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National Forest

Yearbook

FOR

1957

AN ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON THE
YEAR'S ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN
REGION U. S. FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

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Ogden, Utah⁹
March 31, 1958

To The People Of The Intermountain Region:

Late in 1957 our world was suddenly thrust into a new epoch which might be termed the "age of outer space."

Each time in the past when the peoples of the earth have entered a new era in their ways of thinking, doing, and living, they have looked to their reservoirs of natural renewable resources for strength and support. The national forests, especially those of our own Intermountain Region, are such a reservoir. Like a reservoir, they are being replenished continuously as the "streams of resources" they produce are harvested and processed for use. This is sustained-yield.

The Intermountain Region's 18 national forests are a great public reservoir of natural renewable resources with their precious commodities of water, timber, forage, wildlife, and recreation, all devoted endlessly to human welfare and contentment. As you scan these pages, you will see pointed out briefly, in fact and figure, what the U. S. Forest Service did in 1957 to promote sustained-yield management, how the multiple uses of the national forests paid off in public benefit, and how the U. S. Forest Service is working with you to make a fuller life for all.

FLOYD IVERSON
Regional Forester

The Water Story

THE WATER CYCLE

Management of the water which falls upon high-elevation watersheds is the key job of our national forest resource managers. The goal in watershed management is to protect, conserve, and use the natural resources of a drainage basin in such a way as to insure the maximum production of clear usable water. In the Intermountain Region more than 80 per cent of the water for agriculture, industry, and home use originates on the national forests.

The Cooperative Small Watershed Program

During 1957, the Forest Service participated in preliminary examination of seven critical watersheds under the Small Watershed Program authorized by Public Law 566. This makes a total of 46 such examinations to date. In addition, we are cooperating with local sponsors, the Soil Conservation Service, and other State and Federal agencies in preparing detailed work plans for six watersheds in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Portions of all these watersheds are within national forests:

Coal Creek, Dixie National Forest (Utah)

American Fork-Dry Creek, Uinta National Forest (Utah)

North Fork of Ogden River, Cache National Forest (Utah)

Salmon Falls, Sawtooth National Forest (Idaho)

Moody Creek, Targhee National Forest (Idaho)

Trail Creek, Targhee National Forest (Idaho and Wyoming)

Another project, **Mill Canyon-Sage Flat**, has progressed to the construction stage. Unsatisfactory soil and plant conditions on this watershed, 25 per cent of which is in the Fishlake National Forest in Utah, are being remedied by terracing, reseeding, and fencing.

Completion is near on the national forest portions of the **Santaquin Pilot Watershed**, **Uinta National Forest**, and **Pleasant Creek Pilot Watershed**, **Manti-LaSal National Forest**. Congress authorized these projects to demonstrate the practicability of rehabilitating damaged watersheds.

Reports to show how reclamation projects affect national forest administration and use were prepared this year for the **Garden Valley Project**, **Payette River** (Idaho); **Crevice Project**, **Salmon River** (Idaho); and the **Flaming Gorge Project**, **Green River** (Utah).

Soil and Water Management

Watershed rehabilitation under the Forest Service soil and water management program gained impetus in 1957 with 10 new restoration projects begun, and maintenance work accomplished on an additional 10 completed projects. Work accomplished under this program in 1957 includes 1,050 acres of contour trenching, 1,200 acres of reseeding, 10 miles of fencing, and 14 miles of gully control. Objectives are to protect high residential, agricultural, and industrial values from floods, reduce soil erosion, and improve forage. Some of the more important projects under this program are:

For Utah: **Provo Peak**, **Uinta National Forest**
 Blanding, **Manti-LaSal National Forest**
 Chalk Creek, **Fishlake National Forest**
 Blubber Creek, **Dixie National Forest**

For Idaho: **Pig Creek**, **Challis National Forest**
 West Mountain, **Boise National Forest**
 Ketchum-Stanley, **Sawtooth National Forest**

For Nevada: **Murray Canyon**, **Humboldt National Forest**
 Ash Creek, **Toiyabe National Forest**

Water Yield Study

A water resource evaluation project was begun this year in the Salina Creek drainage, Fishlake National Forest, Utah. Its primary purpose is to study the effect on total water yield when trees are replaced by low herbaceous vegetation. Similar studies are planned on other important watersheds in the Region.

