

---

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE**

### **Men Wanted!**

**A Ranger must be able to take care of himself and his horses under very trying conditions; build trails and cabins; ride all day and night; pack, shoot, and fight fire without losing his head. All this requires a very vigorous constitution. It means the hardest kind of physical work from beginning to end. It is not a job for those seeking health or light outdoor work....**

### **INVALIDS**

**NEED NOT APPLY!**

**U.S. Forest Service**

**Department of Agriculture**

This is an ad which beckoned able-bodied men to apply for jobs with the Forest Service in the early years. During its formative stages the Forest Service hired exclusively men for field positions, while women were hired only for office employment.

In 1913 the Forest Service hired its first woman field officer. Miss Hallie Daggett was hired as the fire lookout at Eddy Gulch in the Kalmath National Forest in California. By 1918 two more female lookouts were hired. As late as 1930, however, women were generally not hired for field or professional forester positions. In 1930 the national forests in California hired their first female junior forester. The following excerpt was taken from "The Forest Rangers' Catechism", a 1931 publication from the national forests in California:

"Can a woman become a forest ranger?"

"No. Women are not appointed by the Forest Service as mem-

bers of the field force even if they pass the civil service examination."

In 1934, the Washington Office of the Forest Service hired Miss Alice Goen Jones as a junior forester. She was, however, an office employee. Prior to World War II, only 13 women had been hired as professional foresters.

The nation's effort to deal with unemployment during the Great Depression became a barrier to hiring women within the Forest Service. Men were considered the primary providers for families, and the make-work programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were specifically for men. The many CCC projects which took place on National Forest lands were administered by the Forest Service. This condition persisted until 1942.

Women's roles in traditionally male jobs set a precedent during the two World Wars. New generations of women began to make inroads into field officer positions within the Forest Service. In the 1960s and 1970s modern politically active feminism began in association with the civil rights movement. Economic conditions, which forced many married women into the job market to supplement family income, and changing social conditions increased the numbers of single and married women in the workforce.

In 1961 the Forest Service hired its first special agents for arson investigations. It was soon evident that special agents were needed in other areas as well. In January 1978 Janet Arling was hired as the first woman special agent in the Forest Service. When she first reported to the Boise National Forest in Idaho, she felt she had to show Forest Service administrators that she could perform the law enforcement job as well as her male counterparts.

After working through these perceptions, Arling felt she became an accepted part of the program. She reported positive acceptance by the public and by other law enforcement personnel in the Forest Service. Arling is still employed with the Forest Service at the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah.

In May 1991, Joan Kushner became the first woman hired as a Regional Special Agent in the Forest Service, when she was hired to fill the Regional Special Agent position in the San Francisco Region. Joan is responsible for the management of the law enforcement program in this large region.

As of September 1, 1991, thirty-five (21%) of the Forest Service's 168 special agents are women. Sixty-two (11%) of its 575 law enforcement officers are women. Women special agents and/or law enforcement officers can be found in each of the ten regions of the Forest Service and in its Washington, DC, office.

---

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

The Office of Inspector General has statutory authority, as set forth in the Inspector General Act of 1978, for conducting investigations of U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) programs and operations. This includes the detection and investigation of fraud and employee misconduct as related to USDA programs. Special agents (1811s) enforce federal laws, conduct criminal investigations, and provide security for the Secretary of Agriculture. OIG special agents have statutory law enforcement authority to execute federal arrest, search, or seizure warrants, and carry firearms.