



NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

CALIFORNIA REGION - FOREST SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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NEW NATIONAL FOREST ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA

Establishment of a new National Forest in northwestern California with headquarters in Eureka was announced today by S. B. Show, Regional Forester of the U. S. Forest Service.

The new unit, whose name has not yet been formally designated, will include the Gasquet Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest northeast of Crescent City, the Orleans District of the Klamath Forest, the Lower Trinity and Mad River Districts on the west slopes of the Trinity Forest, and the Northern Redwood Purchase Unit near the mouth of the Klamath River.

Office space has been leased in the Bank of America Building at Eureka and a small clerical staff is now being organized by Charles E. Everhart, former Administrative Assistant of the Mono National Forest at Reno, Nevada, who will hold a similar position on the new unit. Although the forest supervisor is yet to be named, George E. Ferrare, formerly of Los Padres National Forest at Santa Barbara and recently discharged from the U. S. Navy as Commanding Officer of an amphibious hospital ship in the Pacific, has been designated as assistant supervisor.

Regional Forester Show explained that the Forest Service has planned for several years to transfer the Gasquet District in Del Norte County, in the extreme northwestern corner of California, from the Siskiyou National Forest with headquarters at Grants Pass, Oregon to a new unit serving the North Coast of California. All Siskiyou Forest land south of the Oregon boundary, except a few thousand acres at the headwaters of the Illinois River which flows into Oregon, is included in the transfer.

Also included in the new national forest are fourteen thousand acrer adjacent to the Redwood Highway and the Klamath River which have been acquired by the United States following authorization of the purchase by the State Legislature and Congress; a substantial part of the Orleans Ranger District of the Klamath Forest, which includes the lower drainages of the Klamath River from the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation to Somes Bar; and two districts of the Trinity National Forest which will be administered from Eureka instead of the present supervisor's office at Weaverville. The new forest will include about 990,000 acres of Government land.

The chief reason for the transfer of these areas to the new national forest is the growing industrial development and utilization of the heavy stands of uncut commercial timber on the west slopes of the Coast Range, which will be processed and shipped from ports along the California coast.

Forest Service officials pointed out that the creation of this national forest by merging adjacent units of three older Forests and the Redwood Purchase Unit has no relation to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Redwood Memorial Forest proposed in a bill introduced in the present Congress by Rep. Helen Gehagen Douglas. The consolidation has been under consideration for some time in the interest of a more efficient management of national forest land on the Coast Range. However, actual reorganization was delayed by the war and until the termination of the 1946 fire season.

Regional Offices of the Forest Service at both Portland and San Francisco have been working on the merger for the past several months, but not until recently could personnel be spared to set up the administrative center for California's eighteenth national forest.

The name of the forest and its first supervisor will be announced later.

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