

**ANNUAL REPORTS. WASHINGTON
STATE FORESTER, FOR THE YEARS
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1915, AND
NOVEMBER 30, 1916, TO THE STATE
BOARD OF FOREST COMMISSIONERS**

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Annual Reports. Washington State Forester, for the years ending November 30, 1915, and November 30, 1916, to the State Board of Forest Commissioners by Various

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VARIOUS

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Published by courtesy of C. A. Billings.

A view showing specimens of old growth Douglas fir.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORTS

Washington State Forester

For the Years Ending November 30, 1915,
and November 30, 1916



TO THE

State Board of Forest Commissioners

W. W. EMERY, Chairman, Napavine
C. V. SAVIDGE, Land Commissioner, Olympia
FRANK B. COLE, Tacoma PATRICK McCOY, Seattle
E. G. ENGLISH, Mt. Vernon

F. E. PAPE, Forester and Secretary, Olympia

OLYMPIA, WASH.
FRANK M. LAMBORN PUBLIC PRINTER
1916

EXPLANATORY.

This publication contains annual report by State Forester E. W. Ferris for the year ending November 30th, 1915, which report has not heretofore been published. Also annual report by State Forester F. E. Pape for the year ending November 30th, 1916, and a tabulated recapitulation of the finances and work of this department since its organization A. D. 1905.

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STATE BOARD OF FOREST COMMISSIONERS.

W. W. EMERY, *Chairman*, Napavine.

PATRICK McCOY, Seattle.

E. G. ENGLISH, Mount Vernon.

FRANK B. COLE, Tacoma.

C. V. SAVIDGE, *Commissioner of Public Lands, Ex-Officio.*

OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, December 1, 1915.

*To the Honorable State Board of Forest Commissioners of the
State of Washington.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor of submitting herewith a
brief report covering matters of the department for the year
1915.

E. W. FERRIS,
State Forester and Fire Warden.

OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, December 1, 1915.

To the Honorable State Board of Forest Commissioners of the State of Washington.

GENTLEMEN: We have the honor of submitting herewith a general report of the work of the department for the year 1915.

The season of 1915, so far as loss of standing timber is concerned, was quite successful, probably more so than any other season in the history of the department, with the exception of 1913. The estimate of the value of standing, merchantable timber destroyed is \$10,000.

In the northern portion of the state, on the west side of the Cascade range the past season was the driest ever known; in the southern portion of the state it was about the same as last season; while east of the mountains the weather conditions were not quite so bad as existed during the summer of 1914. During the summer of 1914 it was exceeding dry throughout the entire state, more so than any season in thirty years, but in the northern portion of the state, west of the Cascades, during the past summer it was much worse than during 1914. During the summer of 1915 we had much more wind than during the preceding summer, which made conditions all the more hazardous. The loss during 1915 was about one-half that of 1914.

As we view it, one reason for the decrease in losses during the season of 1915 under that of 1914, was that we had more men in the field. The result obtained by this experiment was such as to satisfy us that the number of men should be increased next season, unless weather conditions are far more favorable than they have been during the time we have been in this position. We feel that the main thing is to prevent fires from starting or gaining headway, and the only way this can be done is to have a sufficient number of men on patrol duty so that a fire can be reached by one of them in its incipency.

We believe the time is drawing near when two classes of wardens should be placed in the field. It is impossible for a warden to be looking after the controlling of forest fires and protecting the timber therefrom, and also be looking after the interests of the farmer in the matter of issuing permits. The logged off lands of our state are being rapidly cleared, and in order to do such clearing it is necessary to burn over the same, and during the summer months this cannot be legally done without first obtaining a permit. If our wardens are looking after fires which are threatening the timber it is impossible for them to properly serve the rancher who is endeavoring to clear the land and make a home for himself. Therefore we believe that there should be a warden appointed in those counties having large areas of logged off agricultural lands being cleared whose sole duty would be to look after the farmer in the matter of issuing burning permits. This warden should be stationed in what we might call the agricultural district of the county. It is in this district that the very great percentage of permits are issued. The warden who is appointed to look after fires which threaten our forests has no time to stop to issue permits when a fire is reported to him, and because of the fact that he cannot find time to issue such permit the man who is striving to clear the land is placed at a great inconvenience, and often times is compelled to wait for a week or more in order to obtain a permit. This delay in issuing permits does not tend to keep down fires, but probably results in many fires which are reported to the department by the wardens "cause unknown."

FOREST LAW VIOLATIONS.

While but few arrests were made for violations of the forest laws, we are led to believe from the reports sent in by the fire wardens, and because of the numerous fires reported "cause unknown," that many infractions of the law were made, but the guilty parties could not be apprehended. Six arrests were reported, three by fire wardens and three by U. S. forest ranger. Of the arrests reported by fire wardens, two convictions were secured, and one party was acquitted. The parties convicted were young men 15 and 17 years of age. They were fined two