

Ottawa National Forest Ranger Roll Call & Forest Supervisors

History – The Ottawa purchase unit was approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission in 1928. Acquisition progressed favorably and on January 27, 1931 the purchase unit was proclaimed the Ottawa National Forest by the President. The gross area of the original forest was 253,551 acres. The first extension consisted of 465,007 acres and was approved in September, 1933. The gross area of the forest was then 718,558 acres. The Gogebic purchase unit was approved on January 21, 1935, and consisted of 1,026,329 acres. This unit was added to the Ottawa National Forest by Presidential proclamation on January 11, 1937. The total gross area of the forest is now approximately 1.5 million acres.

The original forest consisted of one Ranger district in Kenton. It was first administered under the supervision of the Supervisor of the three Upper Michigan National Forests, with headquarters in Munising. The Ironwood office was established February 28, 1935 and the Ottawa National Forest has since been administered as a separate unit.

Today the forest has district offices located in Kenton, Ontonagon, and Watersmeet; with the Forest Supervisor's office and Bessemer Ranger District office located in Ironwood. The J.W. Toumey Nursery and the Ottawa Visitor Center are in Watersmeet, MI.

District Rangers

In February, 1935, the Iron River Ranger District was created and on March 1, 1935 the Watersmeet Ranger District was established. In the spring of 1935 the Wakefield, Ontonagon, Bergland and Marenisco Ranger Districts were authorized. The Wakefield district headquarters was transferred to Bessemer in May, 1937. The Marenisco Ranger district was renamed the Bessemer District on July 6, 1937, with office in Ironwood.

Bergland District – designated in 1935. Bergland RD and Ontonagon were combined in 1999. Kenton/Ontonagon/Bergland were administratively combined in 2019

Joseph Blake	1935-1943
Clayton Van Slyke	1943-1950
Oscar P. Stanbo	1950-1957
Lennart E. Lundberg	1957-1958
Donald W. Eng	1958-1962
Orville E. Lind	1962-1967
Milo E. Stefan	1967-1970
Larry L. Robbins	1970-1974
Daniel Murphy	1974-1979
Morse Reese	1980-1987

Ann G. Carey	1987-1989
James L. Meunier	1990
E.B. Fitzpatrick	1991-1997
Leanne Marten	1999-2002
Bruce Prud'Homme	2002-2005
Darla Lenz	2005-2011
Susanne Adams	2011-2017
Barbara C. Van Alstine	2017-Present

Ontonagan District – designated in 1935. Bergland RD and Ontonagon were combined in 1999. Kenton/Ontonagon/Bergland were administratively combined in 2019

Fred W. Pierce	1935-1936
Raymond L. Osborne	1936-1942
Gifford B. Adams	1943
Bert C. Chapman	1943-1948
John K. Brownell	1948-1957
J. Pemble Orcutt	1957-1969
Owen Gusler	1969-1978
David Benson	1978-1985
Myron C. Hall	1985-1998
Leanne Marten	1999-2002
Bruce Prud'Homme	2002-2005
Darla Lenz	2005-2011
Susanne Adams	2011-2017
Barbara c. Van Alstine	2017-Present

Kenton District – designated in 1931. Kenton/Ontonagon/Bergland were administratively combined in 2019

Stephen E. Doering	1931-1932	Ottawa Forest Ranger District
Clare W. Hendee	1932-1935	Ottawa Forest Ranger District
Thomas E. Roberts	1935-1940	
Nelson F. Rogers	1940-1942	
John v. Van Bargaen	1942-1944	
Harry Matthews	1945-1957	
Benjamin Carson	1957-1960	
James R. List	1960-1963	
Blaine E. Fenstad	1963-1968	
Lawrence W. Brown	1968-1973	
Terry W. Hoffman	1973-1978	
Brian T. Sweet	1978-1979	

Terry L. Read	1980-1995
Barb Tormoehlen	1996-1997
Dan Torrence	1998
John Witherspoon	1998-2000
Ralph E. Miller	2001-2008
Barbara c. Van Alstine	2008-Present

Bessemer District

William J. Brown	1937-1939
Willard V. Kennedy	1940-1941
Walter T. Early	1942-1943
Harry Matthews	1944
Horace A. Lucas	1945-1950
Wilfred M. James	1954-1957
Waldemar R. Anderson	1961-1962
Roy A. Johnson	1962-1963
A. Richard Guth	1963-1964
James L. Kimball	1965-1966
Thomas A. Fulk	1966-1967
Gunter R. Jahnke	1968-1973
Larry L. Robbins	1975-1976
Charles G. Bartlett	1977-1986
Leon F. Glashock	1987-1991
Jill W. Leonard	1992-1996
Javier Delgado	1997-2000 ?
Richard Davalos	2004-?
Melanie Fullman	2008-?

Wakefield District -- The Wakefield district headquarters was transferred to Bessemer in May, 1937.

George A. Turney	1935-1937
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Marenisco District -- The Marenisco Ranger district was renamed Bessemer District on July 6, 1937.

William J. Brown	1936-1937
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Iron River District

Floyd T. Roberts	1935-1939
Stanley B. Olson	1940-1941
Nelson F. Rogers	1943
Max A. Melick	1944-1950
Andres S. Leavitt	1954-1967
Orville E. Lind	1968-1976
Richard T. Brewster	1978-1988
Daniel J. Moriarity	1989-1996
Jeff Larson	1997-2000
Tracy Tophooven	2004-?
Norman Nass	2008-?

Watersmeet District

Harry D. Switzer	1935-1937
Max A. Melick	1938-1943
Joseph Blake	1944-1957
Richard N. Smith	1961-1958
Marsh E. Lefler	1962-1972
Jerry W. Sutherland	1973-1976
James H. Gottsacker	1977-1982
Myron C. Hall	1983-1984
Robert O. Bodine	1985-1991
Jeff Larson	1994-2000
Tracy Tophooven	2004
Norman Nass	2008

Forest Supervisors

Upper Michigan National Forests

Leslie S. Bean	1931 - 1933
Russell B. McKennan	1934

Ottawa National Forest

Clare W. Hendee	1935	Acting
Clare W. Hendee	1936 - 1939	
Russell B. McKennan	1941 - 1945	
Victor J. Dayharsh	1950 - 1957	
John O. Wernham	1961 - 1965	
Michael W. Kageorge	1966 - 1968	
Ralph D. Kizer	1970 - 1971	
Joseph H. Harn	1973	
Marvin K. Lauristen	1975 - 1978	
Robert Tippeconnic	1979 - 1981	
Joseph Zylinski	1982 - 1987	
David H. Morton	1988 - 1996	
Phyllis A. Green	1997 - 2000	
Robert Lueckel	2004 - 2007	
Susan Spear	2007 – 2010	
Anthony Scardina	2011 - 2014	
Linda Jackson	2014 - 2020	
Darla Lenz	2020 – Present	

Personnel names and dates are from National Organization Directories