March 3, 2016 is the 125th Anniversary of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 -- the legislative beginning to today’s National Forest system of 193 million acres. This act reversed the policy the United States held since before the U.S. Constitution; that being to transfer the public domain to private ownership.

Passage of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 followed two decades of congressional debate about public land policy. The debate addressed homesteading policies and its abuses; such as blatant fraud in granting title to public lands, as well as the general theft of public natural resources. These debates led to a concern over Federal forest protection, resulting in this act that enabled the formation of the National Forest System. After the Civil War, the increased westward migration led to the addition of new States in the 1870’s and 1880’s. The concerns of western congressional members helped shape the debate about forests on public lands in the west, as well as bills aimed at watershed, fire protection and timber sales regulation. Between 1871 and 1897, of the 200 land policy bills discussed in Congress, only two related to forestry endured the legislative process -- The Forest Reserve Act (1891) and the Forest Management (Organic) Act (1897) both became laws.

Early advocates of Federal forest reserves included Franklin B. Hough, later appointed in 1876 as the first Federal forestry agent in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and fellow members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; such as Harvard botanist George Barrell Emerson. Forestry bills continued to be introduced in
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH - The board of directors is conducting a search for a new executive director. They are seeking an individual with nonprofit organization management experience, who is innovative and dedicated to growing the museum and achieving the organizations goals -- knowledge of public land history and management is desirable. He or she should have the interpersonal skills to manage a small staff, volunteers and positively relate to the board, our members and the public. They will be responsible for the strategic approach and planning for fundraising and coordinating fundraising through the museum’s committees. Current Executive and Vice-President Director Dave Stack plans to focus his time working with the museum’s archival collection.

H&R BLOCK DONATIONS - The National Museum of Forest Service History is partnering with H&R Block this tax season. If you are a new client, we will get a $20 contribution. Be sure to mention that you were referred by the museum; our code number is 40010001086832. Thanks to member Larry Cron, who works for H&R Block during the tax season, for registering the museum for this benefit. We have already received $500 from the Missoula office.

© NMFSH 2016

MUSEUM NEWS
Congress in response to concerns about timber theft and fire. Damage by fire was a greater source of forest depletion with vast areas burnt off by wildfires; such as the 1871 Peshtigo Fire in rural Wisconsin.

The American Forestry Association supported an 1882 proposal by Ohio Senator John Sherman, seeking “preservation of the woods and forests of the national domain adjacent to the sources of navigable rivers.” Creation of the Adirondack and Catskill Preserve in 1885, served as a model for advocates of Federal forest reserves.

Arnold Hague of the U.S. Geological Survey had, in the process of surveying Yellowstone, become an advocate for its protection and lobbied for an extension of the park. Toward that end, he enlisted the support of the Boone and Crockett Club, whose influential members included Charles Bird Grinnell, Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot. Bills to expand the park were introduced in Congress and failed -- the last one in 1891. The same year a new idea on how to expand the park arose.

It began with repeal of the Timber Culture Act of 1873, which had led to land and timber fraud under the guise of homesteading. The desire of its sponsor, Congressman Dunnell, was to replace the act with an amended forest management law. But the lack of agreement over the wording in the bill led Congress to appoint three members as conferees, one of them Congressman Holman. Three days before adjournment, the committee delivered a proposed amended bill. The bill to repeal the Timber Culture Act is today known as the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, thanks to its last section.

The President, by Section 24 of the Act of March 3, 1891, signed by President Benjamin Harrison, was permitted to “set apart and reserve...public land bearing forests...or in part covered by timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations.” The provision, attached as a last-minute rider in Congress, was in Gifford Pinchot’s estimate, “the most important legislation in the history of forestry in America.” To the former Forest Service chief it represented the “beginning and basis of our whole National Forest system.” (Steen, page 259)

“

The most important legislation in the history of forestry in America.”

Grinnell, Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot. Bills to expand the park were introduced in Congress and failed -- the last one in 1891. The same year a new idea on how to expand the park arose.

