

## TO THE PUBLIC.

The White Mountain National Forest area consists of about 650,000 acres in New Hampshire lying in southern Coos and northern Carroll and Grafton counties, and projecting slightly into the adjoining State of Maine. Its boundaries embrace nearly all of the country between the Presidential Range on the north and Sandwich Dome on the south, from just beyond the Maine State line on the east nearly to the Connecticut River on the west. There are numerous mountains in this region which reach a height of over 5,000 feet, among them being eleven that are more than 5,000 feet high. The tallest, Mt. Washington, rises to an altitude of 6,290 feet above sea level, and is one of the highest peaks east of the Mississippi.

This forest area is the most northerly of those which the Federal Government is acquiring in the East under the Weeks Law of March 1, 1911, which created the National Forest Reservation Commission and appropriated money for the acquisition of mountainous, non-agricultural lands on the watersheds of navigable streams. The watersheds of the four most important rivers of New England—the Connecticut, the Androscoggin, the Merrimack, and the Saco—are within the White Mountain area, of which the United States has already purchased 243,000 acres, as shown on the map. Other purchases are being made as rapidly as possible, and, according to the working plan of the Commission, most of the 650,000 acres will become a National Forest in due time. The tracts so far acquired include Bean's Purchase, Low & Burbank Grant, Thompson & Meserve, Sargent's and Hadley's Purchases, Martin Location, Green Grant, Pinkam Grant, and lands in Jackson; also lands in the towns of Carroll, Bethleham, Franconia, Albany, Bartlett, Woodstock, Thornton, and Benton, besides smaller adjoining tracts in Waterville, Warren, Randolph, Gorham, and Shelburne.

The region is essentially a forest country; it consists of large tracts of primeval forest, as well as second-growth timber, cut-over and burned areas, and abandoned farm land. Its chief resources are its timber and its attractiveness to visitors seeking outdoor recreation. As a summering place it is one of the most celebrated in the United States.

The preservation of forest conditions in the White Mountain region has long been regarded as necessary not only by the Federal Government but by the State and by local organizations who are interested largely in preserving the picturesque wilds for which it is noted. Unprotected from forest fires and careless timber cutting, it would soon lose much of its attractiveness, while the disastrous effects on the streams which flow from its lofty ranges would be almost incalculable.

The region is easily accessible by several railroads from any direction and great numbers of people motor directly into the White Mountains from distant cities. The area is covered by a network of good roads, including many miles of State highways, all suitable for motor travel. For campers and trappers there are the trails of various outing clubs and those made by the Forest Service. Practically all of the high ridges, peaks, and other picturesque spots throughout the area are accessible by one or more of these trails.

Automobile maps and guides are readily obtainable, while all the ways of travel are well posted with signs. Visitors can always find accommodations, for there are numerous hotels, inns, and boarding houses. Shelter huts are maintained by the mountain clubs in many parts of the region, and fire lookouts and ranger stations have been established by the Forest Service. There are several railroad stations and a complete system of telegraph and telephone communication. When roughing it on foot or motoring the tourist need never be beyond reach of shelter or unable to communicate easily and quickly with the world outside the mountains.

Government ownership has given considerable impetus to recreational development of the region. Under the system of special use permits which is in force on all of the National Forests, the public may use the land in any way that is compatible with its proper protection and administration. Persons who wish to build summer homes on the area may do so under the permit system, or under the new law which provides that National Forest land may be leased in tracts of five acres or less for periods not to exceed 30 years. There are many sites in accessible and in relatively inaccessible locations, on trails, hillside, peaks, streams, and highways, which are suitable for camps, cottages, resorts, hotels, and stores, and which may be obtained from the Government at rates ranging from \$5 a year up.

The recreational opportunities of the region, its scenic beauty, its valuable timber and young growth and their influence in supplying and regulating the flow of four great rivers and many lesser streams are all in some part dependent on the prospective measures of the Government. If the mountain sides are denuded by axe or fire, incalculable and perhaps irreparable damage will be done. To prevent this destruction the Government needs the cooperation not only of the local inhabitants but of visitors. The Forest Service extends every privilege to the public; camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, and other pursuits may be enjoyed; one need only comply with the laws of the State and the regulations of the Department of Agriculture. In return, the public is expected to take the simple precautions necessary to protect the timber and prevent fires and stream pollution.

## REMEMBER

The National Forests belong to the people and YOU CAN HELP protect them by reporting at once any fires discovered to the Forest Service, Gorham, N. H., Telephone 23-3, or to the nearest Ranger Station.

### OBSERVE THESE RULES

1. Be as careful with fire in the woods as you are with fire in your own home.
2. Be sure your match is out; break it in two before you toss it away.
3. Don't drop cigar or cigarette stubs or hot pipe ashes in leaves, brush, or humus; drop them on bare soil or in the dust of the road and stamp out the fire before leaving.
4. Don't build a fire against a tree, a log, or a stump, or anywhere but on bare soil; never build a fire any larger than is absolutely necessary and always clear a space of at least two feet around it.
5. Don't burn refuse where there is danger that the wind might carry the sparks into brush, or leaves, or other inflammable material; never leave your fire unattended for an instant and be sure it is out before you go away. If necessary, smother it with earth or water.
6. Remember that the smallest spark in the woods may start a conflagration which will cause loss of life and destruction of property. If you discover a fire, try to put it out. If it is too big for you to handle alone, get help; use every possible means to notify the nearest Forest guard, ranger, or State fire warden. There may be a telephone nearby; if there is, use it.
7. Keep your camping place neat and sanitary; don't let refuse get into streams, springs, or ponds; bury it.

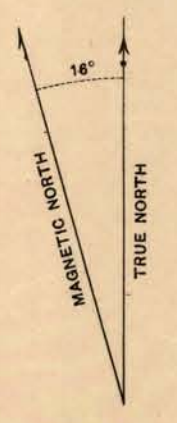
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
HENRY S. GRAVES, FORESTER

# WHITE MOUNTAIN REGION NEW HAMPSHIRE

SHOWING LANDS BEING ACQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES  
MAY, 1915

## LEGEND

- Ranger Station
- Fire Tool Box
- Fire Lookout Station
- Telephone Line
- Tracts Purchased
- Area Boundary
- Supervisors Headquarters
- Road
- Trail



SCALE  
MILES

NON-CIRCULATING

G  
3472  
W4  
1915  
46