

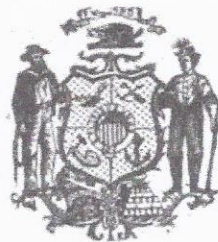
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REPORT

OF THE

★ STATE FORESTER

OF WISCONSIN

For 1911 and 1912



MADISON

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1913

STATE FOREST RESERVES.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP AND RANGER CABINS.

During the summer of 1911 a large Headquarters camp was built on Big Trout lake in Vilas county, and this is the headquarters of all the forestry work on the reserve, and also the location of the main forest nursery, which now contains some 2,500,000 young trees.

The main building is a large double house, made from peeled Norway pine logs cut near the site of the nursery. Norway pine logs were also used in the construction of the barn, boat-house, and the wood and ice house at the Camp. Views of all these buildings are shown in this report, and as will be noticed they are handsome, substantial buildings, which are very appropriate to their surroundings, and as the main forestry buildings on the reserve.

Four ranger cabins with barns, wood and ice houses and small bunk houses for laborers have been built at the following points:

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.

During the winter of 1912-13 a ranger cabin is being built at Star lake in T. 41, R. 8 E., and one will probably be started at Carroll lake in T. 39, R. 7 E., and one will also be either built or purchased at Arbor Vitae in T. 40, R. 7 E.

It is planned to gradually furnish comfortable cabins for all the rangers, and small cabins must be built for the Federal patrolmen to occupy during dangerously dry seasons.

MAPPING.

In the state forestry work and especially fire protection, the need of an approximately accurate map of the forest reserve

region was early felt and therefore during the field seasons of 1911 and 1912 the state forest rangers and cruisers, and also the Federal patrolmen, have been noting errors on the old map and also sending in to the Headquarters camp township plats upon which they have noted the location of all roads, fire lines, and telephone lines built within their districts. One of the forest rangers has used this mass of material in making a new map of the forest reserve area, and although it is not absolutely accurate in many of the minor details, still it is a great improvement over all previous maps and will be invaluable, especially to the lookout men in accurately locating forest fires. This map will be constantly corrected and added to, so that in the course of a few years we hope to have a map of the forest reserve area that will be a great aid in forestry management.

SOIL SURVEY.

During the summer of 1910 at the request of the State Board of Forestry, the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin made a careful soil survey of seven townships within the forest reserve area in Oneida and Vilas counties. The area covered included all of townships 38, 39 and 40, range 7 E., and portions of township 43, ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8 E., as it was thought that these townships were fairly typical and representative of the forest reserve area in these counties. This survey disclosed the fact that 78% of the total area examined was true forest land, more valuable for forestry than for agriculture, and that 22% was a loamy sand, which was classed as possible agricultural land. However, this 22% of possible agricultural land is not in a solid block, but is scattered through the seven townships of true forest land, and the Forestry board has felt that it would be a grave mistake to encourage settlers to locate on small tracts of doubtful agricultural value, where they would be surrounded for many miles on all sides by lands that were only suited to the growth of timber. If this were done they would be doomed to comparative isolation, and would be deprived of good schools and the many advantages of a growing community.

During the summer of 1912 the College of Agriculture continued the soil survey of the forest reserve, the following eight