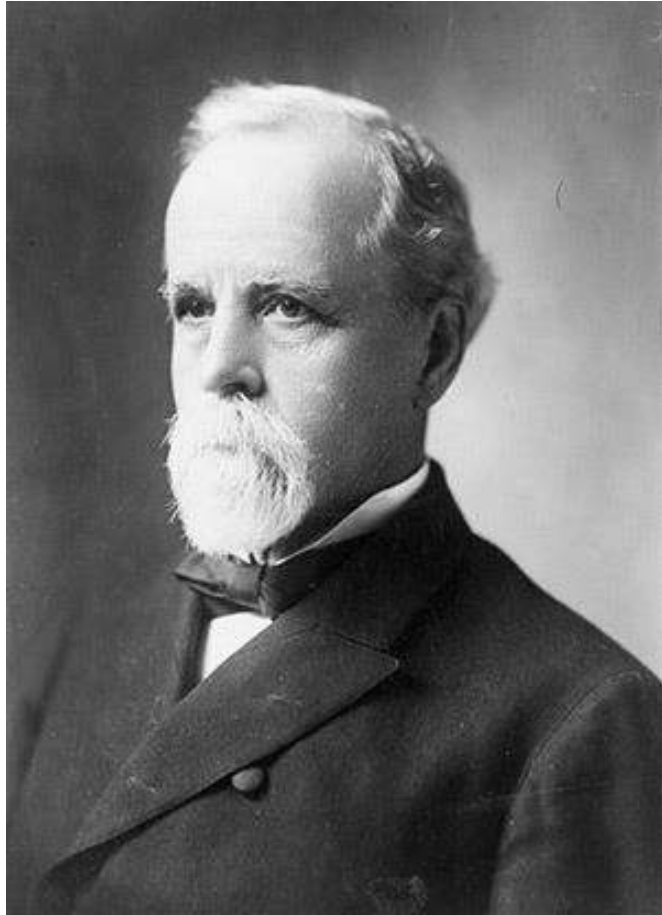


# Discovering Our Unique Environmental Legacy



Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century image of the outlet of the Manitowish River on Island Lake

Early environmentalist were often sportsmen concerned about conservation, unethical harvest and wildlife habitat



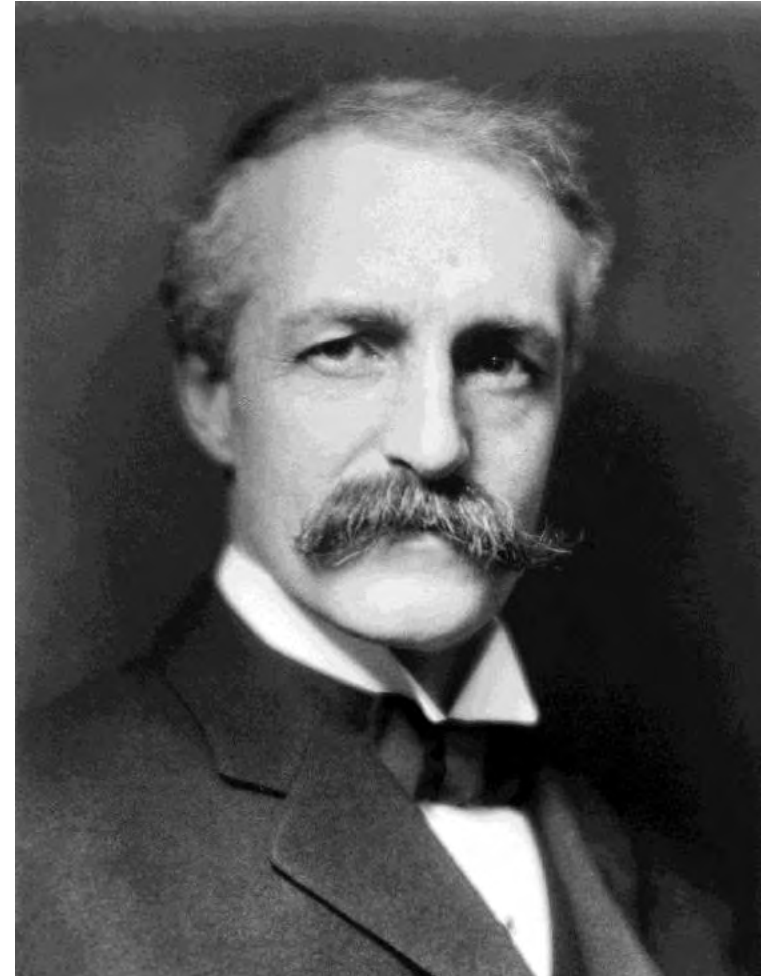
Senator Lacey from Iowa passed 4 Federal laws protecting resources 1894-1907



1887 Theodore Roosevelt founded the Boone and Crockett Club one of the earliest examples of environmental activism



As president, Roosevelt differed from John Muir on some environmental goals, while Federal Forester Gifford Pinchot embraced multi-use forestry on public lands.



E. M. Griffith attended Yale University focusing on science, mathematics and engineering, moved to Germany to pursue forestry coursework his senior year. In 1898, Pinchot hired Griffith as a forester in the Division of Forestry under the Dept. of Agriculture.



*Griffith (holding pet fawn) and Black Hills crew, 1901*





Logging restructures the northwoods environment: first river drive logging removed white pine from Wisconsin forests

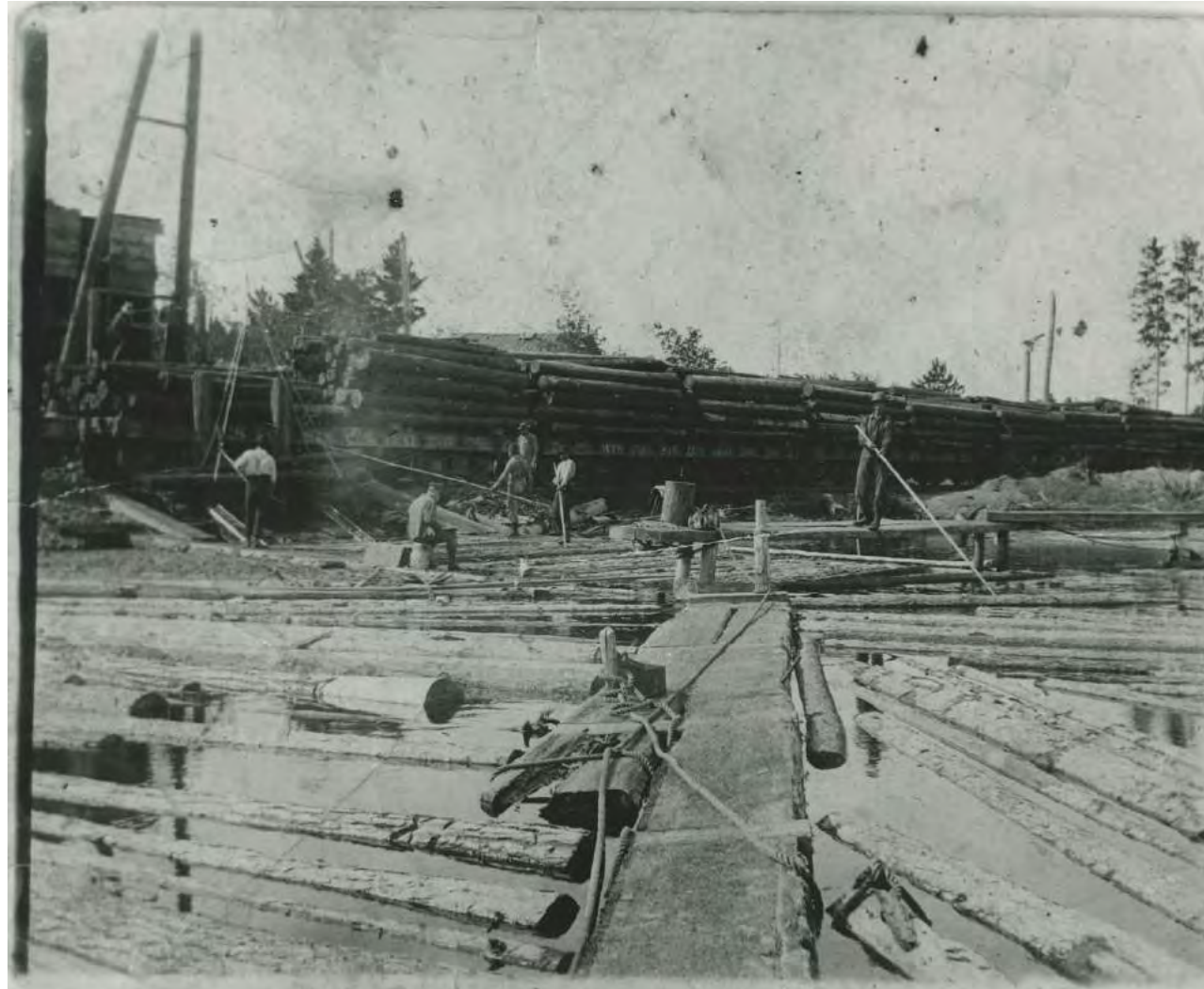




Remaining trees were harvested and hauled by railroads to numerous area mills

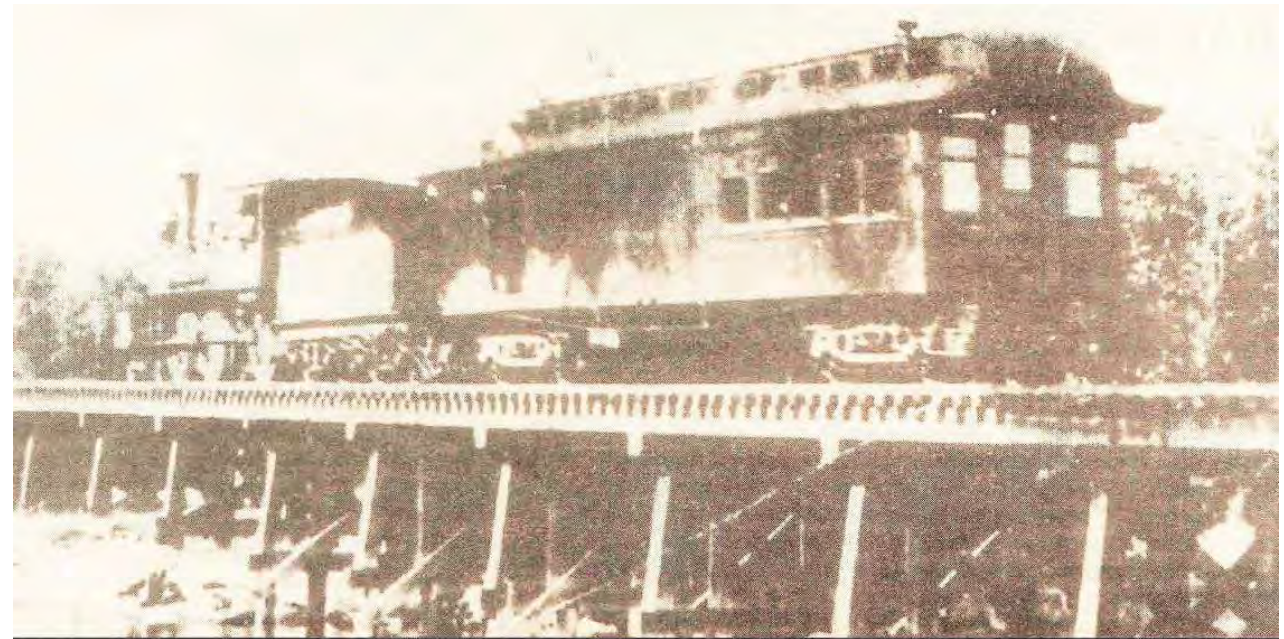


Red pine logs being hoisted from Little Star Lake on to railroad cars likely headed to the Flambeau Lumber Co. in LDF





Rail transport slowly evolved from intense logging to tourism





Logging cutover led to repeated of fires, from 1904-1930 an average of 2000+ fires burned 500,000 acres in Wisconsin annually. What interest group would applaud this environmental outcome?



As ordinary lumbering often leaves the woods. The large, most valuable timber cut and the remainder totally destroyed by repeated fires.



1. In the early 1900's, resorts owners stocked fish by railroad to bolster precious natural resources





The emerging resort industry depended on sustainable natural resources





Historic images of abundant natural resources enticed sportsmen and sportswomen to our area





The Commission of Fisheries of Wisconsin had specialized railroad cars for moving fish fry called, "The Badger", below is Badger # 2



**LOADING STATE DISTRIBUTION CAR AT WOODRUFF, WISCONSIN. DISTRIBUTING PIKE FRY**



The Badger was upgrade several times and serviced lakes, rivers and streams throughout Wisconsin





Manitowish Waters residents worked cooperatively with the Commission of Fisheries stocking lakes and streams

APPENDIX TO SENATE JOURNAL

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*Distribution of Fish.*

RAINBOW TROUT FRY PLANTED, 1904—Continued.

Name and Post Office of Applicant.	Where Planted.	No. of Fish.
IRON COUNTY—		
Geo. C. Foster, Hurley .....	Gegogashgun River .....	7,500
A. L. Osborne, Gile .....	West Branch, Montreal River..	7,500
A. R. Andrews, Manitowish .....	Grant Lake .....	7,500
J. H. Paine, Manitowish .....	Trout Lake Creek .....	6,000
Abe LaFave, Manitowish.....	Big Lake Creek .....	6,000
Israel Proulx, Manitowish .....	Little Pappoose Creek .....	6,000
John Davis, Mercer .....	Tributary, Little Turtle River	7,500
J. C. Eaver, Pence .....	Montreal River .....	7,500
		55,500



Wagons needed to meet the train in Manitowish to  
acquire fish fry to plant in area lakes





Walleye were planted in large numbers to sustain  
quality fishing

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF FISHERIES.

43

*Distribution of Fish.*

WALL-EYED PIKE FRY PLANTED, 1903—Continued.

Name and Post Office of Applicant.	Where Planted.	No. of Fish.
<b>IRON COUNTY—</b>		
F. J. Peterson, Manitowish .....	Lost and Sandy-beach Lakes .....	300,000
J. C. Eaver, Pence .....	Inland Lake, .....	200,000
G. W. Buck & Son, Manitowish .....	Spider, Manitowish and Stone Lakes .....	200,000
A. R. Andrews, Manitowish .....	Manitowish Lake .....	250,000
		950,000

Trout were stocked in many streams including Papoose Creek

98

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF FISHERIES.

