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## APPALACHIAN FOREST RESERVE EXPLAINED

BY HENRY S. GRAVES, FORESTER

General Information in Regard to the Purchase of Lands For the Proposed Reserve

The act of congress approved March 1, 1911 (Public, No. 435), created a National Forest Reservation Commission and authorizes the acquisition of lands on the watersheds of navigable streams for the purpose of conserving their navigability. The secretary of agriculture is authorized and directed to examine, locate and recommend to the commission for purchase such lands as in his judgment may be necessary to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams, and he is authorized to purchase, in the name of the United States, such lands as have been approved for purchase by the National Forest Reservation Commission at the price or prices fixed by said commission.

The general purpose of this law is to secure the maintenance of a perpetual growth of forest on the watersheds of navigable streams where such growth will materially aid in preventing floods, in improving low waters, in preventing erosion of steep slopes and the silting up of the river channels, and thereby improve the flow of water for navigation.

While the improvement of the flow of navigable streams is the fundamental purpose, other benefits incidental in character but nevertheless important will be kept in view. Among these are (1) protection against disastrous erosion of the soil on mountain slopes and against the destruction of the soil and soil cover by forest fires; (2) preservation of water powers, since, like navigation, they depend for their value upon the evenness of streamflow; (3) preservation of the purity and regularity of flow of the mountain streams, with a view to their use for the water supply of towns and cities; (4) preservation of a timber supply to meet the needs of the industries of the country; (5) preservation of the beauty and attractiveness of the uplands for the recreation and pleasure of the people.

### RESTRICTIONS.

Aside from its application to the watersheds of navigable streams, the law is not restricted to particular regions, except that lands may be purchased only in the states whose legislatures have consented to the acquisition of such land by the United States for the purpose of preserving the navigability of navigable streams. The states which have passed such legislation and in which purchases are now contemplated are: Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia.

The sources of the navigable streams which have their origin in the Rocky Mountains or the mountains nearer the Pacific coast are already to a large extent protected by national forests. The Appalachian Mountains, including the White Mountains, are for the most part without such protection. Because of their altitude, steepness, and lack of protection they are in a class by themselves in their need for the action authorized under this law.

The first lands to be examined for purchase will therefore be in this region. The area needing protection in the Appalachians is very large. It is far larger than can be purchased with the funds appropriated under this law. Much difference exists, however, in the character of the lands in different

parts of the region. Mountains are higher, slopes steeper, rainfall heavier, and the soil more easily washed in some sections than in others.

Careful examinations made during the past 10 years in practically all parts of the Appalachian region have proven that the conditions which affect streamflow to an extreme extent are to be found in relatively limited areas. These areas are scattered more or less widely. By careful selection of the tracts it will be possible to do much for the permanent improvements of the watersheds by the purchase of only a part of the mountainous region.

Within these areas not all, and in some cases not a very large proportion, of the land will be needed by the government for the purpose in view. Just what lands should be purchased will be determined in every case as a result of a careful examination.

Some of the important areas are already known, and the purpose of this article is to invite proposals for the sale of lands within them. A blank form and an official envelope to be used in making proposal for sale may be had upon application to the Forester, Forest Service, Washington, D. C. The blank should be accurately and fully filled out and mailed, securely sealed in the envelope. If possible, a map showing the boundaries of the tract should be submitted with the proposal for the sale. If the proposal is satisfactory, the secretary of agriculture will expect the owner to execute to him an option on the land for a reasonable length of time.

### CLASSES OF LAND DESIRED.

Lands of the following classes will be considered for purchase when they lie within a designated area: (1) Timbered lands, including both land and timber; or the land, with the timber reserved to the owner under rules of cutting to be agreed upon at the time of sale; (2) cut-over or culled lands; (3) brush or burned land not bearing merchantable timber in quantity, but covered with a growth of brush which is useful for watershed protection, and burned land whether covered with young timber growth or not; (4) abandoned farm land, whether remaining cleared or partially covered by timber growth. Good agricultural lands will not be considered.

Where valuable mineral deposits are known to exist, the right to remove such deposits may be reserved to the owner, under conditions to be agreed upon, such conditions to be incorporated in the written instrument of conveyance.

Lands lying within the designated areas can not be recommended for purchase unless examination by the United States geological survey shows that their control will promote or protect the navigation of streams on whose watersheds they lie.

Lands proposed at exorbitant prices will not be considered. The holding of land at too high a price in any of the areas will prevent the government from undertaking purchases within it.

No limitation is put upon the size of tracts to be proposed for sale. Proposals will be received for small as well as for large tracts within the areas designated, but small tracts can only be examined when they lie adjacent to or near large tracts which are being examined or where the aggregate of all tracts offered for sale is sufficient to justify an examination.

The right of any landowner to deal through an agent is, of course, recognized. The placing of lands in agents' hands, however, is unnecessary, as the owners themselves may deal direct with the government.

