

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon

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For immediate release

Deschutes National Forest Celebrates 100th Birthday

Bend—Join us in celebrating this centennial year of your Deschutes National Forest! The Deschutes was officially declared a National Forest by President Theodore Roosevelt on July 1, 1908.

The original forest land, including what is now known as the Deschutes National Forest, was withdrawn from the public domain for forest purposes by President Grover Cleveland on September 28, 1893. The Organic Act of 1897 assigned responsibility for large areas of public lands to the Department of Interior to be managed as Forest Reserves. These large Forest Reserves were surveyed and administered by the General Land Office.

On February 1, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation transferring the Reserves to the Department of Agriculture. A series of Proclamations and Executive Orders followed, changing the Forest Reserves to National Forests. The name “Deschutes National Forest” was officially designated on July 1, 1908 by President Roosevelt when he issued an Executive Order establishing several National Forests in the Pacific Northwest. At that time, the forest boundary included what is now the Ochoco National Forest and lands east of the Deschutes River in Central Oregon.

The first Forest Supervisor was Asher Ireland. Ireland’s office was headquartered in Prineville, Oregon until 1911 when the Ochoco National Forest was established as a separate unit. Deschutes National Forest headquarters were then established in Bend on July 1, 1911 upstairs in the wooden building that housed the Bend Company, the Bend Abstract Company and the Bend Bulletin.

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Asher Ireland and his District Rangers had their work cut out and clearly described for them in “The Use Book” prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

“A ranger of any grade must be thoroughly sound and able-bodied, capable of enduring hardships and of performing severe labor under trying conditions. He must be able to take care of himself and his horses in regions remote from settlements and supplies. He must be able to build trails and cabins, ride, pack, and deal tactfully with all classes of people. He must know something about land surveying, estimating and scaling timber, logging, land laws, mining, and the livestock business.”

The National Forest system was established to ensure the protection of natural resources for the use and betterment of the American people. The vision of Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service, was to manage these National Forests “for the greatest good for the greatest number, in the long run.”

Later this birthday year, some historical photographs of life on the Deschutes National Forest will be posted to the website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon.

The Rager Ranger Station/Paulina Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest recently celebrated its 100-year Centennial on the weekend of June 13—15, 2008. Rager employees extend their thanks to the 175 people who attended the main events on Saturday and for all the volunteers who helped make this special weekend happen. Visit the website at www.friendsofrager.org for pictures and stories and/or stop by the Bowman Museum in Prineville to see the Forest Service Centennial exhibit currently on display.