*Distribution of Fish.*

RAINBOW TROUT, ADVANCED FRY, PLANTED, 1908—Continued.

Name and Post Office of Applicant.	Where Planted.	No. of Fish.
IRON COUNTY—		
B. Morsman, Upsen .....	Spring creek .....	8,000
Wm. Sherman, Manitowish .....	Spring and French creeks....	8,000
Calvin Dorlot, Manitowish .....	Papoose creek .....	4,000
Chas. B. Clark, Kimball .....	Crystal brook and Rollins .....	



Pan fish like crappie we stocked in by rail to improve tourism

76

DISTRIBUTION OF FISH AND FISH EGGS, 1916.

*Details of distribution of fish and eggs, fiscal year 1916—Continued.*

CRAPPIE—Continued.

Disposition.	Finger- lings, yearlings, and adults.	Disposition.	Finger- lings, yearlings, and adults.
Norge, Seimmore Pond.....	150	Rice Lake.....	500
Pemberton, Johnson & Duncan Pond.....	300	Manitowish, Manitowish Lake.....	1,000
Petersburg, Brander Pond.....	150	Merrill, Long Lake.....	100

Big Lake was considered to be part of the Manitowish Waters chain in at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



## LAKE TROUT FRY PLANTED, 1906.

Where Planted.	No. of Fish.
In Rusk Lake, Vilas county.....	300,000
In Silver Lake, Washburn county.....	30,000
In Spider Lake, Douglas county.....	45,000
In Lake Superior, off Gull Island.....	2,562,000
In Lake Superior, off Presque Isle.....	3,068,000
In Lake Superior, off South Point, Raspberry Bay.....	938,000
In Lake Superior, off Manitou Island.....	900,000
In Lake Superior, off Raspberry Island.....	984,000
In Lake Superior, off Boss Island.....	984,000
In Lake Superior, Pike's Bay.....	50,000
In Lake Nine, Forest county.....	30,000
In Cable Lake, Washburn county.....	75,000
In Tozer Lake, Washburn county.....	75,000
In Heilman Lake, Washburn county.....	75,000
In Pike Lake, Bayfield county.....	112,500
In Round Lake, Sawyer county.....	112,000
Big Sand Lake, Vilas county.....	396,000
Viola Lake, Washburn county.....	112,500
Holy Lake, Bayfield county.....	112,500
Price Lake, Bayfield county.....	112,500
Pelican Lake, Oenida county.....	450,000
Tomahawk Lake, Oneida county.....	450,000
Trout Lake, Vilas county.....	195,000
Little Green Lake, Green Lake county.....	67,500
Pine Lake, Waupaca county.....	67,500
Cotter Lake, Vilas county.....	90,000
Big Lake, Vilas county.....	90,000
In Green Bay, out from Sturgeon Bay.....	450,000
In Lake Michigan, from Sturgeon Bay.....	517,500
In Lake Michigan, from Port Washington.....	1,080,000
In Lake Michigan, from Sheboygan.....	1,080,000
In Lake Michigan, from Racine.....	450,000
Total lake trout fry planted, 1906.....	16,057,500



## 2. Evolution of state forests and public lands



MATURE PINE ON TROUT LAKE.



In 1904, E. M. Griffith becomes Wisconsin's first state forester



**THE FOREST RESERVES**, by the Act of 1905, were expanded to include all federal grant lands north of Township 33, which line coincides with the northern boundaries of Oconto and Taylor counties.

Griffith's personality, vision, capabilities and collaborative nature led to an impressive network of supporters including: Charles Van Hise President of the UW, Governor Lafollette, Lumber Baron Fredrick Weyerhaeuser, and many others.

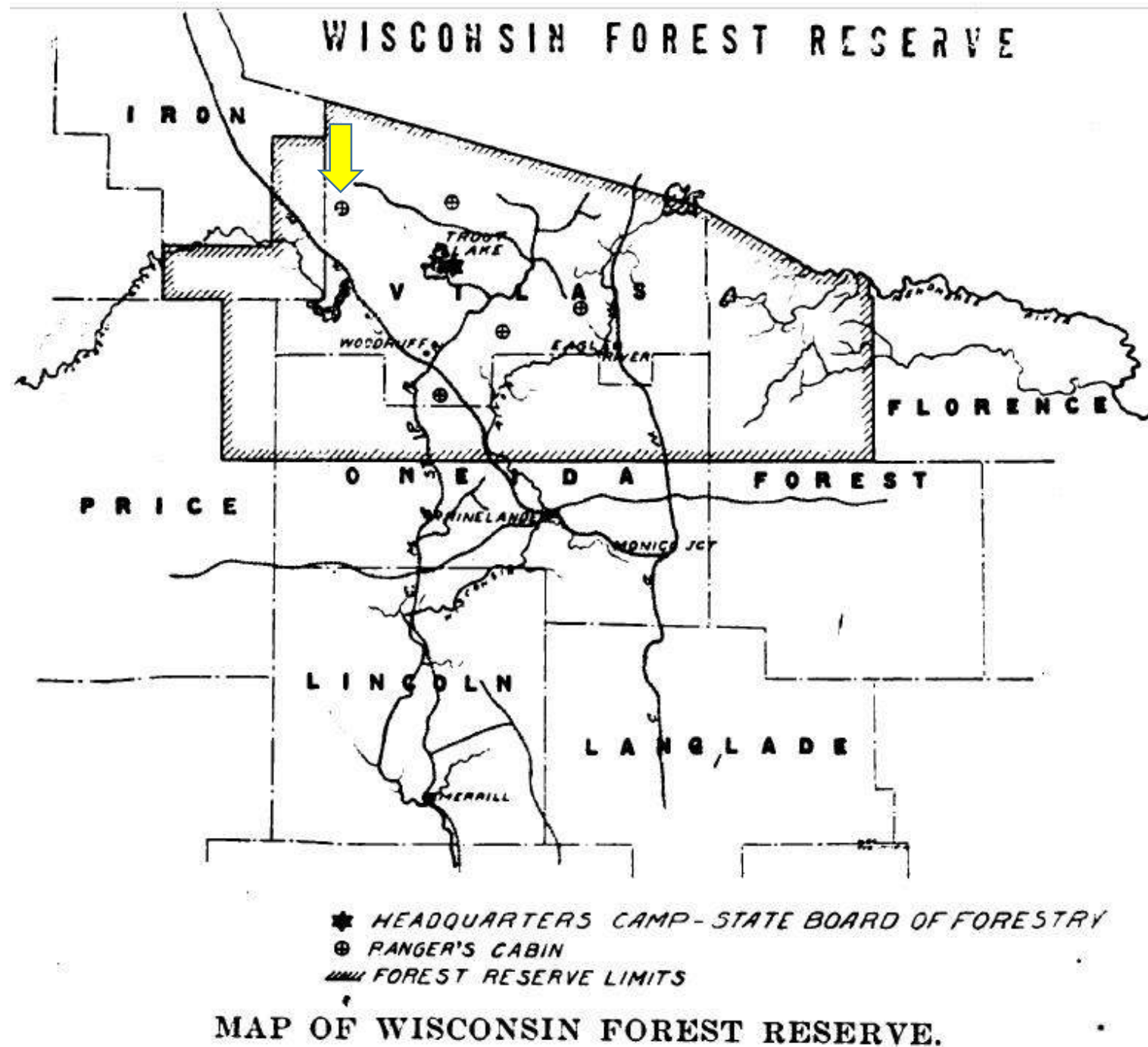


The forest reserve was created to protect the headwaters of Wisconsin and sustain forest resources

**URGENT NECESSITY FOR COMPLETING FOREST RESERVE.**

The state forest reserves now comprise over 400,000 acres of land most of which is on the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Chippewa rivers, but in many cases the state lands are so badly scattered that it will be necessary to acquire about 1,000,000 acres more in order to block up and consolidate the reserves, which must be done in order to make forestry management, and especially fire protection, feasible. A forest reserve of 1,500,000 acres will include practically all of the nonagricultural lands in Forest, Oneida, Vilas, Iron and Price counties; protect the headwaters of our most important rivers; insure a large part of

In 1911, E. M. Griffith created an model for forestry showcasing the promise of the land surrounding our communities. Manitowish Waters was one of the 4 spokes of Griffith's plan.





# Initial Wisconsin Forest Reserve Goals

	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Vilas</b> .....	<b>506,000</b>
<b>Oneida</b> .....	<b>345,000</b>
<b>Forest</b> .....	<b>253,000</b>
<b>Iron</b> .....	<b>115,000</b>
<b>Price</b> .....	<b>70,000</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,289,000</b>

Table 4.

## LANDS PURCHASED AND SOLD, 1911-12.

	Acreage Jan. 1, 1911.	Acreage sold.	Acreage acquired.	Acreage Jan. 1, 1913.
Ashland.....	\$5,401.20	1,235.00	.....	4,166.20
Bayfield.....	3,161.21	1,601.47	.....	1,559.74
Burnett.....	19,073.96	12,776.13	.....	6,297.83
Douglas.....	9,475.66	1,368.78	80.00	8,186.88
Florence.....	3,559.16	.....	80.00	3,639.16
Forest.....	35,427.34	.....	1,919.29	37,346.63
Iron.....	29,910.06	479.61	924.00	30,354.45
Langlade.....	2,293.40	880.98	.....	1,418.42
Lincoln.....	2,477.86	920.66	.....	1,557.20
Marinette.....	4,494.21	.....	.....	4,494.21
Oneida.....	53,310.63	374.80	20,418.81	73,354.64
Polk.....	1,960.74	118.17	.....	1,842.57
Price.....	27,474.45	9,152.58	320.00	18,641.87
Rusk.....	2,894.47	440.00	.....	2,454.47
Sawyer.....	13,519.14	1,707.88	171.95	11,983.21
Vilas.....	59,956.05	.....	71,602.08	131,558.13
Washburn.....	8,988.30	5,139.48	.....	3,848.82
Total.....	283,383.84	36,195.54	95,516.13	342,704.43



**Table 7.**

NAMES OF PERSONS FROM WHOM LAND WAS PURCHASED IN 1911 AND 1912.			
	No.	Price	
	of acres.	per acre.	Price
→ Matt Plunkett .....	80	\$2.50	
→ Buswell Lumber & Manufacturing Company ..	600	2.50	
† Ross Lumber Company .....	10	.	\$30.
→ Alexander Stewart Lumber Company .....	640	3.00	
→ Yawkey-Bissell Lumber Company .....	8,550.54	2.50	
Land, Log and Lumber Company .....	15,893.95	3.75	
Robert Stamp .....	400	2.50	
G. F. Sanborn .....	102.30	3.00	
B. F. Wilson .....	2,194.30	6.50	
→ Yawkey Lumber Company .....	2,317.76	3.75	
→ Turtle Lake Lumber Company .....	80	3.50	
Turtle Lake Lumber Company .....	284	3.00	
A. E. Doolittle .....	85.25	3.50	
C. H. & W. L. Houlton .....	440.72	4.00	
→ Blue Grass Land Company .....	3,678.09	2.50	
Blue Grass Land Company .....	35.75	3.00	
Blue Grass Land Company .....	402.92	3.50	
• N. A. Colman .....	Island	.	\$1,000.

Vilas County dominated  
early state forest reserve:  
1) purchases and 2) back  
taxes acquisitions



CATHEDRAL POINT, TROUT LAKE, VILAS COUNTY. A PORTION OF THE FOREST RESERVE.

Table 11.		LOCATION OF LANDS PURCHASED.	
Iron county.			Acres.
T. R.			
42-4 E.	.....		480.00
43-4 E.	.....		444.00 <sup>1</sup>
Forest county.			
T. R.			
36-12 E.	.....		81.65
36-13 E.	.....		480.00
37-13 E.	.....		200.00
39-12 E.	.....		40.00
39-13 E.	.....		80.00
40-12 E.	.....		1,517.64
Oneida county.			
T. R.			
36-4 E.	.....		40.00
36-8 E.	.....		80.00
36-9 E.	.....		40.00
37-7 E.	.....		40.00
37-8 E.	.....		75.61
37-9 E.	.....		320.00
38-5 E.	.....		80.00
38-6 E.	.....		935.36
38-7 E.	.....		2,582.66 <sup>2</sup>
38-8 E.	.....		939.15
39-4 E.	.....		120.00
39-6 E.	.....		2,554.20
39-7 E.	.....		2,580.20
39-8 E.	.....		1,059.73
39-9 E.	.....		505.00
39-11 E.	.....		1,348.30
Vilas county.			
T. R.			
39-10 E.	.....		355.45
40-4 E.	.....		1,604.13
40-6 E.	.....		3,564.19
40-7 E.	.....		12,591.70
40-8 E.	.....		2,718.93
40-9 E.	.....		1,455.60
40-10 E.	.....		167.70
40-11 E.	.....		1,408.76
41-6 E.	.....		8,004.25
41-7 E.	.....		12,626.13
41-8 E.	.....		10,179.94
41-9 E.	.....		1,388.17
41-10 E.	.....		240.00
41-11 E.	.....		1,040.00
42-5 E.	.....		80.00
42-6 E.	.....		160.00
42-7 E.	.....		986.75
42-8 E.	.....		5,168.44
42-9 E.	.....		134.70
42-10 E.	.....		760.00
42-11 E.	.....		2,418.51
42-12 E.	.....		160.00
43-5 E.	.....		640.00
43-6 E.	.....		635.00
43-7 E.	.....		3,096.19
43-8 E.	.....		168.45



## WISCONSIN GETS 20,000 ACRES

OF NORTHERN LANDS FROM NA-  
TIONAL GOVERNMENT AS  
FOREST RESERVE.

PATENT ARRIVES FROM WASH-  
INGTON YESTERDAY— STATE  
IS COMMENDED.

Governor Davidson yesterday re-  
ceived a patent of nearly 20,000 acres  
of land from the national government  
to be added to the state forest re-  
serve, which already numbers 300,000  
acres and is valued at from \$2,500,000  
to \$3,000,000.