It began with repeal of the Timber Culture Act of 1873, which had led to land and timber fraud under the guise of homesteading. The desire of its sponsor, Congressman Dunnell, was to replace the act with an amended forest management law. But the lack of agreement over the wording in the bill led Congress to appoint three members as conferees, one of them Congressman Holman. Three days before adjournment, the committee delivered a proposed amended bill. The bill to repeal the Timber Culture Act is today known as the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, thanks to its last section.

The President, by Section 24 of the Act of March 3, 1891, signed by President Benjamin Harrison, was permitted to “set apart and reserve...public land bearing forests...or in part covered by timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations.” The provision, attached as a last-minute rider in Congress, was in Gifford Pinchot’s estimate, “the most important legislation in the history of forestry in America.” To the former Forest Service chief it represented the “beginning and basis of our whole National Forest system.” (Steen, page 259)

References
I was a student at Paxson Elementary School on Higgins Avenue in the late 1940’s. Summer was a fun time for young people in those days, and Missoula. Montana offered a lot of interesting things to do outdoors, from fishing to shooting crows and magpies for pin money bounties. The only downside was we had to undergo the annual three-shot Rocky Mountain spotted fever preventative procedure each year. Those injections often caused unpleasant reactions. We kids thought that the vaccine was made from crushed ticks, but that seemed unlikely in retrospect.

My father, Eugene E. Silva (mechanical engineer in R5 1939-1943 and R1 1948), worked for the Forest Service and one day he asked if I would like to join him on a trip to the airport. At that time Johnson Flying Service provided aircraft for smokejumpers based in Missoula and their aircraft of choice was a Ford Trimotor. When flown into the wind, the Ford would lift slowly and allow precise positioning for parachute drops.

I wandered about the airport while my father did Forest Service business. It was a time when there were few safety and security regulations at airports and lawsuits were not the norm for personal affronts or perceived injuries.

I wound up watching activity at one of the trimotors where smokejumpers in full regalia were getting ready for a drop. As they loaded, my Dad asked if I wanted to go on the flight -- I had never flown in an airplane. Before I could give it much thought, I was boosted through the door of the Ford and away we went.

The view from the slow flying trimotor was great. It swayed and bobbed as the winds worked it over during flight, however it seemed much smaller than the plane I remembered from years ago. Part of the reason was the machine in Missoula didn’t have passenger seats. Another was some of the paying passengers on our flight were so large that they had trouble getting up the aisle and fitting into the seats.

After we landed and offloaded the passengers, I talked with one of the pilots. He told me that this particular Ford Trimotor had been owned by Johnson Flying Service in Missoula in the 1940’s. It’s possible that I was able to fly once again in the same plane that had given me my first flight! If so, that Ford Trimotor has aged better than I have. It is a classically pretty machine and still a graceful bird in the air.

In 2013, 60-plus years later, I volunteered to help the Manassas Virginia chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) with a visit to one of their Ford Trimotors. The EAA keeps two Ford Trimotors and a WW II B-17 bomber flying by selling rides during aircraft tours across the United States. Local chapters provide help with crowd control and assisting the flying personnel in various ways. The Fords have been restored to their passenger carrying configurations with vintage seats and a very narrow aisle.

It turns out that the flight crew needed someone to read the safety notice -- the same as those heard when flying on a commercial airliner. I got to be that person and we flew a nice revenue flight around Northern Virginia.

“At that time Johnson Flying Service provided aircraft for smokejumpers based in Missoula...”

The thing I noticed was that flying in the machine was still loud and wobbly in flight, however it seemed much smaller than the plane I remembered from years ago. Part of the reason was the machine in Missoula didn’t have passenger seats. Another was some of the paying passengers on our flight were so large that they had trouble getting up the aisle and fitting into the seats.

After we landed and offloaded the passengers, I talked with one of the pilots. He told me that this particular Ford Trimotor had been owned by Johnson Flying Service in Missoula in the 1940’s. It’s possible that I was able to fly once again in the same plane that had given me my first flight! If so, that Ford Trimotor has aged better than I have. It is a classically pretty machine and still a graceful bird in the air.
forests, and the Boone and Crockett Club, who were interested in saving big game herds in the west. Over the years, the Forest Service’s relationship with the Boone and Crockett Club pretty much disappeared and we used the Cody celebration to reestablish that relationship, with key members from all over the country in attendance. Soon thereafter, the National Forest Foundation was authorized by Congress and I recommended the appointment of several attendees to the original board of directors.

