

## CHAPTER 125.

[S. S. B. 201.]

## RELATING TO FORESTS, FIRE WARDENS AND FOREST RANGERS.

AN ACT relating to the forests of the state; providing for fire wardens and forest rangers and a state forester and fire warden, defining the powers and duties of such officers and of the state board of forest commissioners, providing punishment for the violation of this act, and repealing sections two to twelve inclusive of chapter 164 Session Laws of the State of Washington of 1905.

[This act amends §§5277 to 5286, inclusive, Rem.-Bal.]

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. In this act, unless the context or subject-matter otherwise requires, the word "board" shall be held to mean "state board of forest commissioners"; "forester" shall be held to mean "state forester and fire warden"; "warden" shall be held to mean "fire warden"; "wardens" shall be held to mean "fire wardens"; "ranger" shall be held to mean "forest ranger"; "rangers" shall be held to mean "forest rangers"; "one" shall be held to mean "person, firm or corporation," and "forest material" shall be held to mean "forest, slashing, chopping, woodland or brushland."

Defining terms.

SEC. 2. The board shall supervise all matters of forest policy and forest management under the jurisdiction of the state, and shall have power to authorize all needful and proper expenditures for forest protection; it shall have full power to appoint a forester; to make rules and regulations for the prevention, control and suppression of forest fires as it deems necessary; to regulate and control the official acts of the forester, his assistants, the wardens, and the rangers, and to remove at will any of these officials. It shall be the duty of the board to collect information regarding the timber lands owned by the state, through investigation made by the forester, his assistants, the wardens and the rangers regarding the condition of the timber lands belonging to the state, the investigation

Board to supervise.

[Amending § 5277, Rem.-Bal.]

Collect information.

to include any damage caused by forest fires, and any illegal cutting, or trespassing upon the state timber lands.

The board is hereby authorized, when in its judgment it appears advisable, to accept on behalf of the state, any grant of land within the state, which shall then become a part of the state forests: *Provided*, That no grant shall be accepted until the title has been examined and approved by the attorney general of the state and a report made to the board of the result of such examination.

Accept  
grants  
of land.

SEC. 3. The board shall appoint a forester at an annual salary, the amount of which shall be fixed by the board, and payable in equal monthly installments out of the state treasury, in the same manner as the salaries of other state officials are paid.

Appoint  
forester.

[Amending  
§ 5278.  
Item.-Bal.]

The forester shall be entitled to all office and other necessary expenses incurred by him under the authority of the board while in the actual performance of his duties. All expenses so incurred shall be submitted in full detail to the board for examination, and if approved and allowed by the board, shall be presented to the state auditor, who shall, if found correct, draw his warrant upon the state treasurer for the amount so allowed, and the state treasurer is hereby authorized to pay said amount due out of any moneys in the state treasury appropriated for this purpose.

The board shall audit and inspect all bills of salary and expenses incurred by the wardens for their official accounts, and all other bills properly authorized by the wardens for the prevention, suppression, checking, or control of forest fires. When so audited and inspected, the board shall present a statement thereof for each county, accompanied by the original bills, to the state auditor, who shall audit the same, and if found correct, the state auditor shall draw his warrant on the state treasurer in payment thereof, and the state treasurer is hereby authorized to pay said warrants out of any money in the treasury appropriated for such purposes.

Board to  
audit bills.

SEC. 4. The forester may at his discretion, subject to the approval of the board, appoint trained forest assist-

ants, possessing technical qualifications, and may employ necessary clerical assistants, and fix the amount of their respective salaries, which shall be payable in equal monthly installments to each assistant so appointed or employed.

Appoint  
assistants.

He shall act as secretary of the board, or he may delegate that duty to one of his assistants. He shall, acting under the supervision of the board, and whenever he may deem it necessary to the best interests of the state, cooperate in forest surveys, in forest studies, in forest products studies, in forest fire fighting and patrol, and in the preparation of plans for the protection, management, replacement of trees, wood-lots, and timber tracts, with any of the several departments of the governments of other states, and with the government or with the departments of the government of the United States with the Dominion of Canada, or with any province thereof, and with counties, towns, corporations, and individuals within the State of Washington.

[Amending  
§ 5279,  
Rem.-Bal.]