This is pursuant to an act of con-  
gress of 1906. at the in-

## U. S. LABORATORY FOR WISCONSIN

FORESTRY OFFICIALS TO CON-  
CENTRATE ALL TIMBER EXPER-  
IMENT STATIONS AT U. W.

REGENTS NEED ONLY PROVIDE  
BUILDING—GREAT SIGNIFI-  
CANCE TO STATE.

## WISCONSIN LEADS IN FORESTRY

ONLY THREE STATES HAVE  
A LARGER RESERVE.

Pointing the Way for Con-  
servation of Nation's  
Resources.

PRINCELY 300,000 ACRES  
ACQUIRED BY THE STATE

Dec. 11, 1908

In 1911 State Forest Reserves HQ on Trout Lake and 4 Ranger Cabins were completed advancing Griffith's forestry plans



HEADQUARTERS CAMP, STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY.

Headquarters of Field Instruction for Forest Ranger Students.

Little Carr lake.....	in	T. 38,	R. 7	E.
Rest lake .....	in	T. 42,	R. 5	E.
Boulder Dam lake.....	in	T. 42,	R. 6	E.
Plum lake .....	in	T. 41,	R. 8	E.



Forest rangers had to past a test to qualify for a rigorous  
2 year course of study

## **EDUCATIONAL.**

### **FOREST RANGER SCHOOL.**

The Regents of the University have established a department of Forestry in the College of Agriculture for the purpose of organizing courses of study for the training of Forest Rangers, and also to give instruction to both long and short course students in agriculture, in the care of woodlands, especially the management of farm woodlots.

## *Courses of Study.*

### **First Year.**

Dendrology and Silviculture	Woodcraft.
Soils	Meteorology.
Land Surveying and Mapping	Fish and Game.
Introduction to Forestry	First Aid to Injured.
Physics	Mechanical Drawing.

### **Second Year.**

Forest Measurements (Cruising)	Silviculture.
Utilization (Lumbering)	Forest protection.
Tree diseases	Forest Law.
Forest Entomology	Forest Administration Policy.



Fire prevention, detection and fighting were mission critical for the early rangers

winter. A few patrolmen were kept on to string telephone wire. After some survey jobs, my assignment was to draft a map of the forest reserve, using the data compiled by the rangers. The four lookout tower sites on Muskellunge Hill, Boulder Dam Ridge and those near Rest Lake Dam and Lake Tomahawk had been located, for one of the main purposes of this map was to serve in locating fires by intersecting bearings from two towers. The single-line ground-circuit telephone system connected the ranger stations and lookout towers that were erected in the summer of 1912 to the switchboard at headquarters. The modified windmill towers had a platform and railing, and a canvas roof was added later. The map table was protected by a metal cover, but it was still necessary to climb down from the tower to the telephone instrument in order to report a fire.



The results of a severe forest fire in Vilas County, Wisconsin, September, 1908.

Fire breaks (left) were constructed to stop devastating fires (right)



Fire line by means of which a fire can be prevented from spreading.



Spruce and balsam forest killed by fire. Humus burned to a depth of one foot.



Northern Wisconsin locals embraced both fire protection and new forestry practices benefiting hunting traditions



# Rest Lake Ranger site, cabin and tower featured in the Report of the State Forester of Wisconsin 1911-12



**RANGER CABIN WITH LOOKOUT TOWER.**

By triangulation methods, the location of a fire may be quickly and accurately determined for any point within the forest reserves.



# Rest Lake Ranger Station and tower 1912 operated by Ranger Herman Krueger



# Ranger Fred Wilson meets Rest Lake Ranger Herman W. Krueger

westward cross country following stretches of old logging roads when they went my way and came out at the narrows between Spider and Manitowish Lakes, where the Highway 51 bridge is now located. A call brought a boat from what was then Buckis Resort. After a night in the guide shack, one of the guides rowed me to the north end of Spider Lake the next morning, and walking around Clear Lake I contacted Ranger Krueger. His crew was building a road around the north end of Rest Lake to connect with the old road to Manitowish.

A smoke was beginning to show in the west, so I walked down the Chicago and Northwestern track to the Powell siding and westward, and slept that night in a tent of a settler who had built his cabin where Bear Creek joins the Manitowish to form the North Fork of the Flambeau. After a breakfast at the small sawmill operation called Emerson, I found two small fires near Springstead Lake, which were extinguished with volunteer help. I stayed at a summer resort where the



STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY.		1911-12
Name.	Position.	Com- pen- sa- tion.
Unclassified.		
C. R. Van Hise.....	Chairman of board.....	Expenses
H. L. Russell.....	Member of board.....	Expenses
E. A. Birge.....	Member of board.....	Expenses
George Beyer.....	Member of board.....	Expenses
Exempt.		
E. M. Griffith.....	State forester.....	Per mo. \$300.00
Winnifred Baldwin.....	Stenographer.....	60.00
Competitive.		
F. B. Moody.....	Ass't state forester.....	166.66
Mildred Castle.....	Chief clerk.....	125.00
Anna V. Crane.....	Stenographer.....	75.00
Ellis M. Weaver.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	115.00
Geo. H. Bailey.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	90.00
Albert E. Doolittle.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	90.00
Peter C. Christensen.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	90.00
J. B. Cook.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
Henry Freund.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	90.00
Herman W. Krueger.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
J. H. Krumm.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
Frank J. Long.....	Forest ranger (with pony)..	90.00
John J. McDonald.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
Phillip A. McDonald.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
Fred G. Wilson.....	Forest ranger.....	75.00
W. D. Barnard.....	Forester.....	50.00
Peter Jacobs.....	Cruiser (head).....	6.00
J. Lucius.....	Cruiser.....	5.00
H. A. Johnson.....	Cruiser.....	5.00
C. R. Brooks.....	Cruiser.....	5.00
Neal Harrington.....	Forestry assistant, temp....	50.00
Wakelin McNeel.....	Assdnt. temp., and board.....	40.00
O. L. Sponsler.....	Ass't. temp. and expenses...	100.00
Labor.		
51 laborers - occasional at \$1.15 to \$4.00 per day.....		.....



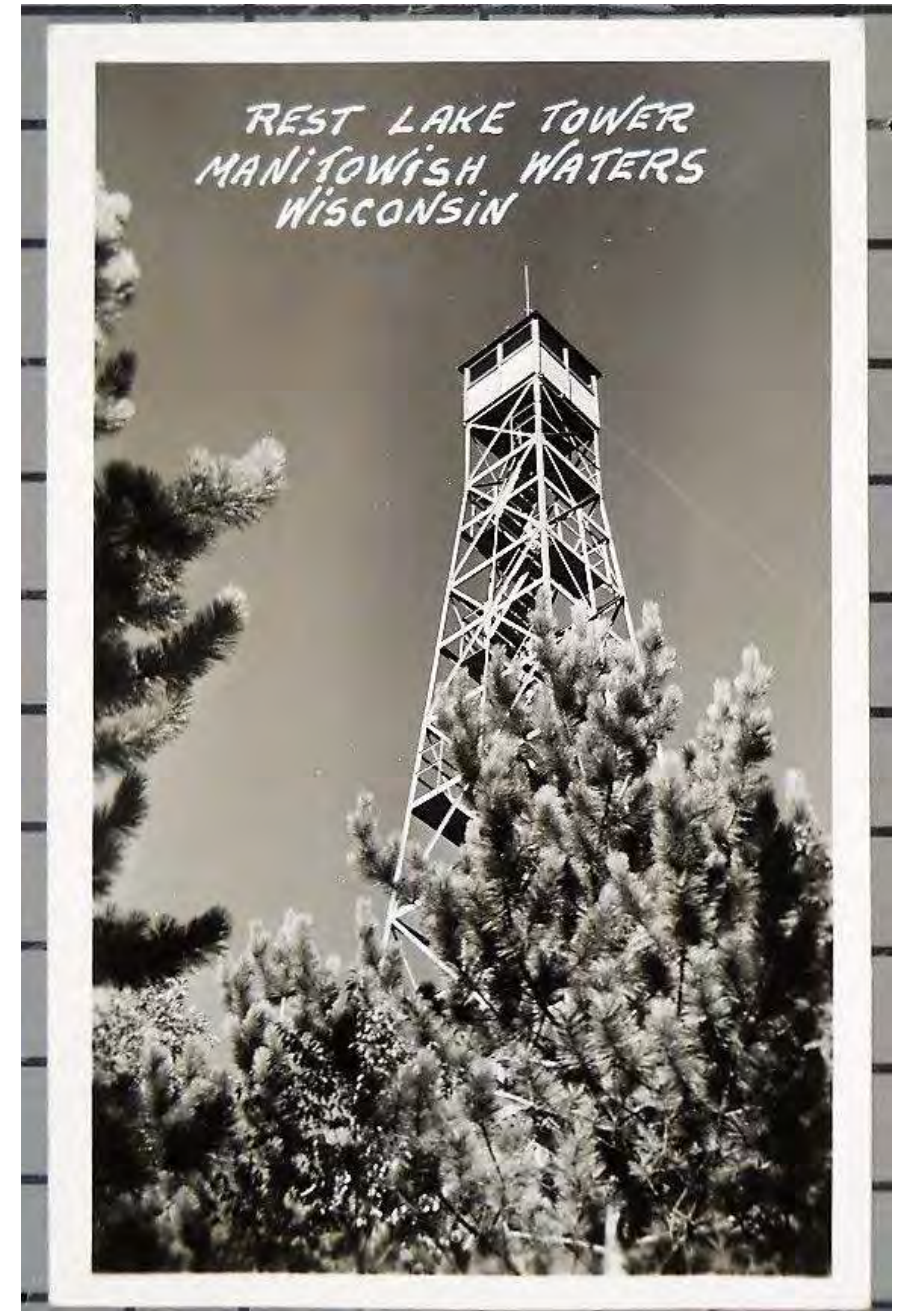
# Rest Lake fire towers featured by the State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin.



Old Rest lake tower.  
New Rest lake stairway tower.

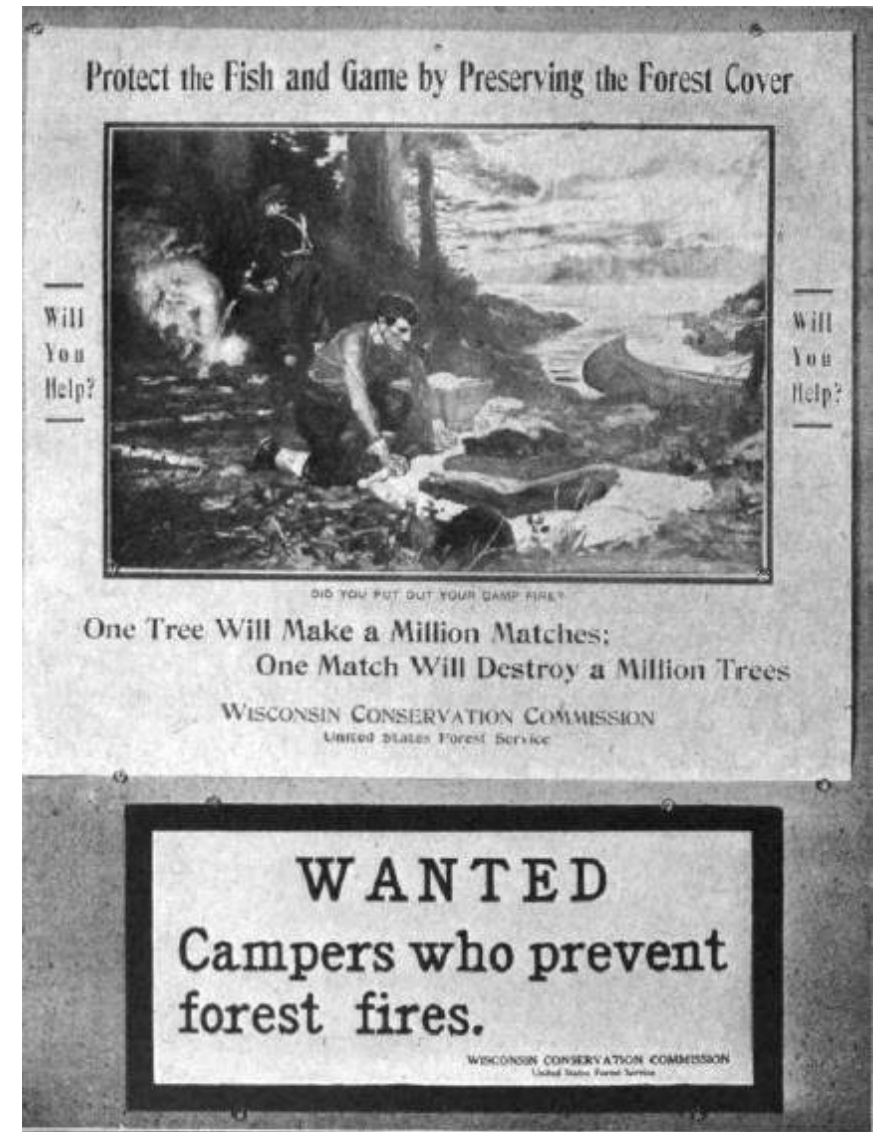


Ranger's view from the fire tower.





Fire towers were part of a multifaceted effort to prevent forest fires



FOREST FIRE PREVENTION PLACARDS DISTRIBUTED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

# Boulder Junction Ranger Station





Rest Lake Ranger Station  
benefited from tree  
planting in 1918



PLANTING CREW AT WORK. TROUT LAKE

## COST OF PLANTING FOR THE STATE

Spring, 1918.

### **Oxley Ranger Station.**

Trees Planted .....	216,100
Total cost of planting .	\$724.95
Cost per acre .....	\$3.35
No. acres planted .....	225

### **Saynor Ranger Station.**

Trees planted .....	251,900
Total cost of planting .	\$1,379.20
Cost per acre .....	\$15.18
No. acres planted .....	252

### **Star Lake Ranger Station.**

Trees planted .....	43,650
Total cost of planting .	\$260.80
Cost per acre .....	\$6.65
No. acres planted .....	43

### **Rest Lake Ranger Station.**

Trees planted .....	7,300
Total cost of planting .	\$31.50
Cost per acre .....	\$4.50
No. acres planted .....	7

Special forest reserves land leases were part of the Rest Lake Ranger Station opening northwoods land use to more families



### SURVEYING LAKE LOTS.

In order that the lake shores within the forest reserves should be platted to the best possible advantage for leasing as camp and cottage sites, it has been necessary to survey them, and one of the forest rangers has devoted most of his time to this work. All lots are of good size, usually with a lake frontage of from 300 to 500 feet, and containing from one acre up to five acres. The lake frontage owned by the state has been surveyed and platted on the following lakes: Tomahawk, Big Trout, Plum, Star and Palmer, and work is progressing on Rest, Clear and Carroll lakes.