The lands purchased by the government under this law are to be included in national forests. Such forests will in no way interfere with hunting and fishing within

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## LEE-JACKSON DAY GENERALLY OBSERVED

VETERANS HOLD TWO INTERESTING MEETINGS

Crosses of Honor Conferred On a Number of Veterans by U. D. C.

Lee-Jackson day was observed here last Friday. The bank and post office were closed with their usual patriotism, and there was quite a gathering of old Confederates and Daughters of the Confederacy to pay their tributes to the two representative heroes of the lost cause.

The veterans met in the morning at the court house and the addresses made there deserved a much larger audience. Rev. W. H. Davis spoke on General Lee and Major W. E. Breese gave a comparison of forces engaged in the war and mortality on both sides. Our readers will find much to interest and inform by reading these facts, published in this issue. The veterans enjoyed together a fine dinner at the Ethelwood, which Mr. Sinclair provided at a nominal price.

In the afternoon at 2 o'clock the patriotic exercises were resumed at the graded school building, where the school united with the Daughters of the Confederacy in observance of the day.

"Old Folks at Home" was sung by the school as an opening piece. Miss Dacia Case read a sketch of Lee's life. This was followed by a well sung duet, "Ise Gwine Back to Dixie," by Messrs. E. L. DeVane and C. M. Cooke, Jr. Miss Olivia Hancock read tributes to Lee, and Miss Margaret Blythe recited with spirit Father Ryan's poem, "The Sword of Lee." The daughters, who occupied seats on the platform, sang the favorite song of the south, "Dixie." Prof. J. P. Bennett made an address on the subject, "John Brown, Patriot or Murderer." The subject is a difficult one to deal with but Prof. Bennett handled it well, showing much familiarity with the great fanatic's life. The decision reached at the conclusion of his remarks was that John Brown was a murderer.

A large picture of Stonewall Jackson, which had stood on an easel during the exercises, was then presented to the school with a few well chosen remarks by Mrs. G. C. Witmer.

The last feature on the program was the presentation by the Daughters of crosses to the old veterans.

The following crosses had been applied for and were presented, with the exception of a few who were not present to receive them: D. P. Bishop, Co. G, 4th Reg. S. C.; M. M. Bryant, Co. K, 62nd N. C.; J. A. Galloway, Co. D, 65th N. C.; O. P. Grant, Co. G, 55th N. C.; Thos. Hays, Co. E, 35th N. C.; G. F. Jastus, Co. K, 62nd N. C.; R. J. Kilpatrick, bugler Co. D, 65th N. C.; S. M. Lance, Co. D, 65th N. C.; J. H. Mull, Co. G, 41st N. C.; Felix Rabb, Co. E, 62nd N. C.; T. T. Patton, Jacobs' art., S. C.; Thos. Ross, Co. F, 16th S. C.; J. M. Southern, Co. K, 1st S. C. militia; F. L. D. Thomas, Co. E, 62nd N. C.; J. L. Thomas, Co. E, 25th N. C.; J. McD. Wilson, Co. E, 35th N. C.; Mrs. Martha M. Wilson, widow of Matthew Wilson, Co. G, art., S. C.; J. M. Thrash, Co. I, 35th N. C.

The following daughters were on the platform and took part in the exercises: Misses Annie Gash, Virginia Allison, Annie Allison, Annie Shipman, Margaret Breese, Mollie Breese, Julia Deaver, Maud Jacobs, Mrs. G. C. Witmer, Mrs. J. A. Miller, Mrs. Angie McLean, Mrs. C. C. Yongue, Mrs. J. Norton and Miss Delia Gash.

The following is Major Breese's speech in part:

The Confederacy sent to the war

1,900,000 men and boys; this may not be exact because of the loss of the muster rolls at the end of the war, but General Marcus J. Wright and Colonel Hilary A. Herbert, both of our side, regard it as substantially correct after their most searching investigations. Our million of men therefore contrasts most weakly with the 2,865,028 men in the ranks of the Federal army. We had 642 regiments, they had 2,494. Our losses during the war were 52,954 killed; 21,570 died of wounds, and 52,297 of disease—126,821. The Federals lost 61,362 killed; 34,772 died of wounds, and 185,287 of disease—379,422.

Two to one. What disproportion! To show the immense number of battles, there were 2,261, and even in the very beginning we must have fought from first to last "foemen worthy of our steel," for the battle of Bull Run shows (in which the 5th, 6th and 11th N. C. participated) that we lost 1,583 against their loss of 1,492, but we captured 1,210 and routed them just the same.

Illustrating further the excessive mortality on both sides. It has never been equaled save by the battle of Eylau in 1807 where there were 133,000 engaged of Russians and French, with a loss of 92,000.

