present line of districts and rangers in charge is as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Ranger in Charge</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Wildcat	L.J. Wirth	Ochoco R.S.
Pisgah	A.J. Radigan	Beaver R.S.
Post	Ralph Eider	Maury R.S.
Wolf Mountain	J.O.F. Anderson	Rager R.S.
Snow Mountain	E.W. Donnelly	Allison R.S."

1939: Ranger District boundaries were completely revised, effective on April 1. A district headquarters was created in Prineville and the ranger headquarters at Maury Ranger Station was abandoned. The Maury unit was assigned to the Paulina District, headquarters at Rager Ranger Station.

1941: In November the forest was again re-districted – this time into four districts instead of five. Boundaries were all changed, except the Snow Mt. District, and Mitchell district was eliminated and absorbed in the other three districts. This made the set-up as follows:

District No. 1 – Prineville District – Wm. P. Dasmann, ranger
District No. 2 – Big Summit District – Norman C. White, ranger
District No. 3 – Paulina District – George P. McClanahan, ranger
District No. 4 – Snow Mt. District – Darroll K. Frewing, ranger