

Okanogon National Forest History



Mt. Hull Lookout - 1910



Fire Camp at Crawfish Lake - 1926



Smokeyjumper Francis Lufkin - 1939



Bonaparte Lookout - 1910



Granite Mtn. Lookout - 1942

1908 Chelan NF established with headquarters in Chelan. Forest included land between Cascade Crest and Okanogon River and Canadian border to the divide between the Chelan and Entiat watersheds.

1911 Okanogon NF formed from Okanogon County portion of the Chelan NF with headquarters in Okanogon

Harry M. Hale - 1st Forest Supervisor

First RDs - Conconully and Twisp RDs

1911-1915 6 RDs - Conconully, Sweat Creek, Loomis, Twisp, Squaw Creek and Winthrop

1921 Okanogon and Chelan NFs combined to form the Chelan National Forest with headquarters in Okanogon; 7 RDs - Twisp, Squaw Creek, Winthrop, Loomis, Sweat Creek, Chelan, Stehekin

1925 Portions of the Sweat Creek and Loomis RDs transferred to State of Washington for a state Forest

1929 Camas Creek Fire - 58,000 acres and 87 miles of fire line

1930 Squaw Creek RD absorbed by the Twisp RD

Monument 83 constructed in Canada - Oops!

1930s 8 CCC Camps

1936 Pasayten RD created from a portion of the Winthrop RD

1940 RD offices at Conconully, Early Winters (Pasayten RD), Winthrop and Twisp, Chelan and Stehekin

1942 Tonasket RD transferred from Colville NF to Chelan NF

1944 Conconully RD becomes the Okanogon RD with headquarters in Okanogon

1955 Chelan NF renamed the Okanogon NF

Chelan RD transferred to the Wenatchee NF

Okanogon RD renamed Conconully to avoid confusion with Forest name change

5 RDs - Conconully, Tonasket, Pasayten, Twisp and Winthrop

1966 Pasayten RD recombined with Winthrop RD; "Aerial Project" at Twisp becomes North Cascades Smokejumper Base, a separate Administrative Unit

1968 North Cascades Primitive Area becomes the Pasayten Wilderness. North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake NRA and Lake Chelan NRA created (P.L. 90-544)

1978 Forest headquarters moved from downtown to present location

1982 Conconully RD abolished and combined with the Tonasket and Winthrop RDs

1984 Lake Chelan - Sawtooth Wilderness established on the Okanogon and Wenatchee NFs

1990s Winthrop and Twisp RDs administered as the Methow RD

2000 Okanogon and Wenatchee headquarters combined

2001 3 RDs - Tonasket, Twisp and Winthrop and the North Cascades Smokejumper Base- nearly 200 employees

2001 300+ cultural resources and 1 National Register Site



International Boundary Horseshoe Basin - 1916



North 20 Mile Lookout - 1923



Parsons Smith Tree



Aenas Mt. Lookout



Road fleet, Twisp - 1923



Forest sign - 1950



Ranger Grantham at Conconully RS - 1930-43



Sheep grazing



Ranger doing paperwork



Salmon Meadows Lodge



Eightmile Guard Station