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# FOREST RANGER HANDBOOK

by COREY STUART and LASSIE



# THE WORK OF A FOREST RANGER

The modern Forest Ranger is a college-trained man with practical, down-to-earth experience.

While some Forest Service men and women manage the National Forests, others work in research laboratories. Another group of foresters use their research and management ideas to help owners of private and state forest lands. Forest Rangers are very interested in helping make America a beautiful place to live.



## Ranger Game

See if you know some of the things a Forest Ranger might do. Check the "Yes" or "No" box.

Yes No A Ranger...

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Commands 105 mm. cannons to shoot down snow avalanches to keep ski areas safe.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Turns scientist with test tube and microscope to study the chemical and physical properties of soils, water, trees, grass and bushes.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Protects fish and wildlife by making fish and game regulations.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Is an engineer for he plans and supervises the development of National Forest roads, bridges, trails, campgrounds and ski areas.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Studies the weather and his environment, using radar, gliders, nuclear probes, and other electronic devices.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Analyzes information from satellites as part of his work of managing the forests.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Works hard in the forest and in the city with local and state officials and private land owners to lead the way in "Keeping America Beautiful." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Is a good cowboy for he works with ranchers in improving grazing land and water supplies for cattle and wildlife.                               |

(Answers on page 19)



# FOREST RANGER TALK

## Forestry Terms We Often Use

**ANNUAL RING** — A ring of wood put on each year by a growing tree.

**BIOLOGICAL INSECT CONTROL** — Controlling bad forest insects by releasing a natural enemy of that insect.

**BOARD FOOT** — A unit of measure equal to a piece of wood a foot square (12 inches x 12 inches, and 1 inch thick).

**BUFFER ZONE** — An area alongside roads, lakes, streams and wilderness areas that Forest Rangers keep especially scenic.

**BROADLEAF TREE** — A tree having leaves with broad surfaces (not needles).

**BROWSE** — Twigs or shoots of trees and shrubs used as food by livestock and wildlife.

**CONIFER** — A tree which produces cones — like a pine or a spruce.

**CONSERVATION** — The wise use of our natural resources.

**FORAGE** — Grass and other plants eaten by grazing animals.

**HABITAT** — The place in the forest where wildlife makes its home (elk habitat, fish habitat, etc.).

**HARDWOOD** — The broadleaf trees and the wood of such trees (oak, maple, hickory, etc.).

**LOGGING** — The harvest of logs from the forest.

**MULTIPLE USE** — The science and art of managing a forest so that it will continue to produce the best combination of natural resources needed by people.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** — Materials supplied by nature. Some are renewable (water, trees, grass) if the land is used wisely — others are not (coal, minerals, etc.).

**PRESERVATION** — A term often confused with conservation. Preservation frequently means to not use something.

**PRUNING** — Trimming the lower branches from trees to produce better timber. Sometimes nature does this as the tree grows.

**RUNOFF** — The amount of water produced from an area — both on the surface and beneath the ground.

**SCALING** — Measuring the usable wood in logs or timber.

**SEED TREE** — A tree left after a logging operation to supply seeds to reseed the area. (Sometimes it is called a "mother" tree.)

**SNOW PACK** — The total accumulated snow on the ground. Measuring the snow pack will give an indication of how much water will be produced when the snow melts.

**SOFT WOODS** — The conifers (cone-bearing trees) or the wood from these trees. (It may sound silly, but the wood of some "soft wood" may be harder than the wood of some "hardwoods.")

**SPOT FIRE** — A fire started ahead of the main forest fire by flying sparks and embers.

**SUSTAINED YIELD** — The scientific management of a forest to produce a continuous supply of products.

**THINNING** — Removing trees in a young forest to help the remaining trees grow larger, faster.

**TIMBER CRUISING** — Measuring standing trees to find out how much usable wood there is in the forest.

**WATERSHED** — A land area which drains into a particular body of water. Forests are almost always part of important watersheds.

**WILDERNESS (National Forest)** — An area, usually with outstanding scenic beauty, managed by Forest Rangers to guarantee that we will always have places of natural beauty untouched by roads, buildings and mechanical noises.

## OUR FORESTS SERVE US IN MANY WAYS

Water, forage, recreation, the fish and wild creatures, wood — these are the resources Lassie and I live with and work with. These are the resources people need and use and that's why I say our forests serve us in many ways. Then there is the beautiful scenery, and what about the wonderful feeling you get just being in the forest?

When we talk about managing the forest for "multiple use" we are simply talking about its "many uses." Look at the symbol, "National Forests — Lands of Many Uses." Do you know what this symbol stands for? First of all, it represents the millions of acres in the National Forests. The center is the Multiple Use Tree. Each part of this symbolic "Tree" stands for something as you can see. The ovals are the resources. Do you know what they are? Try and write them below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



### That's Right,

they are wood, water, wildlife, recreation and forage. And see how they are all lined or tied together by an unbroken line which makes up the trunk of the tree. The trunk stands for people like you and me who use the forest, and for the homes and factories that use its products.