### LEASING CAMP AND COTTAGE SITES.

There are nearly 1200 lakes within the state forest reserve area and the fact that this wonderful lake region is being built up as a great forest reserve means not only that the beauty and attractiveness of these lakes will always be preserved, but also



Land leases continued until the 1960's-80's before they were reclaimed by the DNR



A PRIVATE CAMP WITHIN THE FOREST RESERVE AREA.

# 1914-1915 political battles ends the Dept. of Forestry

## STATE FORESTRY LAND PURCHASES HELD INVALID BY SUPREME COURT

CONSTITUTION NOT PROPERLY  
AMENDED, IS DECISION  
WRITTEN BY JUSTICE  
MARSHALL AGAINST  
THE STATE.

"DIVERSION OF TRUST  
FUNDS IS UNLAWFUL";  
ACCOUNTING PROPOSED

E. M. Griffith, State Forester, Says

## FORESTRY LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL SAYS HIGH COURT

*May Upset Other  
Important Laws*

JUDGE SAMUEL HASTINGS NAMED  
REFEREE TO MAKE  
ACCOUNTING.

### POSSIBILITIES.

The opinion expressed in some  
quarters as a sequence of the su-  
preme court decision in the for-  
estry matter is quite as startling,  
if taken to be well-founded, as the  
pronouncement of the court on  
that particular subject.

Lawyers are inclined to the be-  
lief that perhaps the state-aid  
highway system and the bases on  
which rest respectively the state

## QUESTIONS POINTS IN DECISION

CHIEF JUSTICE WINSLOW CON-  
CURS IN JUDGMENT IN FOR-  
ESTRY CASE BUT DIFFERS  
WITH LINE OF REASONING

### CURBS POWERS

JURIST SAYS LITTLE MORE  
THAN SHELL OF REFORESTA-  
TION AND AFFORESTATION  
POLICY REMAINS AFTER DE-  
CISION

## GRIFFITH DRIVEN OUT OF OFFICE BY POLITICS

STATE FORESTER SAYS WORK OF  
DEPARTMENT IS  
RETARDED.

ASSERTS 360,000 ACRES  
OF TREES ARE CONSERVED

Tells Natural History Society, Where,  
of Deal in Which Wisconsin  
Was Swindled Out of  
Timber Land.

"Too much politics, causing the prog-  
ress of the work to be retarded, is the  
reason I gave notice of my resignation  
as state forester," said E. T. Griffith,  
Madison, who spoke before members of  
the Wisconsin Natural History society  
last night in the public museum.

"State Was Swindled."

"Our state is rich in forests," said Mr.  
Griffith. "It is one of the greatest in  
the country. But continual interference  
on the part of politicians has retarded

Milwaukee Free Press, Feb. 26, 1915



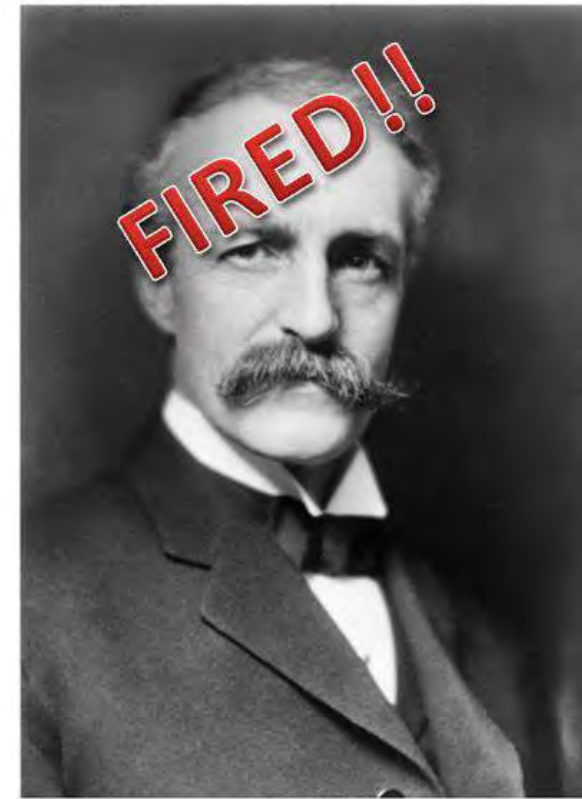
# Wisconsin's forestry conflict mirrored national policy battles



President Taft protects Secretary Ballinger as Roosevelt lurks behind Chief Forester Pinchot



**Richard Ballinger**  
Secretary of the Interior



**Gifford Pinchot**  
head of the forestry division in the  
Department of Agriculture

# Starting in 1924 Wisconsin forestry programs shifted back to Griffith's model & also collaborated with the Federal Government

- 1924 the State Constitution was amended to allow state funds to promote purchase of forest lands up to 500,000 acres & created the Northern Highland State Forest.
- 1925 Wisconsin passed the Enabling Act which authorized the federal government to purchase land under the Federal Weeks Law of 1911.
- The National Forest Reservation Commission would need approval of county boards to ultimately purchase land creating the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forest.
- Ranger Fred Wilson returned to Wisconsin as a crusading forester, later drafting the 1929 Legislative Committee Report on Forestry & Public Lands that outlined how the 1927 Forest Crop Law and county zoning could allow counties to create their own forests.



Fred Wilson was a ranger under Griffith and ultimately published a history of Griffith's accomplishments in 1982

## Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame



Frederick Wilson  
Inducted, 1997



*“As Wisconsin’s ‘Mr. Forestry,’ he attached a destiny to millions of acres of unwanted cutover and tax-delinquent land in the 1930s.”*

By 1929, counties and the Federal government began adding to public lands, ultimately creating 4.76 million acres of new reserves



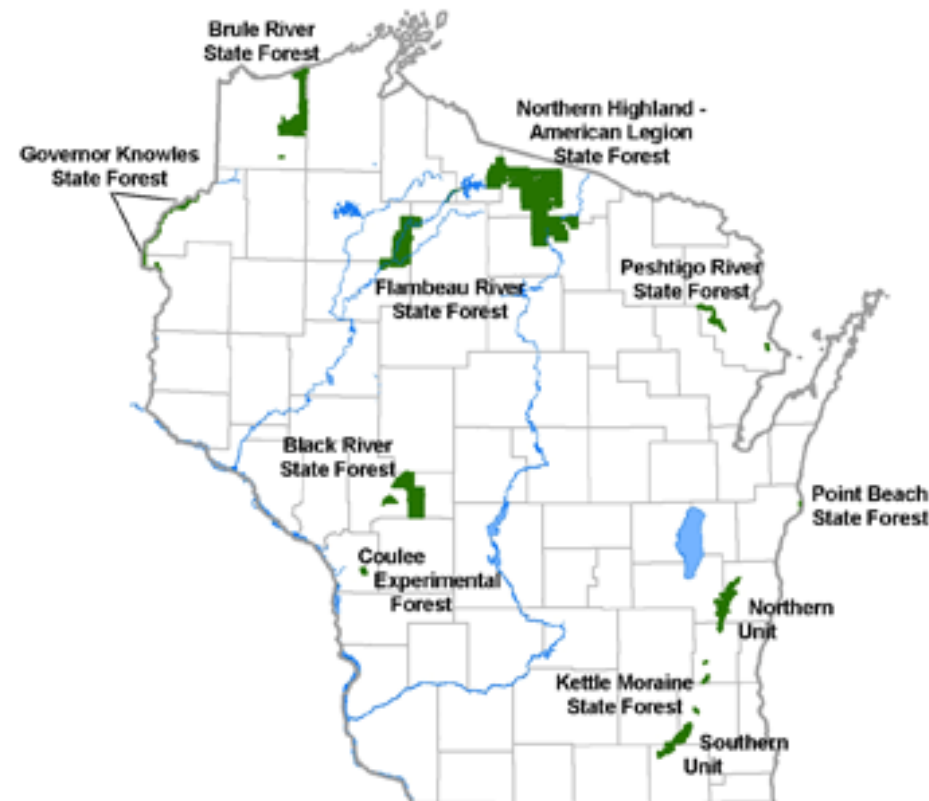
Wisconsin enjoys 2.4 million acres of Federal forests.



There are county forests in 29 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, totaling more than 2.36 million acres.



The Wisconsin public land puzzle. Note how the pieces fit, creating over 5 million acres of public lands in Northern Wisconsin



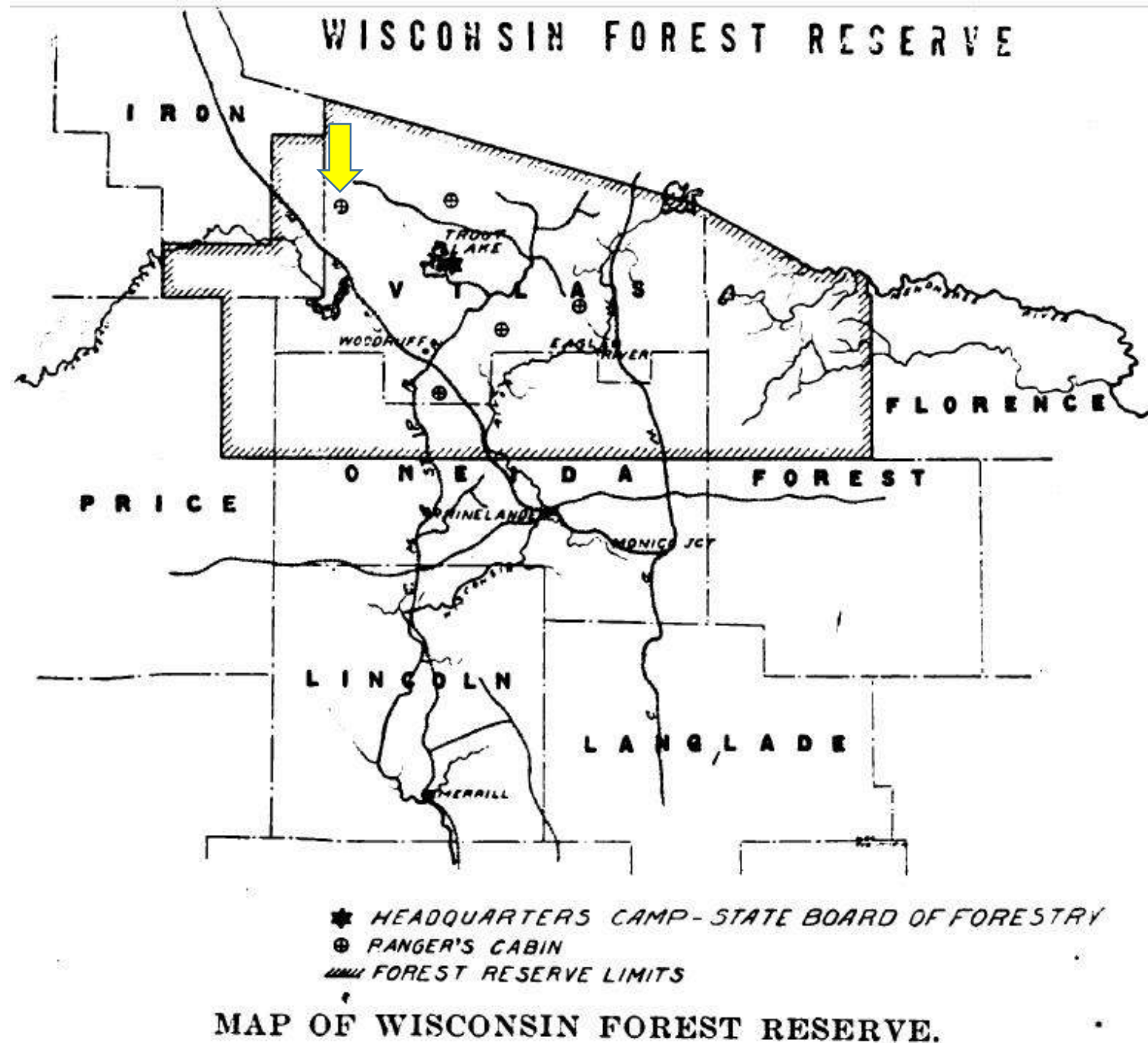
1933 quote from Vilas  
County courthouse  
that affirms the  
impact of Griffith's  
leadership,  
scholarship and vision

Just before noon on November 16, 1933 in the courthouse at Eagle River, Vilas County had also adopted its zoning ordinance, and the chairman announced that unless some member had new business, a motion to adjourn was in order. Whereupon Ole Rimson rose to his full height, and in the soft voice often characteristic of huge men, spoke:

Mr. Chairman: One fact remains to be noted. We have just adopted a land use ordinance; we have our county forest, the first state forest has developed, and the plantation at Star Lake has become an attraction; we have industry forests owned by paper companies, and our recreation resources draw thousands, not only in summer. We have done everything Mr. Griffith advocated: He should have had our support.



