

The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 offered federal aid to states for the prevention and suppression of forest fires. In response, the 1931 Legislature authorized the Surveyor General to negotiate agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, county and local officials, and private landholders "for the purpose of securing cooperation in the protection of the forest and watershed areas of Nevada from fire." A 1937 act provided for the organization of fire protection districts.



Figure 1: James M. "Doc" Foley raising a flag up a new pole at the Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe, Nevada fire lookout tower. 1933. Zephyr Cove and Round Mountain can be seen in the background. Photo from the 1934 report *Final Report of Nevada Transient Relief Camp at Zephyr Cove, Douglas County, Nevada.*" NDF-0014 file 2

Joint funding through the Clarke-McNary Act and the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture enabled the Surveyor General to employ an Assistant State Forester Fire Warden in 1942. In 1945 the Legislature provided a statutory basis for a State Forester Fire Warden, which position the Surveyor General was to hold ex officio. His jurisdiction extended over state and privately owned forest and watershed land, an area that came to include approximately 8.7 million acres. Other legislation created the State Board of Fire Control. Its membership consisted of the Governor, the Director of the University of Nevada Agricultural Extension, and the State Forester Fire Warden, the latter serving as the Board's secretary. In 1955 the name was changed to State Board of Forestry and Fire Control, and its membership had to be chosen from agricultural, cattle, timber, and others interests, with one member representing the general public.

A 1953 amendment to the 1945 statute imposed criminal and civil responsibilities and penalties for the willful or negligent setting of fires in fire protection districts. The Nevada Forest Practice Act of 1955 established regulations for logging and set rules for fire prevention and suppression. The Forester Fire Warden was given responsibility for administration of the act, and the State Board of Forestry and Fire Control was authorized to make additional rules for the protection of trees.

For several years the position of Assistant State Forester Fire Warden was combined with that of the Extension Forester of the University of Nevada Agricultural Extension Service. The state paid half of the salary out of Clarke-McNary funds, and the Extension Service the other half. In 1955 it became a full-time state position. Several acts of the 1957 Legislature affected the office of State Forester Fire Warden. One gave him the authority to investigate infestations of forest pests and diseases, and to take steps to control them. Another act stated that he was to decide if territory could be included in or excluded from a fire district. If territory was to be included within a district, he was to make the necessary rules and regulations to bring the district into compliance with the Clarke-McNary Act. An earlier act protecting trees, shrubs, and other flora on state land was amended to extend the protection to federal land, and included the Forester Fire Warden among those who were to enforce the act. An amendment to another statute gave this official the responsibility for establishing and maintaining state nurseries; one was soon begun in Reno and, later, another was established in Las Vegas. Finally, in 1957 the Legislature transferred the duties of the Surveyor General to the new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Director of the department was to appoint a qualified person as State Forester Fire Warden, who was to be the head of the Division of Forestry. The same act reconstituted the State Board of Forestry and Fire Control. The Director, in consultation with the Board, was to set the general policies for guiding the Forester Fire Warden.

The Forester Fire Warden became a member of the Governor's Environmental Council and the State Commission of Environmental Protection in 1971; in 1979 he was made a member of the Board of Review Concerning Public Lands and the Fire Marshal's Advisory Board. An act of 1971 required those engaged in logging or timber cutting to obtain a license from the Forester Fire Warden, who had the power to suspend or revoke them; persons or businesses owning timber land that was devoted to another use were required to secure from him a timber conversion certificate, which was also subject to revocation or suspension.

During the 1973-1974 biennium, the Division was reorganized and its operations divided between Resource Management and Administrative Services, each headed by an Assistant State Forester. A Flight Operations section came into existence in 1960. In 1977 the State Board of Forestry and Fire Control was brought into the Division of Forestry, and the Forester Fire Warden became subject to the administrative supervision of the Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Board was abolished in 1993.

Congress created the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act in 1978, which provided for grants to rural fire departments; in the following year the Legislature entrusted the Forester Fire Warden administering the state's implementation of the act. Legislation of 1981 permitted him to prohibit or limit certain activities in any Fire Protection District.

