

A MEMORIAL TO EARLE R. WILCOX

(1914-1983)

Earle was renowned and will always be remembered for the significant achievements he made for the benefit of Indian people and our forests. Indian Tribes today and in the future will feel the impact of Earle's contributions, as he helped return 10% of our annual proceeds from timber sales for the development of Indian forests. There can be no greater tribute to man than the perpetuation of his ideas and concepts in a living, well managed forest.

Earle graduated from the University of Washington, Magna Cum Laude in 1938, receiving his B.S. in Forestry. His career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs spanned some 33 years, being interrupted by World War II, and the Korean War. He took five years out for service where he rose from Private to Captain and was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat and the Purple Heart Medal for being wounded in combat. Earle worked as a Forester at the Crow and Western Washington Indian Agencies early in his career. In 1952 he became Forest Manager on the Klamath Indian Reservation, resigning that position in 1956 to work as a consultant under a contract with the Secretary of Interior. Returning to the BIA in 1958, he held positions as the Klamath Tribal Sales Officer, and Superintendent. In 1960 he became the Area Forester for the Portland Area Office, and then Director of the Indian Forestry Center in Portland, and later moved and established that Center in Denver. Earle was promoted to Chief of the BIA Forestry program in 1971, a position he held until his retirement in 1973.

After retiring from the BIA, Earle was an expert witness for the Department of Justice and served on the Board of Directors of Navajo Forest Products Industries from September 1973 to August 1978. Earle's tireless devotion to the development of forestry resources for the benefit of Indian people was instrumental in establishing tribal enterprises on several reservations, including Warm Springs and Navajo. Earle had consulting assignments with private industry, the Flathead, Quinault and Warm Springs Tribes. Earle contributed greatly to the development of the Intertribal Timber Council and what it stands for, giving with a spirit that exemplifies a man who believed in the greatest good for Indian people and our forests. He advised the BIA on a number of forestry inventory and management projects, and was an active member of the Society of American Foresters during his forestry career.

He was a treasured friend and a trusted advisor whose integrity and tenacious spirit inspired those of us who were privileged to have known him. Earle's leadership, devotion, and accomplishments will be a lasting memorial.