Rest Lake Ranger Station was foundational to the creation of Wisconsin public lands

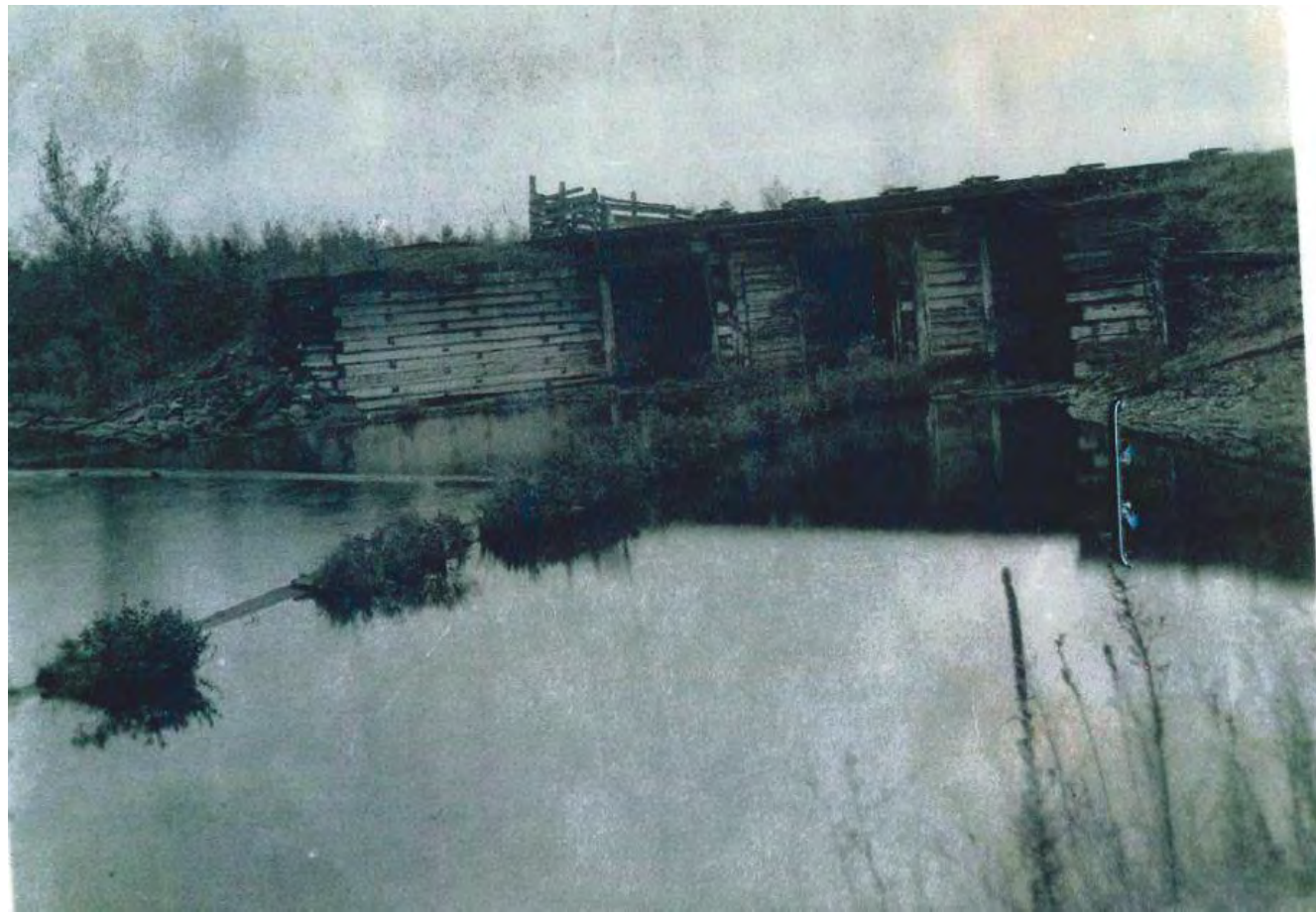


### 3. 1914-1916 court battles regarding Rest Lake Dam operations





1902 article illustrating the impact of radical water level changes on fishing



The water is reported roily at Turtle Lake at the present time, and the muscallunge fishing is not thought to be good there. The Manitowish waters offer very good fishing when the dams leave the lakes and streams in their normal condition.

In 1914, MW residents became environmental activists litigating the Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Co.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS  
OF THE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEING THE REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS  
STATE OFFICERS, DEPARTMENTS  
AND INSTITUTIONS  
For the Fiscal Term Ending June 30, 1914

VOLUME 5



MADISON  
DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTER  
1916

438

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN.

**IN RE DETERMINING THE HIGH WATER MARK TO BE ESTABLISHED ON THE REST LAKE RESERVOIR OPERATED BY THE CHIPPEWA AND FLAMBEAU IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.**

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*Submitted June 19, 1914. Decided Nov. 24, 1914.*

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Complaint was made that the adoption of the high and low water marks suggested by the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co. for its Rest Lake reservoir would result in injury to petitioners' property and to the fish of the lakes involved, and a further hearing was requested. It was alleged that a wide variation



Hearings were held throughout our community

affected. Hearings were therefore held on June 18 and 19, 1914, at George W. Buck's Spider Lake resort, and at numerous other points on the lakes tributary to the dam in question. At these hearings the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company was represented by *W. L. Davis, Guy Waldo* and *C. B. Stewart*, and numerous property holders appeared in their own behalf.





## Grassroots efforts led to a favorable decision for Manitowish Waters' residents

Pursuant to notice, a further hearing was held on May 19, 1915, at Madison, the appearances being as follows: Charles McPherson for the Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Com-P.U.R.1915F.

24

### WISCONSIN RAILROAD COMMISSION.

pany, Charles M. Morris for F. L. Carpenter, Dr. H. E. Fox on his own behalf, and Roy Buck on behalf of the town of Flambeau.

On July 23, 1915, the case was argued orally before the entire Commission by Charles McPherson, George D. Van Dyke, and Charles M. Morris, and briefs were submitted.



The great damage done to the property owners along the lakes is through the variation in levels and the action of ice and frost. When the level is at 10 feet, heavy winds cause especially disastrous effects, as there is no shore at that level to protect the banks, which are mainly of a sandy composition and easily washed away. In places the old shore lines have disappeared, leaving perpendicular embankments 10, 12, and 15 feet high. The gradual disappearance of what are now islands was fully shown by the testimony. It was also testified that a variation

large areas, at time of maximum level, the fish extend over these lands, and when the levels are lowered are either caught there or their spawn is left there and destroyed. In consideration of



After MW residents also won the appeal by Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Co., the Rest Lake Dam dispute was settled by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin

Wisconsin. Supreme Court  
WISCONSIN REPORTS /  
164

CASES DETERMINED  
IN THE  
SUPREME COURT  
OF  
WISCONSIN

SEPTEMBER 22, 1916 — JANUARY 16, 1917

APPEAL from a judgment of the circuit court for Dane county: E. RAY STEVENS, Circuit Judge. *Affirmed.*

The plaintiff is a corporation authorized by ch. 640, Laws 1911, to maintain a system of water reservoirs on the headwaters of the Chippewa and Flambeau rivers. It acquired and owned a dam in the Manitowish river at the outlet of Rest lake, which had been built in 1888. September 10, 1915, the defendant *Commission* made an order requiring that said dam should be maintained and operated so that at no season should the maximum head of water therein exceed eight feet six inches, nor be less than five feet six inches, except when the reservoir was covered with ice, when it might be lowered to a head of two feet six inches.



# The ownership of the dam was clarified

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Chippewa & F. Imp. Co. v. Railroad Comm. 164 Wis. 105.

---

lake dam was constructed in 1888 and was capable of retaining a sixteen-foot head of water. The water area affected by the dam is about eight square miles and includes a number of connected lakes. The dam was built by the Chippewa River Improvement and Log Driving Company under a legislative charter granted by ch. 449, Laws 1887, to Charles H. Henry, and by him assigned to said company. By this act Henry and his assigns were authorized to improve the Flambeau river "for log-driving purposes" by building and maintaining dams and other structures, including a dam at the place in question, the same to be operated for the use and benefit of all persons desiring to navigate the stream with sawlogs. They



# Early dam operations were quantified

The dam was used for log-driving purposes until the year 1904, although few logs were driven after the year 1897; then the driving of logs ceased entirely on the river and the dam necessarily ceased to be used for such purposes.

During the log-driving years a head of about sixteen feet of water was obtained about the middle of April, when the driving would begin, and the drives would be finished about July 1st, when the water would be drawn down to about the natural level, where it would remain for a period of one to four months. In 1901 the dam began to be used for reservoir purposes to some extent and was so used until it was sold to the plaintiff in 1912. During these three years the maxi-



# Environmental damage from dam operations proved to be substantial

shore line several feet at a time. During the year the water level has been maintained as high as ten feet. At this level there is no shore line, and the disastrous effects upon shore property are only too plainly visible. When the banks give away, large trees fall into the water. → In one instance, thirty large green timber trees were counted lying in the lake where the shore had been taken away this year. ←

“The great damage done to the property owners along the lakes is through the variation in levels and the action of ice and frost. When the level is at ten feet heavy winds cause especially disastrous effects, as there is no shore at that level to protect the banks, which are mainly of a sandy composition and easily washed away. In places the old shore lines have









The community of Manitowish Waters prevailed with an operating order similar to today's practices

122 SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN. [OCT.

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Chippewa & F. Imp. Co. v. Railroad Comm. 164 Wis. 105.

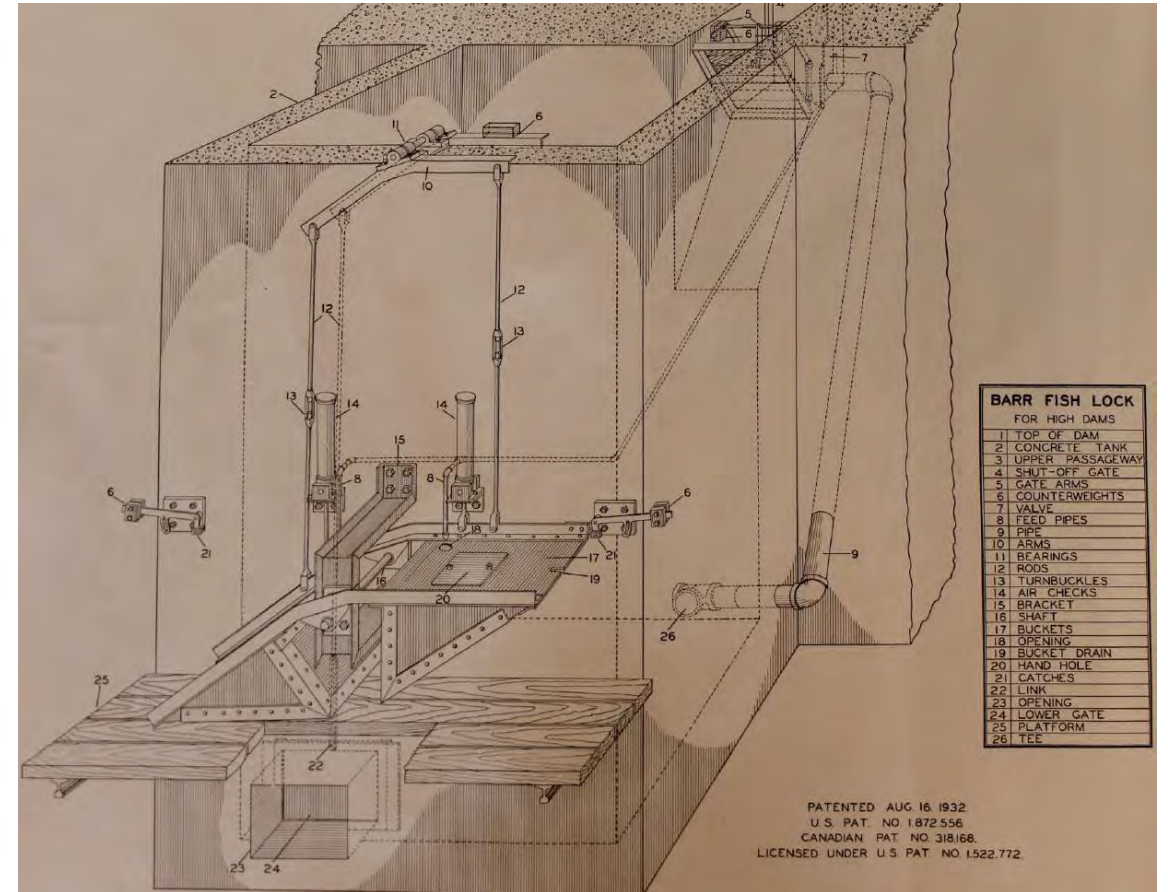
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voir area; and when it is held that no prescriptive rights were obtained by the plaintiff when it purchased the dam which can interfere with the order, it seems that all questions as to the supposed taking of property without due process of law disappear. As already indicated, there is in our judgment no invasion of legislative or judicial power in the making of the order, and we are unable to say that the order is in any way unreasonable.

*By the Court.*—Judgment affirmed.



## 4. Depression era, Rest Lake Fish Hatchery, Fishway and fish management



Manitowish Waters participated in 2 years of rough fish removal

**ROUGH FISHING OPERATIONS JANUARY, 1929, TO  
DECEMBER, 1929**

**Removal of Rough Fish From Northern Waters**

		No. of Suckers
April to May.....	Franklin Lake.....	16,288
April to May.....	Big St. Germaine Lake.....	10,937
April to May.....	Pelican Lake.....	15,514
April to May.....	Forest Lake.....	147,000
April to May.....	Butternut Lake.....	9,513
April to May.....	Twin Lake.....	4,300
April to May.....	Rest Lake.....	8,236
April to May.....	Stone Lake.....	5,014
April to May.....	Found Lake.....	3,719
April to May.....	Lac Vieux Desert.....	2,700
April to May.....	Shawano Lake.....	1,076
Sept. 21 to Oct. 12.....	Flowage at Mercer.....	1,916
		226,213

**226,213 suckers at 3 lbs. per fish—678,639 lbs.**



In 1930 an estimated 21 tons of suckers were removed from Rest Lake

# **ROUGH FISHING OPERATIONS JANUARY, 1930, TO NOVEMBER, 1930**

## **Removal of Rough Fish From Northern Waters**

		No. of Carp	No. of Suckers	No. of Garfish
April and May-----	Pelican Lake-----		11,975	
	Big St. Germaine Lake-----		23,525	
	Butternut Lake-----		16,863	
	Stella and Found Lakes-----		11,795	
	Plum Lake-----		1,756	
	Metonga Lake-----		56,290	
	Madeline and Arbor Vitae Lakes-----		851	
	Forest Lake-----		24,495	
	Pine Lake-----		14,675	
	Rusk Lake-----		31,006	
	Lost Lake-----		22,450	
	Lake of the Falls-----		62,255	
	Tomahawk Lake-----		11,220	
	Franklin Lake-----		6,120	
	Lac Vieux Desert-----		6,500	
April 20—30-----	Rest Lake-----		14,456	
April 20—28-----	Weber's Pond-----		9	
May 30—June 24-----	Long Lake near New Auburn-----			785
October 4-----	Crystal Lake-----	2,000	3	
November 15-----	Brueckbauer's Pond-----	1,250		
		3,250	316,244	785

320,279 fish at 3 lb. per fish—960,837 lbs.