Co-operate  
with other  
departments.

He shall, subject to the rules and regulations of the board, have direct charge and supervision of all matters pertaining to forestry, including the forest fire service of the state.

The term "forest fire service" as used in this act shall be held to include all wardens, rangers and help especially employed for preventing or fighting forest fires.

In times of emergency or unusual danger the forester is empowered to mass the forest fire service of the state where its presence might be required by reason of forest fires, and to take charge of, and direct the work of suppressing such fires.

Mass service.

The forester shall enforce all laws for the preservation of the forests within the state, investigate the origin of all forest fires, vigorously prosecute all violators of this act; prepare and print for public distribution an abstract of the forest laws and the forest fire laws of Washington, together with such rules and regulations as may be formulated by the board.

Prosecute  
violators.

Publish  
information.

The forester may, with the approval of the board, publish for free distribution, information pertaining to forestry, and to forest products, which he may consider of benefit to the people of the state.

It shall be the duty of the forester to annually notify the county clerk in each county where wardens or rangers are appointed, giving the names of such appointees.

The forester shall furnish notices printed in large letters on cloth, calling attention to the dangers from forest fires, and to the penalties for the violation of this act; such notices to be posted in conspicuous places by the wardens or rangers in all timbered districts along roads and trails, streams and lakes, frequented by tourists, campers, hunters and fishermen, and in other visited regions.

Issue  
permits.

The forester shall, subject to the approval of the board, prepare all necessary printed forms for use of wardens and rangers, in connection with the granting of applications for permits to burn; for the appointment of wardens and rangers, and any and all forms or blanks required or desirable, and shall supply each warden and ranger with such forms and blanks.

The forester shall become familiar with the location and the areas of all state timbered and cut-over lands, and shall prepare maps of each of the timbered counties showing the state land therein, and supply such maps to each warden, and in all ways that are practical and feasible protect such lands from the dangers of fire, trespass, and the illegal cutting of timber, reporting from time to time direct to the board such information as may be of benefit to the state in the care and protection of its timber.

Furnish  
statistics.

It shall be the duty of the forester to institute inquiry into the extent, kind, value and condition of all timber lands within the state; the amount of acres, and the value of the timber that is cut and removed each year, to determine what state lands are chiefly valuable for growing timber; the extent to which timber lands are being destroyed by fire; and also to examine into the production, quality and quantity of second-growth timber, with a view

to ascertaining conditions for reforestation, and not later than the first day of December of each year, make a written report to the board upon all such tracts so examined by him, together with detailed information as to the work of the forest fire service of the state.

Written  
report.

SEC. 5. The forester shall, subject to the approval of the board, have power to appoint within any county in this state where there is timber requiring protection, one or more wardens for all or any portion of the period during which the forester deems that forest fire dangers exist.

Appoint  
wardens.

[Amending  
§ 5280.  
Rem.-Bal.]

The forester may, subject to the approval of the board, and at such times and in such localities as he deems the public welfare demands, employ one or more wardens whose duty it shall be to examine deforested lands of the state, and ascertain if such lands are chiefly valuable for agriculture, or if they are chiefly valuable for timber growing, with a view to reforestation. The said wardens shall, under the direction of the forester, engage in the discovery of inflammable material, and cause, or assist in, the burning of such material at such times as the burning can be done without endangering adjacent timber, or other property. The said wardens, under the direction of the forester, shall prevent and detect trespass and illegal cutting upon state timber lands, and shall enforce the laws in respect to such trespass and illegal cutting.

Prevent  
trespass.

The forester shall have power to temporarily suspend any warden or ranger who may be incompetent or unwilling to discharge properly the duties of his office, and to appoint his successor temporarily, until his action shall be passed upon by the board.

Each warden shall receive compensation not to exceed four dollars (\$4.00) per day, and also necessary and proper expenses for the time actually employed.

Salary.

The wardens shall make their headquarters at the county seat of the county which they represent, and be equipped with suitable office quarters in the county court house by the county commissioners.

Head-  
quarters.

The board of county commissioners of any county in

which there has been no warden appointed, may request the forester to appoint a warden, and the forester may, if in his judgment the necessity exists, appoint, subject to the approval of the board, one or more wardens for each county.

Extent of  
authority.