Out of twelve of our regiments the losses were from 82.3% to 61.1%, the 26th N. C., losing alone at Gettysburg 71.7%, being one-third on the list. The 1st Texas led with 185 loss against 226 engaged. Out of twelve Federal regiments the losses were 82% to 63%, the 1st Minnesota leading with 82%, losing 215 out of 262 engaged.

Among other heavy losses on our side at Bull Run the 33rd Va. lost 146; Hampton's Legion, the latter at Fair Oaks 143. At Gaines' Mill the 20th N. C. lost 273; 19th Miss. 322. Second Bull Run 48th N. C. 217. Fredericksburg 48th N. C. 237, and the 29th Miss. 235. Charleston 21st N. C. 153. 25th N. C. 134. At Chickamauga Alabama's losses exceeded in proportion all others.

It is said that the 1st Maine sustained the greatest loss at any time, for at Petersburg at the Crater they lost 635 out of 900—70% in seven minutes. Vermont lost 1,645 out of 2,100.

You will thus see that in the ability to stand heavy pounding the Confederate soldier is without a peer. Napoleon's old guard even at Waterloo, can show no such record. And Waterloo showed no such fighting as we did in Antietam, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg or Chickamauga. And since Eylau in 1807 there has been no great battle in which the victor (the punishment he took to gain his victory) equals the 27% of our losses in our victory at Chickamauga. In that battle the defeated army of the Federals was not routed, but still had some fighting strength, while we were so exhausted that we could not pursue our victory. It was war to the knife and the knife to the hilt.

Waterloo was eclipsed by Gettysburg, Gettysburg by Sharpsburg, and Sharpsburg by Chickamauga. Mark the difference. At Waterloo the allies' (who were the victors) loss was 20%, one fifth, and the French army (the defeated) was broken up and dissolved.

At Gettysburg the Federals were victors and also lost 20%, but the Confederates held their positions all the following day, and some of you old fellows who were in it did not know you were whipped there until after the war.

At Sharpsburg (claimed by the Federals as a victory) they lost 23%, but we still held our position all the next day after.

At Chickamauga we licked them at a cost of 27% losses, that is, twenty-seven men out of every hundred, but though the loss was inflicted by the Federals they were obliged to leave the battlefield and retreat. Right here was pause to notice the point that counts, which was their greater preponderance of men and ability to call for reserves,

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## GOOD REPORTS FROM ALL THE COUNTIES

EVERY COUNTY WAS REPRESENTED

Greater Western North Carolina Association Will Soon Be Ready For Work.

At a meeting of the Greater Western North Carolina Association held in Asheville last Thursday, encouraging financial reports were made, some of the standing committees reported, ideas and suggestions were exchanged, after which it was decided to meet again on February 8, at 11 o'clock, in the Board of Trade rooms in Asheville. The meeting was a representative one, delegates being present from each of the seven counties constituting the association. The attendance was about thirty.

President W. E. Breese, Jr., of Brevard, called the meeting to order, after which Secretary F. W. Miller of Waynesville read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

The chairman of each committee was called upon to make his report. Each chairman had been authorized to appoint one or more from each county to serve with him, but the majority of the chairmen asked for further time, saying that they had not had time for a judicious selection of the men they wanted to serve with them.

M. L. Shipman of Hendersonville, chairman of the committee on statistics, made his report, as well as R. L. Gash of Transylvania, chairman of the committee on hotels, boarding houses and real estate. Other chairmen were given until the next meeting to make their reports.

When the roll call by counties was called in order to ascertain what each would do or had done in the way of raising the assessments made at a previous meeting, H. W. Plummer, for Buncombe, said that this county had been delayed in its work for various reasons, and suggested that the assessment of \$5,000 against Buncombe was considered as too high by some. Representing Buncombe, D. Harris stated that if the membership and initiation fees of Buncombe members could be applied to the assessment against the county, the \$5,000 would be raised. He was assured that this would be done, the same applying to all counties.

J. M. Mock reported that Haywood county's assessment of \$1,300 had already been placed in the bank. This is the only county that has so far raised the whole amount of the assessment and the report was greeted by applause.

Speaking for Transylvania county, R. L. Gash stated that he had notes in his pocket for \$300, that the county commissioners and the Brevard board of aldermen had promised to help, but was not in shape to do so until it was learned how much of the assessment of \$1,000 the people and other organizations of the county would raise. He said the county would raise the amount.

Speaking for the Southern railway, which had promised to raise \$5,000 provided the counties made good, S. H. Hardwick stated that the Southern was pleased with the progress of the association. He stated that he and M. V. Richards, the land and industrial agent, would be glad to become members of the association and take up any duties assigned them. They were later elected to membership.

Mr. Hardwick stated that he had a manager for the association in mind, no name being mentioned.

President Breese remarked that the members present from the different counties should take courage from the Southern's action and call attention to the same in the efforts to raise assessments.