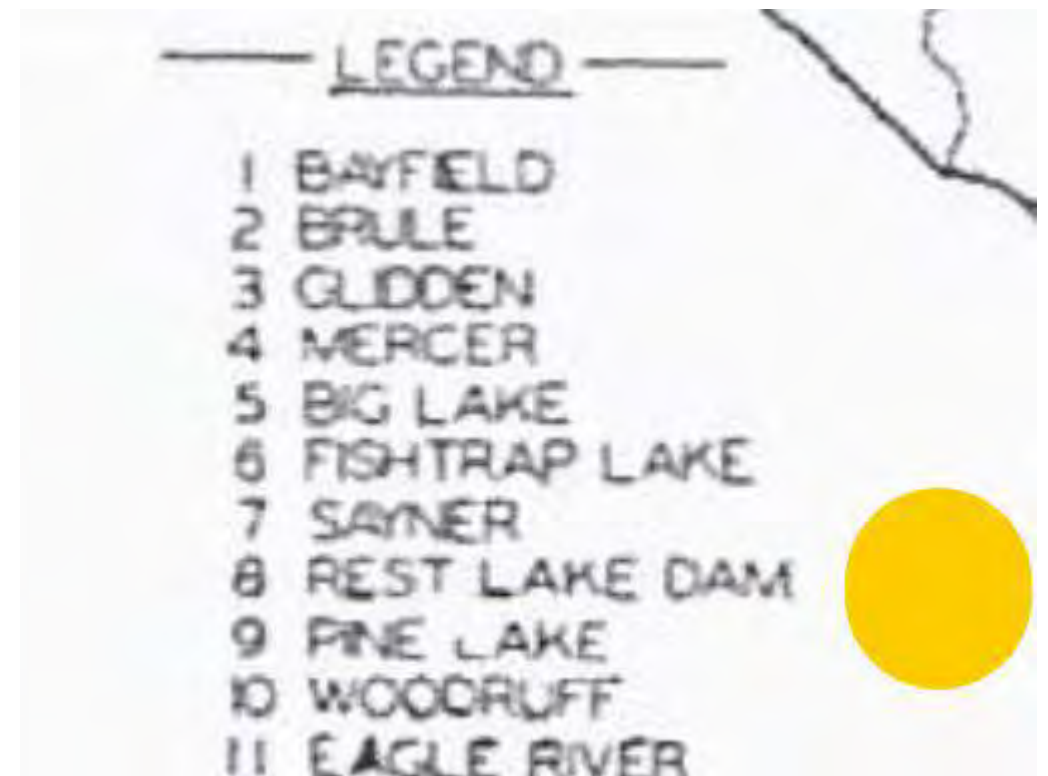
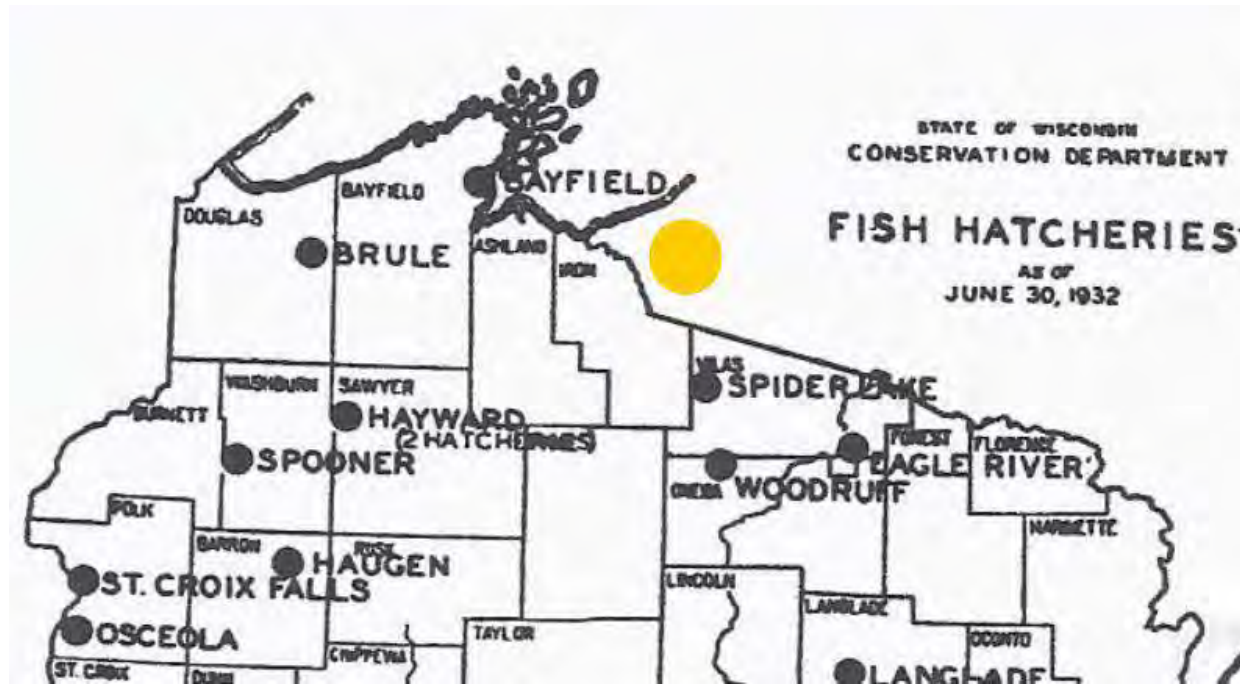
The Depression caused the state to shift fish hatchery operations

Note 1929 Fish Hatcheries in Northern Wisconsin



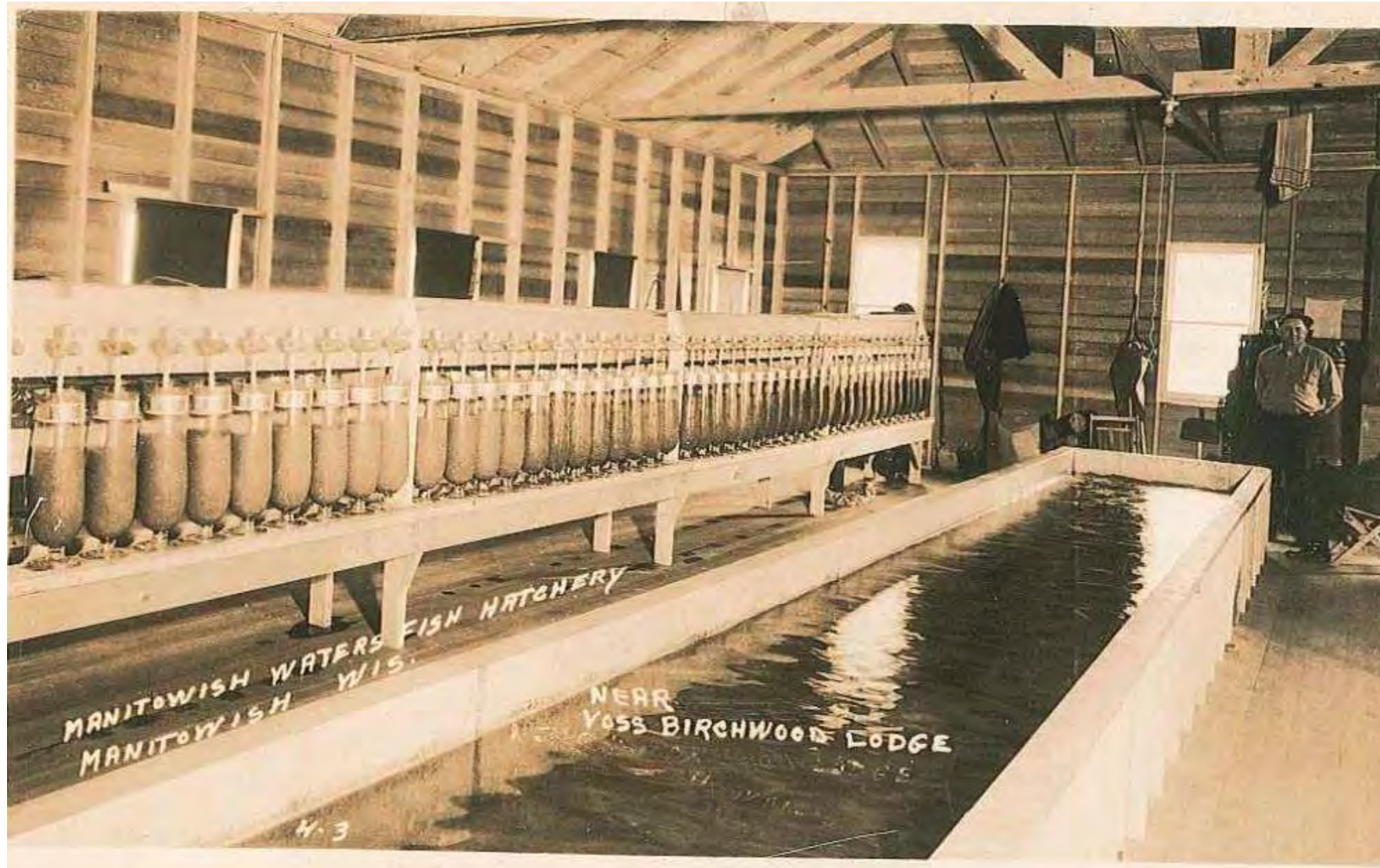


In 1932 Spider or Rest Lake Fish Hatchery led the way for municipal hatcheries. By 1936, over a half dozen new hatcheries followed the MW model.





Operating below the Rest Lake Dam the MW fish hatchery proved to be a solution in sustaining key resources





The fish hatchery became a powerful symbol of local achievements and pride





Community members used fyke nets to safely capture fish to harvest the fish eggs and milt to hatch fry





The spawning fish were safely released



# Mercer Hatchery on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage followed the example of Manitowish Waters





One of the greatest challenges for fishery management were dams blocking fish migrations

### **Fishways**

The obstruction of water courses by dams is one of the two or three greatest reasons for the lack of efficient natural propagation of fish. Nature tells fish to go upstream to spawn. Even at the best, a very small percentage of the tremendous number of eggs laid, hatch and develop into fish. When fish are obstructed in their normal spawning activities there is practically no reproduction.

Until 1931, there had never been a successful fishway which would permit access of lake species of fish, muskellunge, pike, pickerel, bass, and others of these types, to get over or through dams in their annual journey upstream. The Wisconsin Conservation Department has been



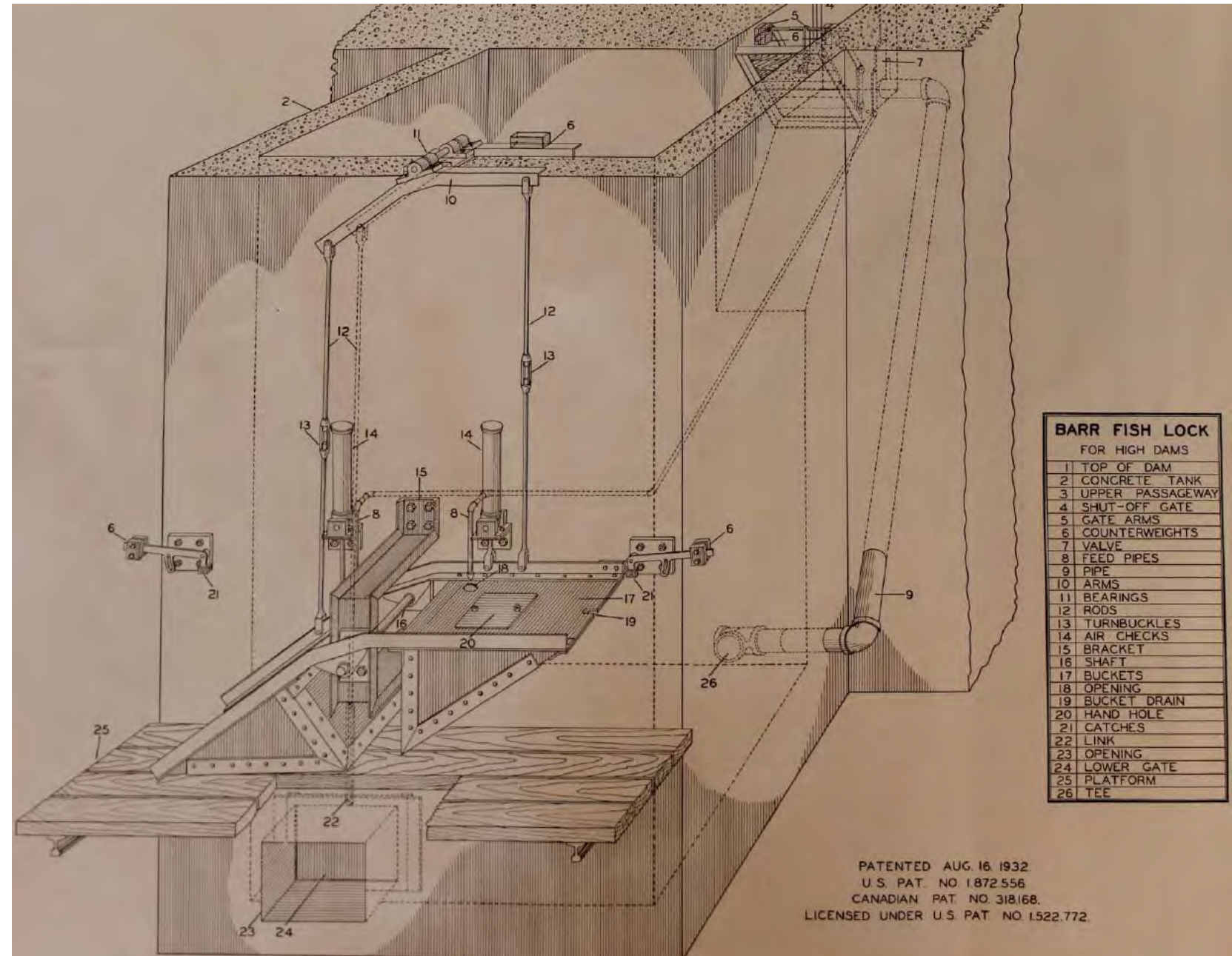
## Rest Lake Fishway becomes a state model

Several factors were against the success of the fishway in its first operation. It could not be placed at the point in the dam where all fishways should be placed, i. e. at the point furthest upstream and immediately below the dam. The dam was located immediately below a principal state trunk highway and the large numbers of people who were attracted by the unusual experiment tended to keep the fish from entering the fishway. Construction delays postponed the completion of the fishway until after the normal migration season.

