

## **HISTORY OF FISH MANAGEMENT ON FOREST LANDS <sup>AFS</sup>**

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The history of fish habitat management in the Forest Service is a history of environmental law in the United States. Starting with the creation of forest reserves in the late 1800s to the present day, fish habitat management programs have always had a place in the management of our National Forests. With the passing of legislation such as the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, fisheries has taken on a more complex and an ever increasing role in how forests are managed for other resources. Fisheries biologists in the Forest Service have always been few in number and represent less than 300 in an agency of over 30,000 employees. A fisheries job in the Forest Service has never been easy and often confrontational, stressful and frustrating. In spite of these drawbacks, the agency has always been blessed with truly professional and dedicated fisheries professionals.