Among the many programs the Forester Fire Warden and the Division of Forestry has undertaken are: Conservation Camps for penitentiary inmates (since 1959), urban and community forestry, fire prevention campaigns, windbreak tree programs, seed and plant distribution, assistance to volunteer fire departments, range rehabilitation, and a federally assisted Cooperative Forest Management Program. In Civil Defense efforts, the Forester Fire Warden has been the coordinator of state fire services.

From the beginning, the Forester Fire Warden and the Division of Forestry have worked closely with the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Among the state agencies cooperating with the Division are the Department of Agriculture, the University of Nevada, and the Fish and Game Commission.

Although the powers and duties of the State Forester Fire Warden have expanded since the creation of the post in 1945, the primary ones have continued to be: to "Supervise or coordinate all forestry and watershed work on state- and privately-owned lands, including fire control . . . working with federal agencies, private associations, counties, towns cities or private persons."

General Files 1930-1950 3 cu. ft. NDF-0012 to NDF-0014

Arrangement: mostly by subject and thereunder chronologically.

Evidently these files came from those of the Extension Forester of the University of Nevada's Agricultural Extension Division. From 1942 to 1957 the Extension Forester was designated as Assistant State Forester Fire Warden. This is confusing because it was not until 1945 that the Legislature created the position of State Forester Fire Warden. The Surveyor General of Nevada served in this capacity ex officio until the creation of the Division of Forestry in 1957.

Much of the correspondence is to and from the men who held the post of Extension Forester/Assistant State Forester Fire Warden. These and other materials reflect the wartime concerns of state and federal forestry and fire control. For example, there is information on the threat posed by Japanese incendiary balloon bombs. Other files relate to the Forester's civil defense obligations, such as overseeing the work of the Forest and Range Fire Fighters Service, which was a division of the federal Office of Civil Defense and, in Nevada, a component of the Nevada Council of Defense.

Several files explicate the Forester's role in implementing the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, which provided federal aid to states for the prevention and suppression of forest fires. There is correspondence (arranged by county) regarding various Clarke-McNary matters, such as the Nevada Emergency Rural Fire Protection Project, Rural Fire Board, and Area and Cost reports. Other correspondence is with county extension agents and Extension Service personnel of neighboring states.

Besides correspondence, there are annual reports of the Extension Forester, fire reports, inspection forms, memorandums, land use planning reports and agreements, invoices, [press releases, and statistics. Printed material includes articles, pamphlets, Forest Service publications, and newsletters.

State Forester/Fire Warden

Other subjects covered include: tree planting; windbreaks, shelterbelts, and woodlots; seed distribution; Arbor Day; 4-H Club forestry projects; the fire prevention campaign of 1947; fire control equipment; legislation; training; the President's Fire Prevention Conference of 1947; and the Nevada Transient Relief Camp at Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, 1933-1934.

The records of the Surveyor General of Nevada document some of the state's involvement with forestry and fire control before 1941 and after the end of World War II. From 1957 onward records of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry contain material about these activities.

Activities documented in these files show the cooperative relationship in the areas of forestry and fire control between Nevada and various federal agencies. The latter include the Forest, Grazing, Fish and Wildlife, and Soil Conservation Services. The National Archives and Records Administration--Pacific Sierra Region, San Bruno, California, houses regional records of these agencies.

Forester Fire Warden - Records

This is a box list of the contents of the State Forester Fire Warden records. Although some attempt was made to group like records together, particularly clippings it was not possible to do so for the bulk of the collection. To locate particular topics within this list, use your web browser and search for specific topics such as "Lake Tahoe" and "Clarke-McNary." Some records created by the Forester Fire Warden are contained and listed with the Division of Forestry materials.

CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING DEMO WOODLOTS, CHURCHILL COUNTY 1941-1942 NDF-0012 #001
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, CLARK COUNTY 1936-1944 NDF-0012 #002
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, DOUGLAS COUNTY 1934-1944 NDF-0012 #003
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, ELKO COUNTY 1940-1942 NDF-0012 #004
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, ESMERALDA, EUREKA, AND HUMBOLDT COUNTIES 1940-1943 NDF-0012 #005
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, LINCOLN, LANDER, AND MINERAL COUNTIES 1942-1943 NDF-0012 #006
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, LYON COUNTY 1941-1944 NDF-0012 #007
CLARKE-MCNARY FARM TREE PLANTING, MINERAL, WASHOE, AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES 1940-1943 NDF-0012 #008
SURVEYS AND STUDIES, TREE SPECIES 1942-1943 NDF-0012 #009
SEED COLLECTION 1933-1943 NDF-0012 #010
ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION 1942 NDF-0012 #011
SURVEYS AND STUDIES, GENERAL, 1940-1942; TREE PLANTING SURVEY CORRESPONDENCE, 1943 1940-1943 NDF-0012 #012
DEMONSTRATION TREE BREAKS 1941-1943 NDF-0012 #013
DEMONSTRATIONS 1941-1942 NDF-0012 #014
TREE PLANTING IN NEVADA STATISTICS 1941-1944 NDF-0012 #015
NEVADA COOPERATIVE NURSERY, CARSON CITY, PLAN OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION 1942 NDF-0012 #016
PLAN OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION FOR THE RANCH PROPERTY OF BARTHOLOMAE-FISH CREEK RANCH, EUREKA, NEVADA 1942 NDF-0012 #017
TREE PLANTING 1942-1943 NDF-0012 #018
FARM FIRE HAZARD SURVEY PROJECT 1942 NDF-0012 #019
NEVADA EMERGENCY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION PROJECT, NEVADA FOREST AND RANGE FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE 1939-1947 NDF-0012 #020-023; 028-034
FIRE PROTECTION CLIPPINGS 1942 NDF-0012 #024
FIRE REPORTS, MONO NATIONAL FOREST 1927-1938 NDF-0012 #025-026
FOREST FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES LEDGER 1931 NDF-0012 #027
CIVILIAN DEFENSE VOLUNTEERS FOR FIRE FIGHTING 1943 NDF-0012 #035
RURAL FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM 1941-1947 NDF-0012 #136-045; NDF-0013 #001-002
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1940 NDF-0013 #003
4-H CLUBS, CORRESPONDENCE FROM AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION RE NATIONAL DEFENSE 1942 NDF-0013 #004
4-H CLUB CAMP, CLIPPINGS 1942 NDF-0013 #005
4-H CLUBS, FIRE AND SAFETY PROJECT 1943 NDF-0013 #006
4-H CLUBS FORESTRY PROJECT, CORRESPONDENCE 1941-1942 NDF-0013 #007
4-H CLUB CAMP PROGRAMS 1931-1942 NDF-0013 #008-009
4-H CLUB STATE ORGANIZATION 1940, 1945 NDF-0013 #010
4-H CLUBS FOOD PRESERVATION PROJECT 1943-1945 NDF-0013 #011
4-H CLUBS FORESTRY CLUB ORGANIZATION 1932-1945 NDF-0013 #012-013
EXTENSION FORESTER, CORRESPONDENCE, WHITNEY FLOYD, A.M. SOWDER, ROYALE K. PIERSON, WOODBRIDGE METCALF 1941-1947 NDF-0013 #014-016; 018-020
COOPERATIVE NURSERY PLAN 1942 NDF-0013 #017
FOREST PRODUCTS, CLARK COUNTY SAWMILL ORGANIZATION 1943-1945 NDF-0013 #021-022
FOREST PRODUCTS 1941-1944 NDF-0013 #023
FOREST PRODUCTS, WOOD PRESERVING 1938-1942 NDF-0013 #024
NURSERY COST RECORDS 1942-1943 NDF-0013 #025
FOREST PRODUCTS 1937-1942 NDF-0013 #026
NURSERY PLANTING PLANS, ORPHANS' HOME PASTURE 1943 NDF-0013 #027
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE 1942-1945 NDF-0013 #028
AUTOMOBILE OPERATION IN WAR TIME 1942-1943 NDF-0013 #029
NURSERY TREE SUPPLIES FROM UTAH 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #030
LANDS AND FORESTS STATISTICS, NEVADA 1942 NDF-0013 #031
EXTENSION SERVICE AGENT ANNUAL AND MONTHLY REPORTS 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #032-034
EXTENSION SERVICE CORRESPONDENCE, THOMAS E. BUCKMAN 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #035-036
STATE RURAL FIRE BOARD 1942 NDF-0013 #037
MOTION PICTURES ABOUT FIRES 1942 NDF-0013 #038