The authority of the wardens respecting the prevention, suppression and control of forest fires, summoning, impressing or employing help, or making arrests for the violation of this act, may extend to any adjacent county, or to any part of the state in times of great fire danger.

The salaries and necessary expenses of all wardens, together with all expenses incurred for help and assistance in forest fire protection, shall be borne in the proportion of two-thirds by the state and one-third by the county in which the service was given and the expense incurred for forest fire protection.

Accounts  
submitted  
to forester.

All accounts of the wardens shall be submitted to the forester, as well as all bills for forest fire protection authorized by the wardens, and when such bills are approved and paid as provided for in section 3 of this act, the amount of one-third of all such outlays in each county shall be due and payable on demand from each of said counties into the state treasury, and credited to the fund appropriated by this act.

Make  
reports.

All wardens and rangers shall render reports to the forester on such blanks or forms, or in such manner, and at such times as may be ordered, giving a summary of how employed, the area of country visited, expenses incurred, and such other information as may be called for by the forester.

[Amending  
§ 5281.  
Rem.-Bal.]

SEC. 6. Each warden shall be at all times under the direction and control of the forester, and shall perform such other duties at such times and places as he may direct.

Post  
notices.

It shall be the duty of wardens to post over the forest areas notices of warning giving the date of the closed season as provided for in section 8 of this act, and copies of all such laws and rules as they may be directed to post by the forester.

They shall investigate all fires and report all of a serious or threatening character to the forester immediately. They shall patrol their districts; visit all parts of roads and trails, and frequented places and camps as far as possible. warn campers or other users of fire, see that all locomotives are provided with spark arresters, and with adequate devices for preventing the escape of fire or live coals from ash pans and fire boxes, in accordance with the law; extinguish small or smouldering fires; summon, impress or employ help to stop conflagrations; see that all laws for the protection of forests are enforced, and arrest and cause to be prosecuted all offenders.

Duties.

SEC. 7. All state land cruisers, all game wardens, when approved by the forester, and all rangers and assistant rangers of the United States forest service, when recommended by their forest supervisors, and commissioned by the forester, shall be *ex-officio* rangers.

[Amending  
§ 5282.  
Item.-Bal.]*Ex-officio*  
rangers.

Timber cruisers and citizens of the state advantageously located may, at the discretion of the forester, be appointed rangers, and vested with their duties and powers.

Rangers shall receive no compensation for their services except when employed in co-operation with the state under the provisions of this act, and shall not create any indebtedness, or incur any liability on behalf of the state: *Provided*, That rangers actually engaged in extinguishing, or preventing the spread of fire in brush, slashings, choppings, timber or elsewhere that may endanger timber or other property, shall when their accounts for such services have been approved by the fire warden in authority, be entitled to receive compensation for such services at the rate of twenty-five cents (25c) per hour.

Compensation.

SEC. 8. No one shall burn any forest material within any county in this state in which there is a warden or ranger during the months of June to September, inclusive, in each year, which period is hereby designated as the closed season, without first obtaining permission in writing from the forester, or a warden or a ranger, and afterwards complying with the terms of said permit; and any

Closed  
season.[Amending  
§ 5283.  
Item.-Bal.]

one violating any provisions contained in the preceding portions of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days. Such permission for burning shall be given only upon compliance with such rules and regulations as the board shall prescribe, which shall be only such as the board deems necessary for the protection of life or property.

Penalty.

The forester, any of his assistants, any warden or ranger, may at his discretion, refuse, revoke or postpone the use of permits to burn when such act is clearly necessary for the safety of adjacent property.

Revoke permits.

SEC. 9. No one shall burn any forest material until all dry snags, stubs and dead trees over twenty-five (25) feet in height, within the area to be burned, shall have been cut down, and until such other work shall have been done in and around the slashing or chopping, to prevent the spread of fire therefrom, as shall be required to be done by the forester, or any warden or ranger.

When any person shall have obtained permission from the forester, or warden or ranger, to burn any slashings made for the purpose of clearing land, the warden may, at his discretion, furnish him with a man to supervise and control the burning, who shall represent and act for such warden, and shall have all the power and authority of a warden while engaged in such service, including the right to revoke such permit, if in his opinion the burning authorized would endanger any valuable timber or other property. Such man shall serve only until such time as the party burning may be able to keep the fire under control himself.