We buried a time capsule on the Shoshone National Forest. Many of us wrote our predictions about the future management of the national forests. I don’t know when the capsule will be opened, but I suspect it will reveal how limited our thinking was about the future. I doubt anyone used the term “ecosystem management” to describe future management of the national forests. The USDA General Counsel attended the celebration and I talked with him about writing up his predictions about the Forest Service’s legal future. It would be interesting to see if he predicted the current legal mess that the Forest Service finds itself.

Second, we held a Forest Service employee and retiree reunion in Glenwood Springs. The White River Forest Reserve was the second reserve established. What I remember most about the reunion was the pride, which both employees and retirees had, in managing the national forests during their careers and many stories from experiences were told. We employees left the reunion with a greater sense of history, a better understanding and an appreciation for those who came before us. We acknowledged their sacrifices and hard work, which left us with a strong Forest Service organization and well managed national forests. The experience gave us a 100-year history of the forest reserves and the Forest Service in three days, which stuck with me for the rest of my career.

WHO WAS SLIPPERY BILL?

BY RANGER E. A. WOODS,
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST, RETIRED 1937

He was one of the oddest characters that I ever met. A New Englander by birth, a railroader by choice, Slippery Bill drifted West as a brakeman on a construction train for the Great Northern. He was a very well-read man, being able to quote Shakespeare on every occasion. He had a mind like a steel trap and a tongue like a two-edged sword.

During the Forest Reserves, he was appointed a forest ranger. At the same time, he was an owner of a saloon at Summit, Montana. Slippery Bill told me how he would stand in the door of the saloon, gaze at the distant landscape, return to the shelf where he kept the Government records, and write in his diary, “Looking over the Forest.” One of his contentions was that a good healthy porcupine could destroy more timber than a forest ranger could save.

He acquired the title of Slippery Bill the winter that he put in at the old town of McCarterville, MT. By good luck at winning at poker and by better luck in getting home without being murdered. He told me that when the snow went off in the spring the year that he was there, nine corpses were uncovered - mute evidence of the moral code of the town.

As you travel on U.S. Highway No. 2, you will see an obelisk at Marias Pass dedicated to Theodore Roosevelt (1931). A few yards from the road, on the south side, is a copper plate set in concrete, dedicated to William Morrison (Slippery Bill), giving the date of his birth and death, and stating that he gave the land on which the Roosevelt obelisk stands.

Source

FOREST SERVICE SHIELD Since 1905, the shield has represented the heritage and symbol of the U.S. Forest Service. The decision by the USDA to abandon the shield in 2013 was met with a firestorm of retiree protests. The National Association of Forest Service Retirees organized the protest to save the Forest Service shield. (Museum photo)
### Unrestricted Donations

- Rolf Anderson
- Dick Barney
- Deen Boe
- Mari Dee Brown
- William M. Cannon
- Jim & Janet Christensen
- Tom Coston
- Tony Dorrell
- Martin C. Everitt
- David A. Graham
- Shirley Green
- Margaret A. Greenwood
- Harold L. Greer
- Carol W. Guthrie
- Rick Hafenfeld
- Mike Hallisey
- Dee & Mike Hathaway
- Robert E. Hetzer
- Cynthia Leisz Higgins
- John R. Hook
- David N. Johnson
- Wendall & Jessie Jones
- Darrel & Lynn Kenops
- Mike Kerrick
- Douglas R. Leisz
- Tom & Dotty Lannon
- Lorraine Macebo
- Elizabeth M. Madison
- Richard C. Mc Ardle
- Jack R. Miller
- Glenn Mueller
- Paula Nelson
- Harold T. Nygren
- James O’Keefe
- Don Pederson
- Richard Pomeroy
- Ted Rieger
- Harold Simpson
- David and Lillian Stack
- William I. Stein
- Sue & Greg Super
- Kay Sylvester
- Serdar Tufekci
- David Wanderaas
- Lillian Wenger
- Chuck Williams
- Jerry & Sandra Wooten
- Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Assoc.