Forester Fire Warden - Records

FIRE STATISTICS 1940-1943 NDF-0013 #039
INDIAN BACK PACK (WATER) PUMPS 1943 NDF-0013 #040
RURAL FIRE CONTROL, CORRESPONDENCE 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #041
FIRE PROTECTION IN WAR TIME 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #042
FORESTRY/FIRE FIGHTER LEGISLATION 1929-1942 NDF-0013 #043
USDA AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION, WESTERN REGION CORRESPONDENCE AND HANDBOOK 1940-1942 NDF-0013 #044
TREE PLANTING 1941-1943 NDF-0013 #045
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS 1941-1942 NDF-0013 #046
FEDERAL AND STATE COOPERATION, FOREST FIRE, DEEDS, EASEMENTS 1931-1941 NDF-0014 #001
FINAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA TRANSIENT RELIEF CAMP AT ZEPHYR COVE [LAKE TAHOE], DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA, FEDERAL-STATE FOREST FIRE COOPERATION CLARK-MCNARY LAW 1934 NDF-0014 #002
LEGISLATION, NATIONAL, LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH FARMERS TO MANAGE THEIR FOREST PRODUCTS 1941 NDF-0014 #003
FOREST PRODUCTS, DOUGLAS COUNTY 1942 NDF-0014 #004
STATE SURVEYOR GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1941-1942 NDF-0014 #005
FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS 1941-1944 NDF-0014 #006
FIRE PREVENTION 1947 NDF-0014 #007
LAND USE PLANNING COOPERATION 1940, 1942 NDF-0014 #008
CORRESPONDENCE, GILBERT B. DOLL 1942-1943 NDF-0014 #009
EXTENSION SERVICE, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1941-1944 NDF-0014 #010
RODENT AND PEST CONTROL 1940-1942 NDF-0014 #011
FIRE CONTROL EQUIPMENT 1944-1946 NDF-0014 #012
FORESTRY LEGISLATION 1931-1946 NDF-0014 #013-014
FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN 1945-1947 NDF-0014 #015
FIRE PREVENTION LEGISLATION 1947 NDF-0014 #016
CORRESPONDENCE, GENERAL 1945-1948 NDF-0014 #017
TRAINING 1945-1947 NDF-0014 #018
COOPERATION, OTHER AGENCIES 1942-1947 NDF-0014 #019
COOPERATION, US FOREST SERVICE AND OTHERS 1942-1947 NDF-0014 #020
(FILE NUMBERS 21-30 SKIPPED)
COOPERATION, U.S. ARMY 1943-1946 NDF-0014 #031
COOPERATION, INDIAN SERVICE 1945 NDF-0014 #032
PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE ON FIRE PREVENTION 1947 NDF-0014 #033-034
IRRIGATED LANDS OF THE HUMBOLDT RIVER AREA, NEVADA 1939 NDF-0014 #035
CLARKE-MCNARY AREA AND COST REPORT, REVISION, FOREST FIRE CONTROL 1946 NDF-0014 #036
RADIO EQUIPMENT 1947-1948 NDF-0014 #037
EMPLOYEE LISTS 1945-1947 NDF-0014 #038
ELKO LAND USE PLANNING PROGRAM REPORT 1940-1942 NDF-0014 #039
NEVADA LAND USE PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT 1941 NDF-0014 #040
ANNUAL FIRE REPORTS AND STATISTICS 1942-1947 NDF-0014 #041
FIRE REPORTS 1945 NDF-0014 #042
PRESS RELEASES 1941-1948 NDF-0014 #043-046