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AND APACHE NEWS

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF APACHE COUNTY

FEBRUARY 3, 1916

RANGERS PUT OUT 114 FIRES.

Sitgreaves Forest Awarded First Honors.

The District Forester at Albuquerque announced today that first honors for the efficiency in fighting forest fires during 1915 had been awarded to the Sitgreaves National Forest, in charge of Supervisor C. H. Jennings of Snowflake, Arizona. Out of a total of 42 fires, 34 were detected and extinguished before they had burned over one acre.

The Crook National Forest with headquarters at Safford, Arizona, received honorable mention for an exceeding good fire record, attained however under conditions which did not test the real effectiveness of the fire-fighting plan.

Generally speaking, the fire season of 1915 in the National Forests of Arizona and New Mexico was abnormally dry and accordingly dangerous. Rainfall was especially light in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. A total of 417 fires occurred, burning over a total of 6000 acres and doing damage estimated at \$4700. The average area burned over was 21 acres, but 89 per cent of the fires were extinguished before they had covered 10 acres.

A special time-keeping system, designed to analyze the various factors bearing on efficiency in the work of fire suppression, yielded some interesting figures. It took an average of 48 minutes for fire-lookouts to reach a telephone to get reports of smoke to the Supervisor. One hour and thirty-seven minutes later the Ranger had, on the average, arrived at the fire with tools and provisions, traveling an average of 5.7 miles. The average time elapsing between the first sighting of smoke and the final extinguishment of the fire was 27 hours. In the old days before the Forest Service telephone systems were constructed, the time consumed by these same operations was often measured in days instead of hours.

On the whole, Forest Officers express themselves as gratified that the dangers of a very dry season should have been averted with only nominal losses, and express the hope that the steady extension of roads, trails, and

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telephone lines and further improvements in methods, will gradually reduce the fire menace to National Forest timber.

HAYDEN BILL

To Kill Prairie Dogs and Loco.

Congressman Hayden has introduced a bill appropriating \$300,000 to exterminate prairie dogs and \$100,000 to eradicate loco weed.

The bill as introduced is as follows:

A Bill making appropriations for the destruction of wild animals injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry and for the eradication of loco weed and other poisonous plants.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, to be available until expended by the Secretary of Agriculture on the national forests, national game preserves, national parks, national monuments, Indian reservations, and the public domain for the destruction of prairie dogs, wolves, coyotes, and other wild animals injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry

Sec. 2. That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000, to be expended in like manner as provided in the preceding section on the area therein named for the eradication of loco weed and other poisonous plants.—Coconino Sun.

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12-11-13