### Designated For

**Curatorial**
- Swanson Foundation

**Education**
- Swanson Foundation
- Plum Creek Foundation
- Michelson Foundation

### Honor Roll & In Memory Donations

- Beverly J. Biddison
- Joseph Church
- Joan Dickerson
- Kenneth Evans
- Robert Gorsuch
- Shirley Green
- David Hanson
- Terry & William Moore
- John Morrison, Jr.
- David K. Nelson
- Tom Schenarts
- Bobbie Sherrod
- David & Lillian Stack
- Audrey Thorsrud
- Chuck Williams
- Ken I. Young
- Pacific Southwest FSX Club

### Honor Roll & In Memory Names

**In Honor of**
- Dave Stack
- Donald C. Hanson

**In Memory of**
- Charles “Dick” R. Joy
- Frank Watson
- Gary Dickerson
- Howard Gorsuch
- John Morrison Sr.
- John Sherrod
- Judson Moore
- Lawrence L. Rasmussen
- Lynn R. Biddison
- Robert O. Rehfeld
- Robert Reide
- Roy Wenger
- Vern Sylvester

### New Members

- Liz Agpaoa
- Clyde Amrhein
- Jack Capp
- Kent Connaughton
- Rick Cooksey
- Teri Fahs
- Nancy Gibson
- Malcolm E Gramley II
- Daniel J. Jiron
- Robert Johnson
- Jim Reaves
GRANTS RECEIVED - Since January 1st, we have received three grants totaling $8,500 toward our education and curatorial programs. A grant from the Plum Creek and Michelson Foundations will provide funding for two Missoula high school teachers to plan a teacher’s training workshop. It also covers the preparation for a grant to the Library of Congress for a “Teaching with Primary Sources” workshop this fall for 20 teachers. A Max and Betty Swanson Foundation grant of $3,500 was split with $2,500 going toward our curatorial account and $1,000 to the education fund. The grant will help provide Internet access of the museum’s archival repository records. This requires upgrading our PastPerfect software and replacing a 2005 Dell computer. Teachers will prioritize the files to be placed online and the online archive record will include a graphic, if one is currently available. Internet access of the museum’s archival repository records is important for two reasons: 1.) It will enable the museum to share historical information in the repository with the public. 2.) Provide access to the archival records during a planned teacher workshop and to prepare multi-disciplinary lessons highlighting the Forest Service’s history and mission.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER - If you are age 70 ½ or older, you may now instruct your IRA custodian to transfer any amount, up to $100,000, directly to the National Museum of Forest Service History. This distribution would not be included in your taxable income, but could fulfill any required minimum distribution requirements and would not produce an income tax deduction. This outright gift must come directly from your IRA custodian to the National Museum of Forest Service History. Gifts may be made at any time in 2016 and in future years without expiration.

INTERNET VIRTUAL MUSEUM - We now have two virtual museum exhibits on our website: The 1959 Madison Canyon Earthquake and Jim Girard, The Man Who Knew Trees. Thanks to Scott Hawk, our communications director, for its excellent design. You can see our latest exhibit at URL: www.forestservicemuseum.org/jim-girard/
NOTE: Your mailing label shows the date your membership expires. Please mail dues payment 1-month prior to the date listed. This space is blank for complementary copies of the newsletter. Please renew EXPIRED memberships as soon as possible to continue support of the museum program.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of the National Museum of Forest Service History and help us preserve the history of the U.S. Forest Service. Fill out, detach and mail this form to P.O. Box 2772, Missoula, Montana 59806-2772.

☐ YES - SEND THE NEWSLETTER TO MY EMAIL.  ☐ NEW  ☐ RENEWAL  ☐ GIFT

Mr. ____ Ms. ____ Dr. ____ Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________________________________ State: _____ Zip: ____________

Daytime Phone: ________________________ Email: __________________________________________

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & ANNUAL DUES:

☐ Student: $15  ☐ Contributing: $150
☐ Individual: $30  ☐ Sustaining: $300
☐ Family: $55  ☐ Organization: $100
☐ Lifetime: $1000