

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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FOREST SERVICE TO ESTABLISH
NEW REGIONAL OFFICE

Secretary Wallace Approves Division of
Eastern National Forest Region;
Offices to be in Atlanta and Washington

Division of the Eastern National Forest Region of the Forest Service into two separate units was approved by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace today. The change, affecting more than a score of national forests in the territory stretching from Maine to Texas, was recommended for convenience of administration by Chief Forester F. A. Silcox and will take effect July 1.

"The realignment of national forest regions in the East is necessary in order to deal more effectively with one of the most extensive forest areas in the United States," Chief Forester Silcox stated. "It is a territory which involves not only problems of acquisition of additional forest lands, but probably the most complex problem of lumber code enforcement in the country. It should bring the Forest Service more directly in contact with local agencies, the States, and counties, where, through emergency relief plans, efforts are being made to work out ways and means to get numbers of people now on the land on a self-supporting basis again and to utilize timber resources fully. The national forests, I feel, must play a vital part in this social-economic approach to our relief problem."

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Regional Forester Joseph C. Kircher, who has been in charge of the Eastern region (Region 7) for several years, will take charge of the new Southern National Forest Region and will open a regional office at Atlanta. The Southern Region will be designated as Region 8 and will include the States south of the southern lines of Virginia and Kentucky and as far west as Texas, where four new national forest purchase units were established recently by the National Forest Reservation Commission.

The Northern portion of the old region will retain the designation Region 7, and will continue to be known as the Eastern Region. Robie M. Evans, present assistant regional forester and chief of forest management in Region 7, will become Regional Forester, in charge, and will retain regional headquarters offices in Washington.

The order approved by the Secretary will also bring the field inspectors who handle the administration of the Clarke-McNary forest law in the East and South under the direction of the Regional Foresters. They formerly reported to the central offices of the Forest Service in Washington. This plan of organization for cooperation with the States in fire protection and reforestation under the Clarke-McNary law has been followed from the first in the Western regions, and the change will make the arrangement uniform throughout the Service.

The Alaskan National Forest Region, now designated as Region 8, will have its designation changed to Region 10. The territory in the new Region 8 will comprise the States of North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and the portion of Oklahoma east of the Indian Meridian.

The new Region 7 will include the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.