VEGETATION STUDIES

The Timber Harvest

MEASURING THE VOLUME

The 8 million acres of commercial timberland on the national forests in the Region support a vast amount of timber, principally Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and lodgepole pine. The entire standing volume of sawtimber-size trees is currently estimated at 70 billion board feet. Additional large quantities of smaller trees will be harvested from these same lands when industrial development of the Intermountain states has grown to the point where profitable markets permit more nearly complete forest utilization.

The 1957 harvest reached approximately 300 million board feet--roughly, enough timber to build 20,000 average-size homes. This timber, plus sales of 5.6 million board feet of pulpwood, 7.7 million board feet of poles, 7.3 million board feet of mine props, and 28,493 Christmas trees, returned \$2,137,466.00 to the United States Treasury from 2,370 individual sales.

Sustained Yield Management

When all the Region's timber stands are finally brought into production they will yield approximately double the current harvest, or in the neighborhood of 700 million board feet. This will require the continuing development of new timber access roads, new markets, the extension of scientific forestry to all the timberlands, and the consistent control of insects and diseases.

In the continuing battle to suppress forest insect and disease pests, 12,500 trees infested with barkbeetle were treated with insecticide. A serious 600,000 acre infestation of spruce budworm in the spruce-fir forests in southern Idaho was sprayed with DDT applied from airplanes. The project was highly successful and protected 5 billion board feet of timber valued at 400 million dollars. Cost of treatment was reasonable at 76 cents per acre.

Timber quality improvement and planting also are important contributors to sustained-yield management. In 1957, release cuttings (thinnings) were accomplished on 13,980 acres; 23,546 acres were pruned to increase the lumber value of the trees; and porcupines were controlled on 600,000 acres. Porcupines are a serious threat to timber-producing stands of the Region, particularly to the young trees needed for future crops.

Plans are under way to reforest thousands of acres which have been temporarily "knocked out" of production by fires and insects. A program which began in 1957 with the planting of 1,285 acres of young trees will be stepped up each year until 6 to 10 million trees are planted annually. To provide more young trees for planting, a new nursery site has been selected in southern Idaho. Every acre suitable for timber growing must be made to produce at its full potential, and planting is frequently the best solution.

PLANTING A NEW FOREST

Forage for Livestock

ON THE NATIONAL FOREST

Sustained-yield management on the rangelands means harvesting only that part of the forage that is not needed to protect the soil and perpetuate the forage resource. The Forest Service's most urgent task in the Intermountain Region is to bring all of the 15 million acres of national forest lands used for livestock grazing under sustained-yield management. This complex task requires the services of highly-trained specialists and cooperation with many individuals and agencies who are seriously concerned with the best use and perpetuation of our range and watersheds.

Range Studies

The Forest Service is studying the rangeland on the national forests unit by unit. This study is designed to obtain the following information:

1. Determine the area adaptable to livestock use from the standpoint of forage production, soil stability, and compatibility with other uses.

2. Determine the condition of the range suitable for grazing.
3. Determine the livestock grazing capacity of the range.
4. Determine the improvements needed to achieve full sustained-yield forage production.

If a range is overused by cattle or sheep, corrective action becomes necessary to balance use with the forage produced. When improved livestock management and range development fail to achieve the required balance, then reductions in livestock numbers or in season of use become necessary. More intensive management, additional range improvements, and the conversion of a brush cover to grass on some areas, are all accepted practices that will improve many of the ranges now overused.

Improvements and Revegetation

In Fiscal Year 1957, 105 miles of fence and 42 range-water developments were built at an expense to the Government of \$113,699.00. To date, 4,664 miles of fence, and 4,263 range-water developments have been constructed in the Region. These developments represent an investment of \$3,949,742.00 by the United States Government. These investments, together with cooperative range practices, all contribute to better range management.

