

July 26, 1968

Miss Connie Painter
2216 Willow Street
Caldwell, Idaho.

Dear Miss Painter:

There is no law which says that our department cannot hire a lady forester but I doubt that it ever will. The reason is that our foresters must be prepared to fight forest fires which is a nasty, dirty, miserable, exhausting job. While girls have taken their place alongside guys in many professions they just plainly don't have the necessary muscles in the necessary places so that they can run up and down mountains day after day in the middle of August, chasing fires, throwing dirt, chopping down burning snags, grubbing out burning roots, stirring and cussin and then running for their lives before a searing wall of flame brought on by a change in the wind. It's frightening — even for the rugged he-man type.

You might be interested to know, though, that the U.S. Forest Service does occassionally hire a lady forester — one that has gone to college to study forestry. She will be able to do most of the forester's work except go on the big fires. There are jobs for women in forest research and in forest information and for those who don't go to college there are opportunities for office work and dispatching.

I hope I have answered some of your questions.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER

Very truly yours,

R. L. Lingenfelter
Information Specialist