

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
OF FORESTRY: REPORT  
OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
FORESTRY FOR 1906-1907**

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Maryland State Board of Forestry: Report of the State Board of Forestry for 1906-1907 by  
Various

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**VARIOUS**

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## DEMONSTRATION FORESTS

The State Board of Forestry, in order to furnish object lessons of the most approved methods of woodlot management throughout the State, and thereby promote practical forestry, is co-operating with woodlot owners under the following conditions:

1. Anyone owning a woodlot may apply to the State Forester, Baltimore, Md., for an examination of his woodlands with a view of establishing a demonstration forest under the terms of this offer. The woodlot under consideration must be so located as to be easily accessible from the public highway, and subject to inspection by those interested in forest management under reasonable restrictions of the owner, and with his consent.

2. No woodlot of less than four acres will be considered. Where the woodlot exceeds 25 acres the State Forester may, in his discretion, prepare plans for the management of a portion of it not exceeding 15 acres, except where more than one method of management is proposed, either due to differences of condition or for the purpose of greater demonstrative value, in which case there may be as many 15 acres plots as there are methods of management proposed.

3. Before a working plan is prepared and actual work begun, the State Forester, or his authorized representative, shall make a preliminary examination of the woodlands with the owner or his agent. After the examination the Forester shall submit the plan upon which co-operative work may be undertaken. If this plan is approved by the owner, or his agent, its execution shall be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

4. There shall be no expense to the owner on account of the preliminary examination or subsequent examinations, unless hereafter agreed, except that said owner shall meet and convey the State Forester, or his representative, from the nearest railroad station or steamboat landing to the woodlands to be examined, take care of him while engaged in the work, and return him again to the station or wharf.

5. Since the object of this work is to demonstrate practical forestry in all of its phases, the aim will be to treat each woodlot in the most approved manner to secure its greatest productiveness, thereby meeting the needs of the owner and showing his neighbors, who may be similarly situated, what they can do for themselves. The general plan will be for the forester to outline the work in detail and to organize and superintend it when possible. Where thinnings and improvement cuttings are to be made, he will mark the trees to be cut; where fire lines are to be constructed, he will lay them out; where planting is to be undertaken, he will locate the areas to be planted, recommend the species of trees to be used and show how the planting is to be done; and so with all parts of the work that may be agreed upon. The owner will be required to furnish all the labor that may be needed. He will have full control of the disposal of the products from the woodlot, and receive all revenues derived therefrom. In consideration of the advice and assistance given, and in order that the woodlot may serve its full purpose as a demonstration forest, the owner shall agree to carry out in good faith the plans agreed upon and permit the State Forester to give public demonstrations of practical forest operations while the improvement work is in progress, and to publish such results of the work from time to time as he may think proper.

6. The co-operative agreement may be terminated by either party on 30 days' notice.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY  
FOR  
1906 AND 1907



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F. W. BESLEY, - - - - - State Forester

Baltimore,  
December, 1907

\*Deceased

## REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY FOR 1906 AND 1907

The Maryland State Board of Forestry was created by the Legislature of 1906 under an act,\* "To establish a State Board of Forestry, and to promote forest interests and arboriculture in the State." The board was organized in May, 1906, and has since been actively engaged in promoting an interest in forestry, and in ascertaining the forest conditions and needs of the State.

The first forest work under State initiative was done in 1900 by the Maryland Geological Survey in co-operation with the United States Forestry Bureau, when a study of the forest conditions in Allegany County was made, and a report published. This was in the nature of an economic survey, to ascertain the relation which the forests bear to other natural resources of the State, their value, and means of improvement. The study of Allegany County was followed by similar work in Cecil, Calvert, Garrett and St. Mary's Counties, the results of which have already been published; investigations were also taken up in Worcester, Kent and Harford Counties, a map of the first county showing the forest growth by commercial types, having been issued. These reports supplied accurate information on the forest conditions and needs of the counties, and furnished an intelligent basis for general legislation. As a result of these forest studies it became apparent that the importance of the work and its special needs required a separate State department to properly handle it. This led to the introduction of the Forestry Bill in the last Legislature, and its prompt enactment into law. Since July, 1906, all of the State forest work has been conducted by the State Board of Forestry, through a State Forester, who is directly responsible to the Board for his official acts.

The main lines of activity of the Board of Forestry are briefly set forth under the following headings:

### EDUCATIONAL WORK.

With the meaning and purpose of the State forestry work so little understood by the general public, as was naturally the case in a new undertaking of this kind, it seemed expedient to devote much time and effort to disseminate information regarding forestry matters. The law

\*Acts of 1906, Chapter 294.



provides that a course of lectures on forestry shall be given annually, by the State Forester at the State Agricultural College. The course was given for the first time last winter, and the work has been extended for this winter, to include three short courses, designed to meet the needs of the students in Agriculture, Horticulture, Mechanical and Civil Engineering. The lectures, class-room work, and field demonstration, are for the purpose of better fitting the prospective farmer to manage his woodlot successfully, and the mechanical engineer to understand more fully the properties and uses of the different woods. It is in no sense designed to train the student as a professional forester, for which several years of special work would be required.

Another duty attached to the office is that of giving lectures on forestry before the State Farmer's Institutes. One week was devoted to this work last winter, and it is believed that much may be accomplished in thus presenting informally to the farmers, practical plans of forest management adapted to local conditions. This feature will be given additional attention as time and opportunity offer.