Some areas were plowed and seeded to desirable forage plants; others were treated to reduce competition from undesirable range plants like big sagebrush, juniper, Wyethia. By these methods, the Forest Service treated 28,531 acres in Fiscal Year 1957, at a cost of \$327,449.00 to the Government. The total of all revegetation work completed on national forest lands in the Region up to June 30, 1957, is 458,065 acres.

Grazing Statistics and Receipts

Grazing fees averaged 34 cents per animal month for cattle, and 9 cents per animal month for sheep. In Fiscal Year 1957 the Region collected \$784,441.00 in grazing receipts.

Livestock Grazed, Acreages, and Number of Grazing Permittees
in 1957

State	Acres Open to Grazing	No. Permittees		No. Livestock Grazed	
		C&H	S&G	C&H	S&G
E. California	392,980	53	15	6,832	26,743
W. Colorado	22,631	8	--	775	--
S. Idaho	5,676,413	1,591	370	96,861	546,380
Nevada	2,902,105	249	46	52,359	123,675
Utah	4,328,634	2,843	575	102,125	420,329
Wyoming	1,428,021	430	74	43,479	167,289
Totals	14,750,784	5,174	1,080	302,431	1,284,416

SHEEP GRAZING

State and Private Forestry

Because forests span all lands, regardless of ownership, accomplishment of a top forestry job requires close working relationships. The Intermountain Region now has the framework for great new strides in its cooperative fire protection, cooperative forest management, nursery and tree planting, and the new agricultural conservation program. This latter is better known as the Conservation Reserve Tree Planting Program.

A base for cooperative fire protection of 13 million acres of land in Nevada, Utah, and Idaho is now established under Section Two of the Clarke-McNary Law. It provides for joint financial participation by the State and the Federal Government. Under this program, the Utah State Forester is now establishing a statewide district forester organization.

Nevada established a new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on July 1 with a professional forester as director of its Division of Forestry.

Idaho's fire protection problem is handled cooperatively; private timber protective associations, State Districts, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management assume joint responsibilities.

Under the Conservation Reserve Program, Utah, Idaho, and Nevada State Foresters have employed professional men to provide technical aid to the private land owners in their tree planting activities. Under this program the Forest Service also assists the State Agricultural Conservation Committees in handling the planning and general technical aspects of tree planting and stand improvement work.

Trees for the Conservation Reserve Program will be provided from a new 5-acre nursery near Reno, Nevada, the new Green Canyon Nursery near Logan, Utah, and from the expanded nursery at Moscow, Idaho.

New prospects currently being explored are planting in semi-arid areas, machine planting, new techniques like the Spanish "Cassilla",* and the distribution of bundles of combinations of tree species suitable for windbreaks.

THE CASSILLA METHOD

*Planting trees on hillsides at the edge of small "basins" dug to catch moisture for the tree's roots.

Wildlife Management

MULE DEER

The national forests of the Region are the public's hunting grounds. More than 450,000 hunter visits were made to the national forests in 1957. Fisherman made 1,150,000 visits to national forest waters which include 11,000 miles of fishing streams, and 147,000 acres of fishable lakes and water impoundments.

The wildlife management program is another expression of cooperative management, particularly with the State Fish and Game Departments who regulate hunting and fishing.

The national forests provide an ideal habitat for such big game animals as mule and whitetail deer, elk, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, bear, mountain lion, and for some antelope. An estimated 640,000 big game animals spend a part or all their time on the national forests of the Region.

In addition to cooperative management of the big game animals, the Forest Service also conducts joint studies with the State Fish and Game Departments to appraise continuously the population, to study how to improve the wildlife habitat conditions, and particularly how to balance big game animals with their yearlong forage supply.

Engineering

FOREST ENGINEER

Engineering, one of the most spectacular, as well as important Forest Service activities, had a banner year in 1957. Use of the new stereoplanigraph for road location and computation work is well under way. This machine, one of the few installed in the United States, replaces the tedious processes of road engineering. It will, as a result, create vast savings in funds as time progresses and as more national forest areas are penetrated by multipurpose roads.

The electronic process of computing road-building data is being studied cooperatively with electronic computer agencies and with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The road inventory revision on all the national forests has been completed and converted to I.B.M. tabulations. Progress has also been made toward the adaption of regional trail and bridge inventories for this modern method of tabulation.