Despite all these factors, however, the fishway proved successful in its first year of operation. The conservation department upon the basis of this successful experiment, recommended the introduction of fishways in other dams in the state.



The Barr Fish Lock was worked as an elevator to move fish from Vance lake to Rest lake. David & Michael Dunn suggest that Barr was from South Turtle Lake.



1937 air photos of the Rest Lake Dam clearly illustrate the fishlock or fishway. The red arrow illustrates the downstream fishway entrance, while the yellow arrow indicates where fish exited the fishway into Rest Lake.





Community families gathered in their Sunday best to observe the fish coming from Fyke nets in the elevator, proving the “success” of the fishway.



1931 & 1932  
fishway data was  
reported by the  
Conservation  
Commission of  
Wisconsin and  
was declared a  
successful model  
for the entire  
state

## REPORT OF FISHWAY AT REST LAKE DAM—1931

Date	Pike	Bass	Suckers	Lawyers	Muskies	Sunfish
May 19	33	21	63	3		
20	14	13	32			
21	14	7	33			
22	13	8	32	1		
23	9	1	8	1		
24	4	1		1		
25	9	11	28		4	
26	26	3	28		3	
27	29	12	40		3	
28	16	10	20			
29	17	10	5		3	
30	16	10	16			
31	16	11	7		1	
June 1	21	11	8			
2	14	7	10		1	
3	Trap sprung a leak		6			
4	11	7	16		4	
5	11	7	16		5	
6	15		8		2	
7	9		6			
8	10	1	2			
9	10		2		4	
10	2		6		1	
11	6		6			
12	10	1	28			8
13	23		25			
14	11		26		1	
15	9		20			
16	8		18			
17	8	14	22			
18	5	1	21			11
Total	399	173	552	6	32	19
Grand total						1,181



Modern scholars note that the fishway was later abandoned and question the success of the project. Data table averages from 1931-32 illustrate that over 50% of the fish moved up stream were suckers or rough fish.

# REPORT OF FISHWAY AT REST LAKE DAM—1932

Date	Pike	Suck-ers	Perch	Musk-ie	Law-yer	Cis-cos	Rock-bass	Blue-gill	Crap-pie
April 21	6					1			
22	3					2			
23		1				1			
24	2				1				
25	3				1				
26	3								
27	4				1	1			
28	1								
29	5					1			
30	25				2				
May 1	54		5					1	
2	51	2	1					1	
3	24	2	3						
4	14	4	2						
5	10	18	5	1					
6	9	3	15						
7	4	18	4						
8	13	11	1		1				
9	10	18	6						
10	3	6	2						
11	6	17	4				1		
12	17	6	3		1				1
13	9	28			1				
14	11	50	3	1	1		3		
15	15	111	3				3		
16	17	101	5	1			5		
17	14	113	4				2		
18	23	163					1		1
19	20	130	1						
20	18	133			1				
21	22	309			2				
22	19	70					10		
23	13	40					5		
24	26	19		1	1		8		1
25	9	4					7		
26	7	4					4		
27	16	4					4		
28	8	1							
29	13	8							4
30	16	4					5		
31	7						1		
Totals	550	1,398	67	4	13	6	59	2	7

Totals all kinds ..... 2,106

MW historians  
Michael and David  
Dunn contend the Barr  
Fish Lock was a failure  
and shut down.  
Ultimately being  
scrapped and moved  
to the town dump.

The purpose of the BARR FISH LOCK was to raise fish up from the water below the Rest Lake Dam to the level of the lake above, apparently in this case to compensate for the loss of fish that might be lost over the dam, reducing fish from the chain.

It was probably installed as an integral part of the "new" concrete dam built in the 1920s, or was installed as a related installation if it was installed later. It was installed on the downstream side of the dam, and on the same side of the river as the town's fish hatchery. It was a rectangular concrete structure with walls about six inches thick, and some of the machinery was visible from above.

Fish were supposed to enter from below and then lifted above by some mechanism.

At least in the Manitowish chain installation, the lock was a failure and was shut down and partially dismantled. When the highway bridge was widened in the 1980s, the concrete part of the lock was broken up and the rubble taken to the dump.

The lock had had a cast metal plate explaining its name and builder, and that was not removed by the demolition crews and went to the dump amid the rubble and was lost.

I believe that Mr. Barr was the father of Mrs. (Lorene?) Trutt who lived and had a resort on South Turtle Lake and it was she who gave me the diagram for the lock as submitted with a patent application, most probably or given to the lock builders.

I had the diagram till 2017.

Michael Dunn

May, 2017

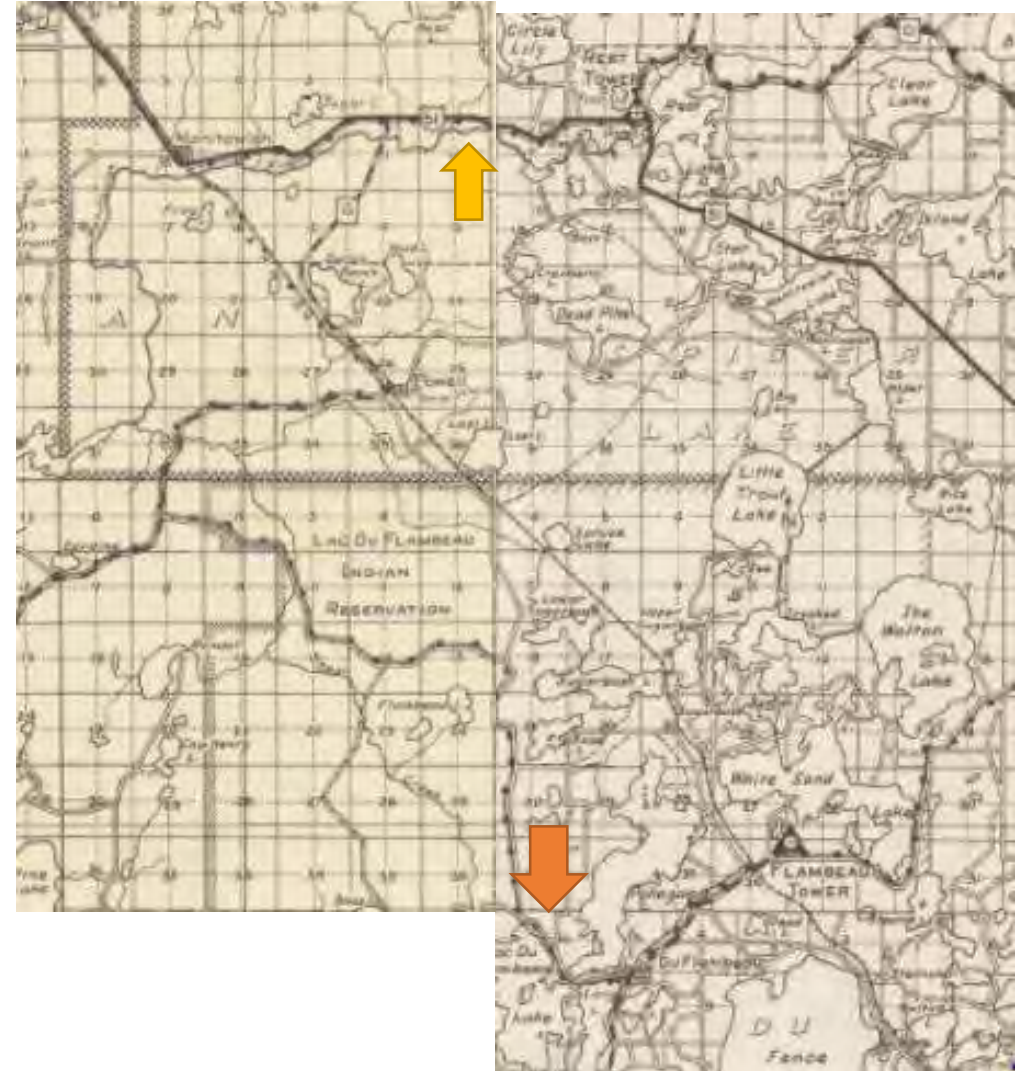
Gift of Michael and David Dunn

It's hard to tell whether the diagram dated 1932 (the patent date) was a reproduction of the patent diagram or was drawn describing the Rest Lake lock after it was built in order to advertise it.



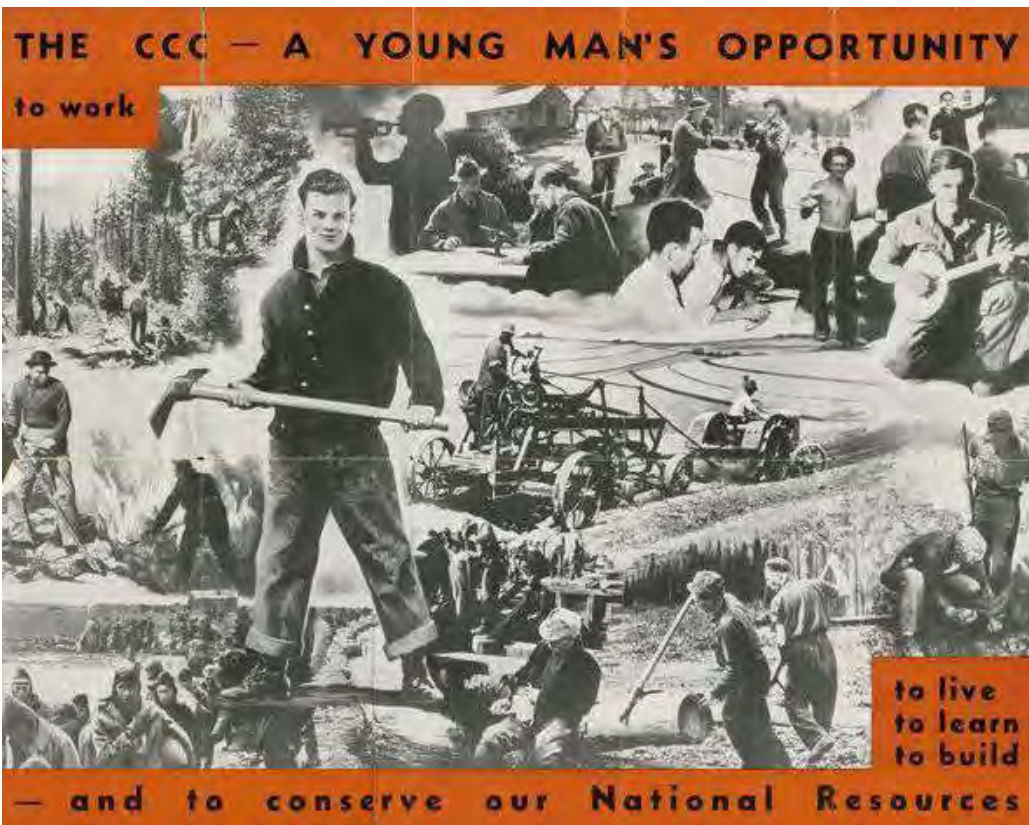
## 5. During the Depression CCC Camps offered hope to families and environmental revitalization

In the 1930's and 40's CCC Camps were segregated. Manitowish Waters proximity to both an Indian Division CCC Camp in Lac Du Flambeau and a white CCC Camp along the Manitowish River illustrates the regional diversity of environmental stewardship.





The Manitowish River CCC or Camp Mercer gave young men from ages 18-24 room, board, education and important work







**Co. 660**  
**CAMP MERCER-S-79**  
**Manitowish, Wis.**





Co. 660<sup>th</sup>, one of the early CCC Camps enjoyed a remote and beautiful setting to construct a sprawling campus



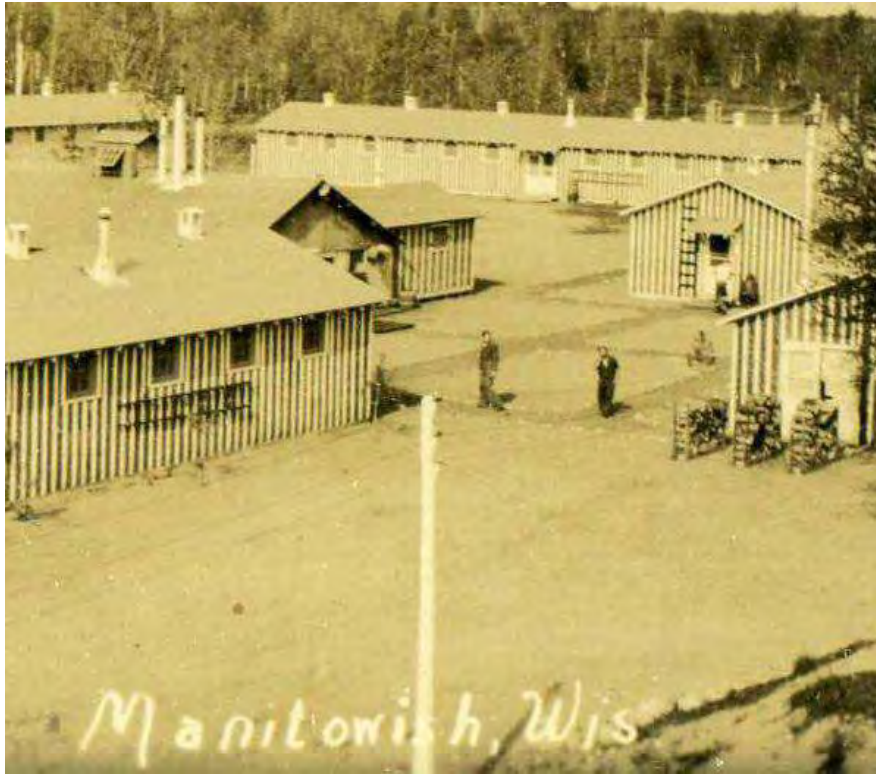


# Manitowish Water's residents supported and frequented U.S. CCC Co.660





CCC Camps tended to be located in remote areas near a railroad depot in rural America