In addition to the regular lecture work cited above, the State Forester has responded to the calls of various societies and organizations for lectures and addresses on Forestry. In the past year twenty-one such lectures, and addresses have been given, and the applications already received for the coming months indicate that there is a general desire for information on forestry subjects.

Short articles of forest interest have been prepared for the county papers. These have been widely published, and have been the means of interesting a large number in forestry, who would be otherwise difficult to reach.

#### ASSISTANCE TO WOODLAND OWNERS.

Under authority of Section 4 of the Forest laws, the State offers to examine, on application, the lands of any corporation or individual, for the purpose of preparing plans of forest management, and protection, or for planting trees. Since this offer was made sixteen woodlots, aggregating an area of 2,615 acres, and representing a farm acreage of 6,465 acres, have been examined by the State Forester. In each case the woodlot was gone over with the owner, or his agent, and the problems presented, were discussed on the ground. A plan was then proposed to meet the needs of the owner and provide most effectually for forest improvement. This plan, in nearly every case, was embodied in a written report to the owner, setting forth the recommendations and giving in required detail the directions for the proper execution of the plan.

This work brings practical forestry to the farmer and timberland owner, and as the plan proposed is carried out, it furnishes to their neighbors the most convincing testimony that well planned forest management is good practice.

In addition to personal investigations, many inquiries as to the best methods of dealing with specific forest problems are answered by correspondence. This work is constantly growing, and as the offer of assistance to land owners becomes more generally known the State Forester will be unable to attend to all applications without an assistant.

#### STUDY OF FOREST CONDITIONS.

The county studies of forest conditions begun by the Maryland Geological Survey, in co-operation with the United States Forest Service, have been taken up by this department and actively carried on during the summer. Under the plan now being carried out, and which will be uniform for the entire State, the State Board of Forestry makes a detailed study of the forest conditions and needs of each county, the results of which are published by the Maryland Geological Survey in the volume for that county, as a forest report, accompanied by a forest map. These reports will not only describe the existing conditions, but will also suggest methods of forest improvement and protection as well as the market demands for forest products. The forest map will locate all of the wooded areas, and classify each tract, as to kind and condition of growth. When the work is completed for the State, there will be accurate data on our forest resources, and the information required for formulating a definite forest policy.

#### FIRE PROTECTION.

It is a well-known fact that forest fires have caused immense annual losses. Just what this loss amounts to is difficult to determine, but that it is caused largely through carelessness and can be greatly reduced is certain. Reports from over 100 game wardens and others throughout the State indicated over \$250,000 damage from fires during the year 1906. As 1906 was regarded by most of those reporting, as affording a less number of forest fires than former years, the loss was probably no greater than the average. Under the provisions of the new law, Section 6, fifty-seven Forest Wardens have been recommended to the Governor for commission during 1907, and nearly all have qualified.

These men have been selected for their special fitness, and are so located as to give the best service in controlling forest fires. The duties of the forest wardens are given in Leaflet No. 4 appended to this report.

The wardens have posted fire warning notices in the wooded sections, and distributed leaflets published by this Board, relating to forest fires, and our forest fire laws. They are also prepared to act promptly in extinguishing forest fires, employing assistants if necessary.

That the present forest warden system is accomplishing excellent results is shown by the reports of 1907, which have been received. These reports cover about the same territory as was reported upon last year, and indicate that the fire loss for 1907 will not exceed \$50,000 as compared with \$250,000 for 1906.

While it is probable that the loss for 1907 was considerably lessened by the past wet season, it will be remembered that the season of 1906 was also wetter than usual, and hence the checking of this immense fire loss must be largely attributed to the efficacy of our forest fire laws, and the efficiency of the forest warden service.

#### STATE RESERVES.

The State now owns four forest reserves, aggregating 1,957 acres, the gift of public-spirited citizens interested in forestry and forest protection. Three of these reserves are in the vicinity of Oakland, Garrett County, and are the gift of Messrs. Robert and John W. Garrett, of Baltimore. The fourth reserve, containing 40 acres, is located near Catonsville, Baltimore County, and is the gift of Mr. John M. Glenn, of Baltimore.

It is the purpose of the State to administer these lands to insure the best protection, to secure the greatest sustained yield, and at the same time to serve as object lessons in the community as to what systematic forest management can and will accomplish.

The reserves in Garrett County are typical mountain lands, representative of large areas in Western Maryland. Here the forests not only serve for the production of timber, but also afford a valuable protecting cover to the mountain sides, thus checking rapid run off, and helping to control or prevent floods. This is the best timbered section of the State, and since it is non-agricultural land, and being rapidly devastated, there is especial need of adopting conservative forest methods. It is believed that with systematic forest management practiced on the State Reserves, it will be the strongest possible argument for introducing better forest methods in that section of the State.

The small State Reserve near Catonsville, Baltimore County, is about the size of the woodlots on large farms in central Maryland, and will be so managed as to show the possibilities of woodlot forestry for the central counties.

The State Reserves are each in charge of a forest warden, who is giving them close supervision to prevent forest fires and trespass.

It is desirable to have a number of forest reserves well distributed over the State, to show in each community, what practical forestry means and what it can accomplish. There is need of conducting experiments in forestry practice, such as thinning, improvement cuttings, tree planting, systems of fire control, and other features of forestry