Furnish supervisor.

The forester and wardens are hereby authorized and empowered to employ a sufficient number of men to extinguish or prevent the spreading of any fires that may be in danger of destroying any valuable timber or other property in this state. The forester, or any warden by special authority of the forester, may provide needed tools

Prevent spread of fires.



and supplies, and transportation when necessary for men so employed.

Every man so employed, and also the representative of the warden supervising the burning, shall be entitled to compensation of twenty-five cents per hour for each hour's actual service; and the warden shall issue a certificate to each man so employed showing the number of hours worked by him and the amounts due to him, upon which, after approval by the forester, the man shall be entitled to receive payment from the state in the manner provided for in section 3 of this act.

Com-  
pensation.

Any person refusing to render assistance when called upon by any warden, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

Penalty.

SEC. 10. In times and localities of unusual fire danger, the governor, with the advice of the forester, may suspend any or all permits or privileges authorized by section eight (8) of this act, and may prohibit absolutely the use of fire therein mentioned.

Whenever during an open season for the hunting of any kind of game within this state, it shall appear to the governor that by reason of extreme drought, the use of fire arms or fire by hunters is liable to cause forest fires, he may by proclamation suspend the open season and make it a closed season for the shooting of wild birds or animals of any kind, for such time as he may designate, and during the time so designated all provisions of law relating to closed seasons for game shall be enforced.

Game laws  
suspended  
by pro-  
clamation.

SEC. 11. Any person who shall wilfully or needlessly deface, or remove any warning placard or notice posted under the requirements of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each offense, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days.

Removing  
notices.

[Amending  
§ 5284.  
Rem.-Bal.]

Any person who shall upon any land within this state, set

and leave any fire that shall spread or damage or destroy property of any kind not his own, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). If such fire be set or left maliciously, whether on his own or on another's land, with intent to destroy property not his own, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one month, nor more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and shall be liable for all damages in a civil suit.

Penalty.

During the closed season, any person who shall kindle a fire on land not his own, in or dangerously near any forest material and leave same unquenched, or who shall be a party thereto, or who shall by throwing away any lighted cigar, matches, or by use of fire arms, or in any other manner, start a fire in forest material not his own, and leave same unquenched, shall upon conviction, be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding two (2) months.

Extinguish  
fires.

SEC. 12. Any and all inadequately protected forests, or deforested land covered wholly or in part by any inflammable debris, or otherwise likely to further the spread of fire, which by reason of such location or condition, or lack of protection, endangers life or property, when adjoining, lying near, or intermingling with other forest land, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, and whenever the forester shall learn thereof, he shall notify the owner, or person in control or possession of said land, advise him of means and methods that should be taken for its protection, and request him to take the proper steps to that end.

Notify  
owner.

SEC. 13. It shall be unlawful for any one manufacturing lumber or shingles, or other forest products, to destroy wood-waste material by burning the same at or near any mill situated within one-quarter of one mile of any forest material, without properly confining the place of

Burning  
wood-waste.

said burning and without further safeguarding the surrounding property against danger from said burning by such additional devices as the forester may require.

It shall be unlawful for any one to destroy any wood-waste material by fire within any burner or destructor operated at or near any mill, and situated within one-quarter of one mile of any forest material, or to operate any power-producing plant using in connection therewith any smokestack, chimney, or other spark-emitting outlet, without installing and maintaining on such burner, or destructor, or on such smokestack, chimney or other spark-emitting outlet, a safe and suitable device for arresting sparks.

Any one violating the provisions of this section shall upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each and every violation, or by imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days in the county jail. Penalty.

SEC. 14. It shall be unlawful for any one to operate any spark-emitting railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, logging, or farming engine, or boiler, at any time during the closed season, or for any one to operate any railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or logging or farm engine or boiler, within one-quarter of one mile of any forest material during the closed season, without such railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, logging, or other engine or boiler is provided with and uses a safe and suitable device for arresting sparks. Relating to closed season.