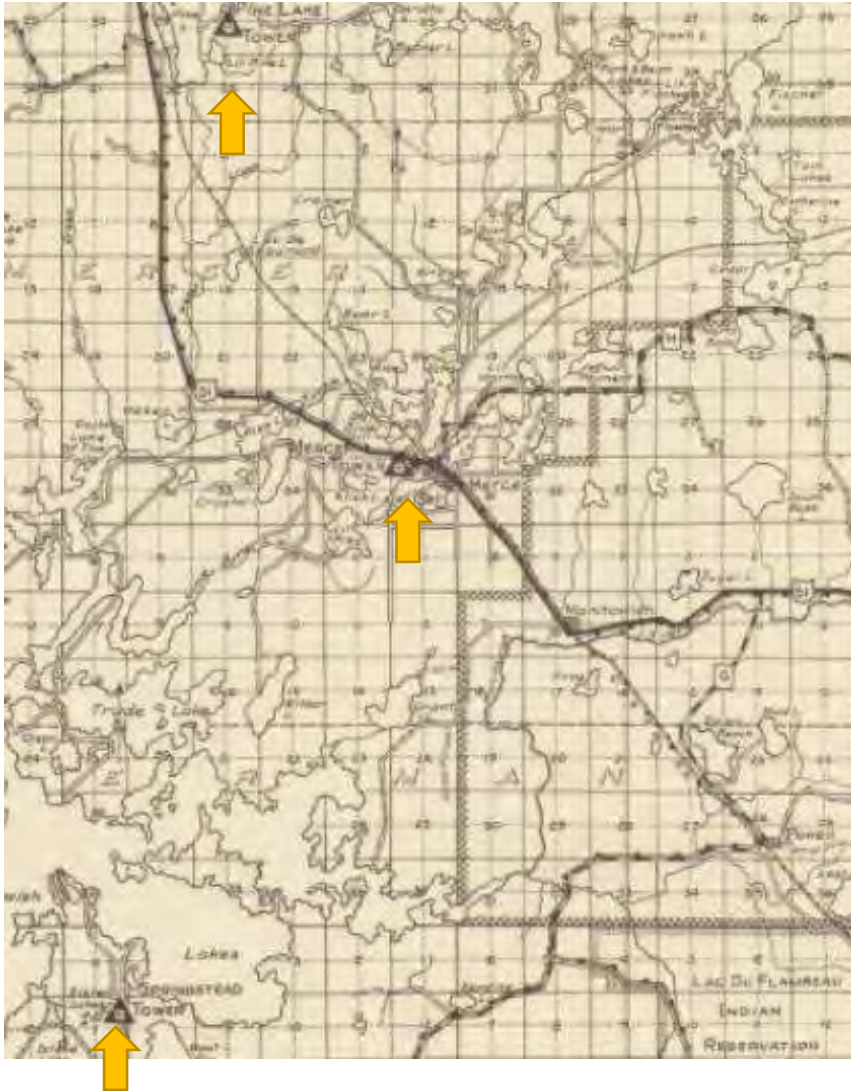




A distant dynamite shack is the only remaining structure from Co. 660



Building Depression era fire towers were part of the CCC accomplishments



## FORESTRY PROJECTS

Camp Mercer, being situated on the banks of the beautiful Manitowish in the heart of the lake and forest regions, necessarily was assigned many and varied work projects.

The work project set-up at the start of the camp program consisted of: Thirty-six miles of telephone line construction; seventy miles of telephone line maintenance, 5,000 acres of fire hazard reduction, twelve miles of roadside clean-up, fifty-one miles of stream improvement; sixty-two miles of fire lane construction; and thirty-three miles of fire lake maintenance.

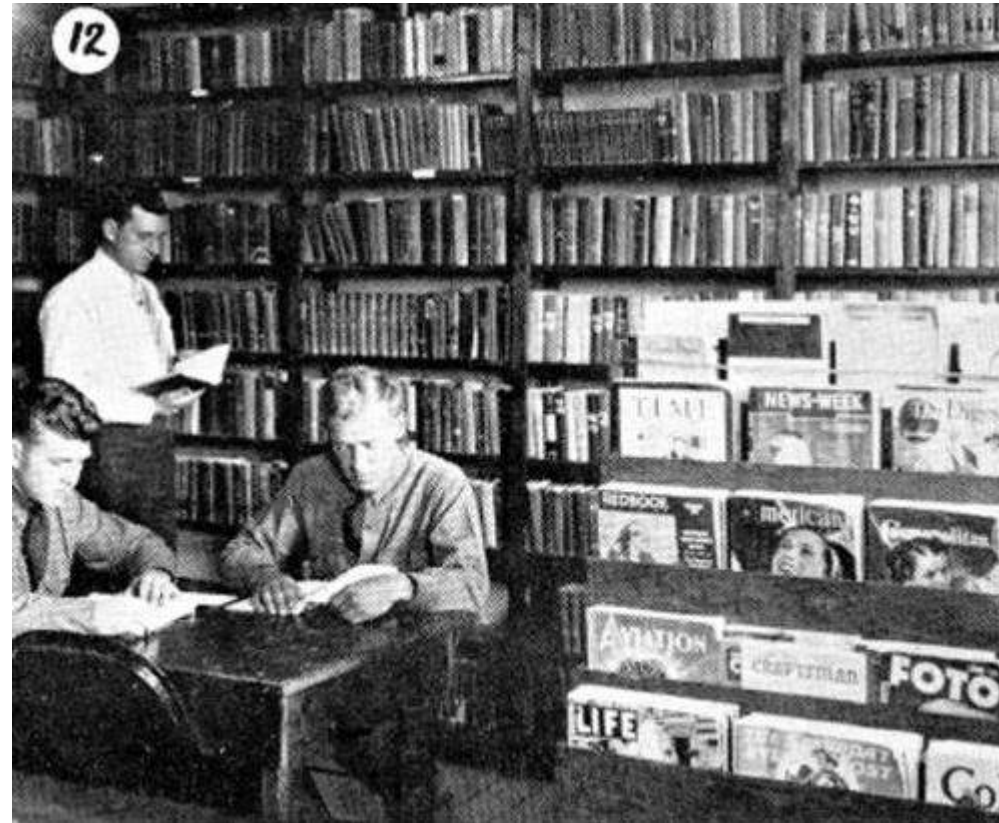
This camp has completed the following work during the period June 20, 1933, to May 14, 1937: Forty-six miles of fire lane construction; five fire lookout towers constructed; one million trees planted: Norway, White, and Jack Pine, lake improvement of twenty-one lakes; transplanting of fish, fire suppression, fire pre-suppression, and fire prevention all season.



Construction was an important duty of the Co. 660 CCC



Few understand that education was delivered at CCC Camps both in the field and by coursework supported by libraries





In Wisconsin, 6 bands of Ojibwa and 1 band of Ho Chunk participated in CCC-Indian Division projects



# THE CCC INDIAN DIVISION

*Aid for depressed Americans, 1933-1942*

Lac Du Flambeau CCC-Indian Division(CCC-ID) Camp operated differently than traditional CCC Camps, expanding the age range of participants and allowing tribal direction of projects





# Tribal leadership and other agencies targeted projects that fit community needs

<i>Physical Improvement</i>	<i>Development of Natural Resources</i>
bridge maintenance and construction	fish hatchery
fire tower maintenance	lake development
water supply systems	seeding wild rice lakes
trail maintenance and construction	forest planting
minor road maintenance and graveling	forest stand improvement
hazard reduction	white pine blister rust control
telephone installation	fire fighting
ditch drainage	fire prevention
dam construction and maintenance	firebreak construction and maintenance
garage, cabin, warehouse, CCC-ID camp building construction	public camp ground and picnic ground development
razing undesirable structures	stream development
restoration of historic structures	wildlife preservation
signs, markers, monuments— construction and maintenance	map making and miscellaneous surveys

The LDF CCC-ID Camp was featured in a government film promoting program success. <https://youtu.be/JbKIPSdjlh0>





The Office of Indian Affairs selected the LDF CCC-ID as an exemplar operation, illustrating the strength of the CCC-ID program



Importantly families benefited dramatically, and LDF CCC-ID engagement and earnings were the highest

In more personal terms, employment data from four reservations suggests how many Chippewa families must have benefited from opportunities afforded by the CCC-ID:<sup>18</sup>

<i>Reservation</i>	<i>Average Number of Men Employed per Month in 1937</i>	<i>Average Number of Families Benefited</i>	<i>Total Money Spent on Indian Labor up to March 31, 1937</i>
Bad River	43	40	\$ 82,211
Lac Court Oreilles	44	40	\$105,000
Lac du Flambeau	83	75	\$178,324
Keweenaw Bay	35	30	\$ 43,350



Fire tower construction and fire prevention were one of the many projects completed by the LDF CC-ID



## 6. Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps





Governor Gaylord Nelson created Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps in 1961 as part of his environmental leadership



Statehouse Lake Wisconsin Youth Conservation Camp was one of original three state camps which opened in 1961.



Cleaning cabins at Statehouse Lake Camp.



As testament to the success of Wisconsin's YCC program, in the 1970s the federal government established its own youth conservation program, modeled on Wisconsin's program. The Youth Conservation Corps proved so successful that Congress expanded it and made it a permanent national endeavor on September 3, 1974.

## Youth Conservation Corps

### ***Work, Learn, Play, and Grow***

**We need you! Get paid to accomplish needed conservation work on public lands. Work on historic structures, restore native species, disappearing trails, and the eradication of invasive species.**





“Robert Brismaster, Statehouse Lakes Camp Director for many years, stressed that the original intent was to get work done in an outdoor atmosphere.”



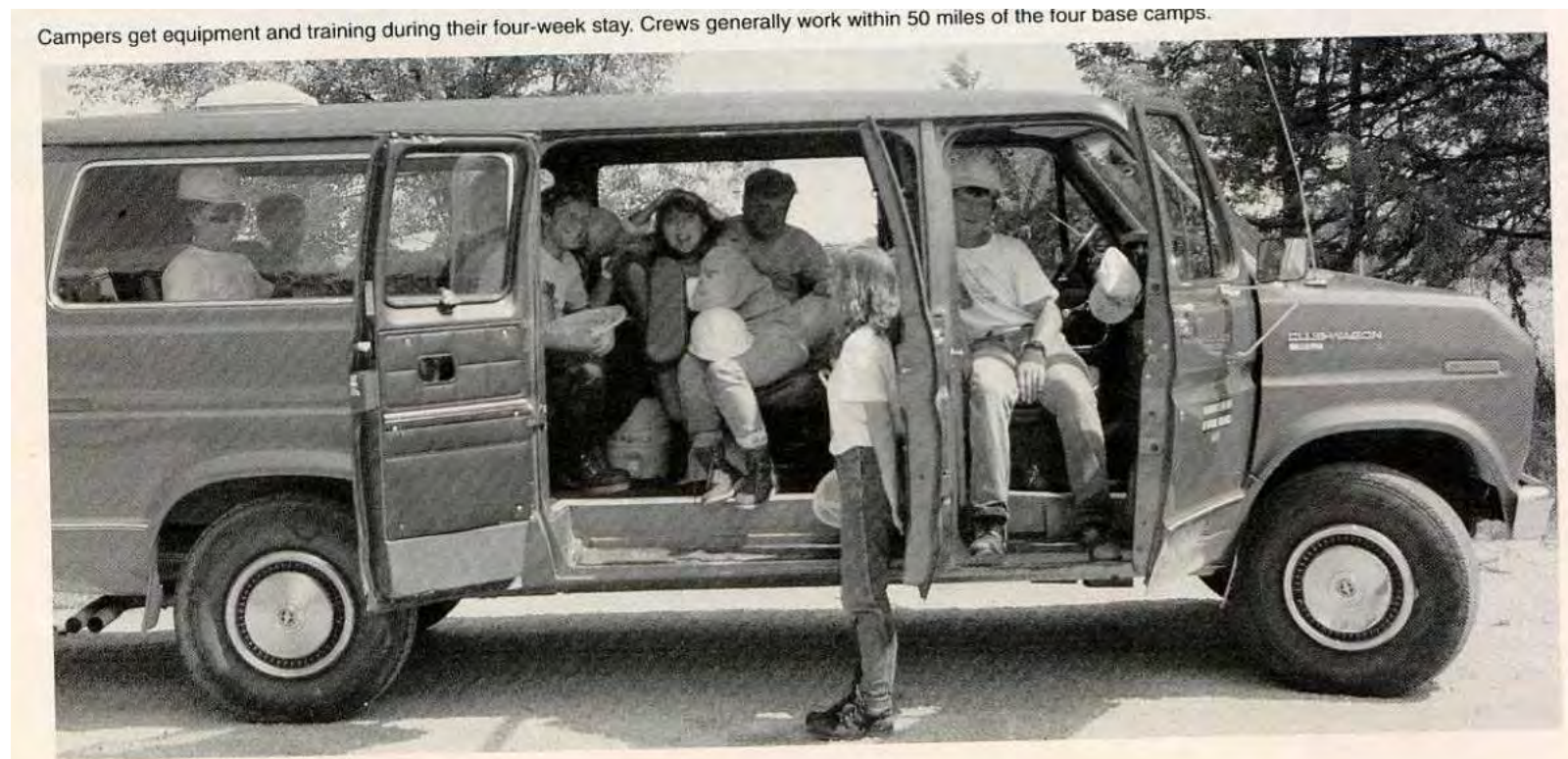


Youth ages 15-18 worked at least 32 hours per week and enjoyed room, board and recreation at Statehouse Lake






The simple truth of the matter," said DNR's last YCC Chief, Ray Hendrikse, "is that without the assistance of the youth camps, development, restoration and maintenance of state parks, wildlife areas, forests, streams and lakes would be severely reduced.





# The legacy of YCC continues in Wisconsin and the nations

## 2018 Conservation Camps

- **WI Land+Water Youth Conservation Camp** will held June 18-22, 2018 for students entering grades 9-12 for the 2018/2019 school year. Camp will be held at North Lakeland Discovery Center, 215 County Hwy. W, Manitowish Waters, WI. For more information contact: Kim Warkentin at [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org), 608-441-2677.  [Click here to view the](#)



### Joining the Youth Conservation Corps



DURATION: 2 minutes, 8 seconds