Sixty miles of new timber access roads were built with 87 miles more being reconstructed to promote the sustained-yield management of national forest timber.

Floods and high waters damaged 212 miles of roads and 290 miles of trails; restoration required expenditure of \$144,000.00.

Much of the national forest road and trail work is accomplished with the help of local workers and local business firms, for all of which the Forest Service is very appreciative. The important engineering work to further the management and protection of the national forests would be very difficult without this valuable source of local help.

Bridges are continually under replacement and construction. Many of these structures, which have been useful for many years, are now falling apart and must be replaced by permanent-type structures. Following this plan, 51 temporary bridges were replaced by permanent bridges, and 29 temporary bridges were replaced by culverts. Also, sheep and other trail bridges have been replaced.

The Region, always interested in obtaining high-caliber graduate engineers, has cooperated with the Washington office this year to help produce the forthcoming film "Forest Engineer", and is also contacting prospective Forest Service engineers with descriptive material on Forest Service engineering as a career.

Recreation and Land Uses

ENJOYING A NATIONAL FOREST

Recreation Growth

Public recreational use of the national forests in the Intermountain Region continues to increase. In 1957, there were 7,619,000 recreational visits to the 18 national forests, an increase of 14 per cent over 1956.

Operation Outdoors

The year 1957 marked the beginning of "Operation Outdoors", a 5-year program authorized by Congress to rehabilitate, expand, and give better care to national forest recreation facilities.

Progress on "Operation Outdoors" in 1957 was the complete renovation of 1,000 campground "family units" and the building of 700 new units. A "family unit" is a table, fire grate, and other facilities necessary to take care of one family. Layout plans are ready for 138 new camp and picnic areas. The services of experienced landscape architects and planners give assurance that facilities will meet the needs of the public and harmonize with the natural surroundings. The expansion of some ski areas and the installation of a few new ones are also planned to meet the needs of the increasing number of people who enjoy skiing.

New Wild Areas

A 64,000-acre area on the Humboldt National Forest in Nevada was recommended to the Chief of the Forest Service for classification as the "Jarbidge Wild Area." Located near the Idaho-Nevada line, it is one of the most scenic, remote spots in Nevada, with eight snow-capped peaks towering between 10,000 and 10,839 feet in elevation.

The Hoover Wild Area in California was classified by the Chief of the Forest Service in January 1957. It includes scenic portions of the High Sierras containing remnant glaciers, and is located on both the Toiyabe and Inyo (Region 5, California) National Forests.

Public Law 167

Surface rights determination moved ahead in 1957 as planned and in accordance with the Multiple Use Mining Law - P. L. 167. In 1957 "search" was made on more than 6 million acres of national forest lands to locate evidences of mining activity. Since enactment of Public Law 167 "search" has been completed on more than 9 million acres, and claimants have been notified by newspaper publication that an additional 3 million acres would be surveyed or "searched." Claimants have submitted statements asserting their rights under the old law to maintain 1,831 claims covering 36,620 acres. Mineral examination has been completed on 1,005 of these claims covering 20,730 acres.

The Multiple Use Mining Law empowers the Government to manage the surface resources on thousands of unpatented claims to the extent that this does not interfere with the claimants' use of the claim for mining purposes. Thus far, after "search" of more than 9 million acres, no contest proceedings have been necessary to determine validity of rights to surface resources under Public Law 167.

Special Land Uses

In 1957, there were 5,030 special use permits in force. These authorize the use of national forest lands for numerous public and private purposes such as organization camps, summer homes, resorts, pastures, reservoirs, television and radio stations, and ski lifts. In addition, more than 2,500 oil and gas leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management and covering 307 million acres of national forest land were in force.

MINERAL CLAIM SURVEYING

Operation

SIGHTING AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT

The Region participated in Civil Defense's "Operation Alert - 1957" with representatives from other western states and on a test problem affecting northern Utah. Our forest fire lookout system comprises a vital link in the Civil Defense system; Forest Service personnel and equipment can be utilized in any national emergency.