It shall be unlawful for any one to operate during the closed season any railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or logging, or other engine or boiler, within one-quarter of one mile of any forest material, without such railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or logging or other engine or boiler is provided with and uses an adequate device to prevent the escape of fire or live coals from all ash pans, and all fire boxes, except when said ash pans and said fire boxes are being cleaned when not in motion. Amending § 5285, Item.-Bal.]

Restrictions during closed season.

Every one failing to comply with the provisions of this section, shall upon conviction pay a fine for each railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or other engine or boiler, for each day so operated without such spark-arresting or without such adequate device to prevent the escape of fire or live coals from said ash pans or said fire boxes, of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00), nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for each railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or other engine or boiler so used, and shall be prohibited from further use of such railroad locomotive, logging locomotive, or other engine or boiler until such spark-arrester or such adequate device for preventing the escape of fire or live coals from said ash pans and said fire boxes, is provided and used therewith.

SEC. 15. No one operating a railroad shall permit to be deposited by his, or its, employees, and no one shall deposit during the closed season, fire or live coals upon the right-of-way outside of the yard limits, and within one-quarter of one mile of any forest material, without such deposit of fire or live coals shall be immediately extinguished.

Any one violating the provisions of this section respecting the deposit of fire or live coals, shall upon conviction pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days.

Wardens and rangers shall report any lack of sufficient spark-arresters, and any lack of adequate devices for preventing the escape of fire and live coals, as provided in this act, to the forester, and to the prosecuting attorney of their county, and the superior court of that county where suit is first instituted, shall have jurisdiction of the offense.

SEC. 16. Every one clearing right-of-way for railroad, wagon road, or other road, shall pile and burn on such right-of-way all refuse timber, slashings, choppings and brush cut thereon, as rapidly as the clearing or cutting progresses, and the weather conditions permit, or at such

other times as the forester, or any of his assistants, or any warden may direct, and before doing so, shall obtain a permit.

During the closed season such burning shall not be required to be done, while the forester, any of his assistants, or any warden in authority shall refuse to issue a permit for such burning.

No permit  
closed  
season.

No one slashing brush or timber for the purpose of clearing land, or cutting or logging timber, shall fell, or permit to be felled, trees, in such a manner that the tops or branches shall fall into green timber not owned by the one felling or permitting the felling of such trees, without first obtaining permission of the owner of said green timber.

SEC. 17. Every one operating a stationary engine, for the logging of timber, or the clearing of land of tree stumps, or other wood material, shall during the closed season:

(a) Maintain a watchman at the point where the said donkey engine, or other portable or stationary engine may be located, said watchman to be on duty for at least two hours following every time when the said donkey engine, or other portable stationary engine shall cease operations.

Maintain  
watchman.

(b) Cut down all snags, stubs and dead trees over 25 feet in height within a radius of fifty (50) feet from each donkey engine, or other portable or stationary engine.

Regulations.

SEC. 18. Every one operating a logging locomotive during the closed season, shall:

Have a man whose duty it shall be to follow each logging locomotive, except a locomotive using oil for fuel, for the purpose of acting as fire patrol, the said man to begin the said patrol at approximately thirty (30) minutes after the starting of the logging locomotive which it is his duty to follow.

Fire patrol.

Any one who shall violate any of the provisions contained in section sixteen (16), seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) of this act, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed

Penalty.

one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days.

SEC. 19. The forester, his assistants, wardens, rangers, and all police officers are hereby empowered to make arrests without warrant of persons violating this act.

[Amending  
§ 5286,  
Rem.-Bal.]

Duty of  
prosecuting  
attorney.

SEC. 20. Whenever an arrest shall have been made for a violation of any of the provisions of this act or whenever information of such violation shall have been lodged with him, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the criminal act was committed, shall prosecute the offender or offenders, with all diligence and energy. If any prosecuting attorney shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and by imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days, nor more than one year in the county jail. The penalties of this section shall apply to any magistrate, with proper authority, who refuses or neglects to cause the arrest and prosecution of any person or persons when complaint under oath of violation of any provisions of this act has been lodged with him.

Penalty.

SEC. 21. All fines collected under this act shall be paid into the county treasury of the county in which the offense was committed.

Fines.  
[Sec § 5284,  
Rem.-Bal.]

Repeal.

SEC. 22. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Passed by the Senate March 8, 1911.

Passed by the House March 9, 1911.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1911.