



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1920.

To the Members of the Forest Service:

I regret exceedingly that Colonel Graves, after ten years of service as Forester, has decided to sever his connection with the Department on April 15. This will be a distinct loss not only to the Department but to the Nation as a whole. I need not tell you of the value to the public of Colonel Graves' work, for you have been in intimate contact with that work, have shared in it under his direction, and know the advances which have been made under his leadership.

It is fortunate, in the circumstances, that there is in the Department one who has fully demonstrated, both in the Forest Service and with the Forest Engineers in France, the capacity to carry large responsibilities. Recognizing this, I have been very glad to ask one of our own organization, Col. Wm. B. Greeley, to take the place to be vacated by Colonel Graves. I know of his past work and have the utmost confidence in his ability to handle the vast undertakings of the Forest Service.

This Service is a very important branch of the Department of Agriculture. I have a real admiration for its work and am in full sympathy with its purposes. It is a satisfaction that Colonel Greeley is such an able exponent of the principles for which the Service stands. I know that he will omit no effort to see that the conceptions under which the National Forests are handled for the permanent benefit of the whole Nation and of the local public dependent upon them are carried out to the fullest extent. Ours is a constructive undertaking which will make these publicly owned resources serve a steadily larger usefulness for building up and maintaining the industrial life of the country, and under the principles which you are applying in the performance of your daily tasks, this usefulness will be permanent.

This letter is both an announcement of the appointment of Colonel Greeley as Chief Forester, to take effect on April 16, and a message of assurance to you of my personal interest in your organization--both in its work and in its individual members, wherever they may be located. I recognize that you are contending with many difficulties and I shall do everything in my power to help you meet them. I am especially anxious to make better known to all the people of the country the great tasks and accomplishments of the Forest Service. I am anxious also to see that the public, to whose interests you are devoting your best efforts, knows more not only about your work but about the individuals who are doing it, in order that it may have a better understanding of the loyal and faithful service which you are rendering to the Nation.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.