The Nevada National Forest was combined with the Humboldt National Forest in 1957. The name "Humboldt National Forest" was retained for the enlarged unit because of its linkage with Nevada's colorful history. Also, in the interest of more efficient management and work distribution affecting the Region as a whole, four ranger districts were combined to form two, and three new ones were created by the division of others. These changes in ranger districts were on the Payette, Boise, Toiyabe, and Humboldt National Forests.

Work improvement suggestions pay off both the employee and the Government. During the year, 45 employees received a total of \$2,110.00 for their suggestions to promote performance and good management. Past suggestions, as well as new ones continually being made, will save the Government many thousands of dollars. Work improvement suggestions are the same thing as money put back into the taxpayers' pockets.

Centralized procurement and supply services also act to save money through savings made by bulk purchases and through equipment and supplies obtained from Government "excess property" lists. For example, usable materials having an original value of \$467,978.00 were acquired at greatly reduced prices.

Continuous improvement of communications systems, budgeting, workload analyses, and building construction are all parts of the work of this Division to increase efficiency.

Personnel

TRAINER AND TRAINEE

Much planning and effort are given to the orientation and training of newly-appointed foresters, most of whom have also had Forest Service experience through summer employment while attending college.

During the field season, Forest Service temporary jobs include primarily fire prevention and control, timber improvement, range improvement, construction, and maintenance of all improvements. Priority in these jobs is given to local experienced residents, veterans, and forest school students. For example, 240 forestry students were employed for summer work in 1957 through recommendations sent from their schools. The young foresters came from 26 different colleges and universities, mostly in the West.

Professional Men

As those who entered the Forest Service via the old "Ranger's Examination" reach retirement age, the college-trained professional staff shows a corresponding increase. For example, in Utah now, 86 per cent of all Forest Service employees with responsibility for management of the forest ranges are college trained. These include the Chief of the Regional Division of Range and Wildlife Management and his staff, the forest supervisors, and all their staff men. Out of 40 district rangers in Utah, 32 are college trained and 8 entered the Forest Service by the "early day" ranger's examination. These latter men have all had more than 30 years practical range management administration, plus In-Service training. The same relationship holds in other Forest Service activities.

Youth Building

A program to help rehabilitate wayward youth with healthy outdoor work was begun several years ago, and is continuing. Youths from the State Industrial School were given supervised work on recreation area cleanup and maintenance, and timber stand improvement on the Wasatch and Uinta National Forests. This fine project resulted from cooperation by the Forest Service with the Utah State Welfare officials and the Juvenile Court officials of Salt Lake, Utah, and Weber Counties.

Forest Service Safety

Accident prevention is a major activity in the U. S. Forest Service because it avoids human suffering, saves taxpayers' dollars, and promotes efficiency in all fields of endeavor. Our safety record is 10 times better than it was 20 years ago before our aggressive safety program began. This means that our 1957 record of 26 lost-time accidents would have been 260 lost-time accidents had the same rate applied as in 1937.

The Prevention and Control of Forest Fires

HELIJUMPER READY TO LAND

Helicopters once again demonstrated their versatility in the fire control job. They scouted, moved personnel, carried equipment, retrieved smokejumpers, supplied lookouts, and evacuated fire fighters. The helicopter gets credit for saving the life of an injured fire fighter and of a heart attack victim this year by eliminating hours of foot and horse travel over rough terrain.

Regular aircraft made 151 reconnaissance flights, dropped 310,000 pounds of cargo on 15 dangerous fires in remote areas, and transported 2,000 fire fighters and fire specialists.

Smokejumpers continue to occupy a prominent place in our fire suppression organization. The 79 smokejumpers stationed at McCall and Idaho City, Idaho, made 464 jumps to 121 forest fires. Jumpers from the Northern and Pacific Northwest Regions were called in to assist us on 6 fires when all of our own men were on other fires.

We are entering the chemical age of forest fire control. Sodium-calcium-borate, a fire retardant, helped douse 14 fires on national forests. Seventy-two loads, containing 28,000 gallons of a water borate suspension, were airdropped on fires. This is a valuable suppression technique, especially for the initial attack on small fires.

Even though the forest fire hazard in 1957 was more serious than usual, 208 fewer fires were reported this year than in 1956. The year's total of 679 forest fires destroyed 25,000 acres of timber, range, and watershed cover.

July's dry lightning storms set 227 fires, but two fast-running range fires burned 73 per cent of the total area swept by fires.

Forest fire prevention is getting results. The potential for a large increase in man-caused fires was greater in 1957 than ever before. Yet the number of man-caused fires dropped to 162 in 1957 from 266 in 1956. This decrease is even more striking when contrasted with the 14 per cent increase in recreation use. It resulted from invaluable cooperation by the State Foresters, the Forest Service, and a large number of civic groups, schools, women's clubs, industrial firms, and public information and entertainment media.

We can safely say that "Smokey Bear" is probably the best known individual, by young and old alike, in the Intermountain Region.

Fire prevention, like safety, will always have a prominent place in our protection activities because fire risks increase as the use of national forest resources grows.

DOZER BUILDING FIRELINE

Fiscal Control

PAYING THE FIREFIGHTERS

Collections from sales of forest products, grazing fees, and rentals reached an all-time high for the Fiscal Year 1957, a total of \$4,800,000. Collections were distributed as follows:

Forest Reserve Fund	\$3,875,821.15
Cooperative Work Fund and Brush Disposal	577,334.02
Appropriation Reimbursements	245,544.58
Miscellaneous	98,951.17
TOTAL	\$4,797,650.92

On-the-ground payments to fire fighters totaled \$54,016.25 during the fiscal year, not an unusually large payment because the year's few large fires were brought under control promptly.

At the close of the fiscal year, \$58,300,000 was the total cost value of the Region's entire investment in equipment and improvements. The increase during the Fiscal Year 1957 was approximately \$6,700,000.

The 3,700 employees in the Region, not counting fire fighters, were paid \$6,000,000 in salaries and wages, an increase of about \$800,000 over the previous year. The Regional Disbursing Officer certified total obligations exceeding \$13,000,000 during the Fiscal Year 1957.

Deductions from employees' salaries deposited in the Civil Service Retirement Fund were \$275,000 with an additional \$68,250 being deducted for Social Security.

To promote efficiency and to further reduce costs, the Region expects to have I.B.M. computing machines installed and handling a large volume of bookkeeping and accounting before the end of 1958.

Perhaps the largest single accomplishment during Fiscal Year 1957 was the establishment of the Working Capital Fund for Equipment and Repair Services, Central Supply and Warehousing, and the Photo Reproduction unit. These three units are now under regular business-type accounting and controls that permit them to charge and collect for the services they render. Their total capital amounts to about \$2,000,000. Their annual revenue and expenses will average approximately \$2,500,000.

National Forest Receipts Returned to Counties

According to law, 25 per cent of the receipts deposited in the Forest Reserve Fund from sales of forest products, forage, leases, and rentals are returned to the states for use on schools and roads. This money is returned by the states to the counties in ratio to the acreage of national forest land they contain. It is one more way in which the national forests contribute to the local economic welfare and security.

The 18 national forests of the Region returned \$967,158.46 to Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and California for Fiscal Year 1957. All the national forests in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming returned a total of \$1,994,913.41 to these states. Northern Idaho is in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region and all of Wyoming except the far western portion is in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Pencil sketches by Mrs. Claude O. Morin

Purpose of National Forests:

Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 35; 16 U. S. C. 475)

No public forest reservation shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the reservation, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States.

Taken from letter of February 1, 1905 to the Chief of the Forest Service from James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture:

“ . . . The continued prosperity of the agricultural, lumbering, mining and livestock interests is directly dependent upon a permanent and accessible supply of water, wood, and forage, as well as upon the present and future use of these resources under businesslike regulations, enforced with promptness, effectiveness, and common sense. In the management of each reserve, local questions will be decided upon local grounds; the dominant industry will be considered first, but with as little restriction to minor industries as may be possible; sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment after due notice; and where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.”

**Smokey's
Commandments**

**BREAK MATCHES
CRUSH SMOKES
BE SURE ALL
FIRES ARE OUT!**

Remember-
**Only you can
PREVENT
FOREST FIRES!**