

North Dakota Forests

– Historical Perspective

North Dakota Forestry Advisory Council

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Lezlee Johnson
Forestry & Fire Management Team Leader
NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY



65 million years of forest cover

4,000 years of prairie



North Dakota Forests – Historical Perspective



FROM: <https://www.ndstudies.gov/gr4/geology-geography-and-climate/part-1-geology/section-9-quadernary-period>

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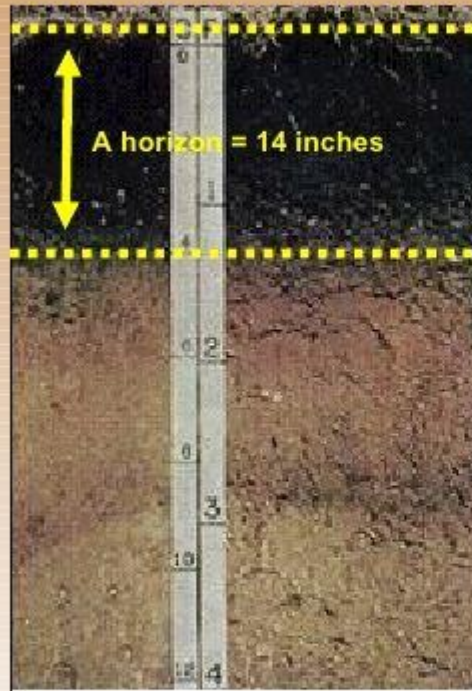
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From: <https://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/habitats/regions> North Dakota Game & Fish Copyright 2019



Prairie vs. Forest Soil



Prairie



Forest

Effect of Native Vegetation

From: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=86c8b5ab9382436dbb716765de2dcdc0>

Climate Change in the Prairies



North Dakota Forests – Historical Perspective

People have lived in North Dakota for at least 10,000 years.

Cultural Periods	Years AD - BC	Cultural Traditions	Cultural Complex
Equestrian/Fur Trade 1780 - 1880	1780	Equestrian Nomadic	One Gun
Plains Village AD 1200 - 1780	1500 1250	Plains Village	Knife River Heart River Painted Woods Middle Missouri Shea Northeastern Plains Devils Lake/Sourisford
Late Plains Woodland AD 600 - 1200	1000 750	Plains Woodland	Charred Body Sandy Lake Blackduck Kathio Arvilla
Middle Plains Woodland 100 BC – AD 600	500 250 0		Avonlea Laurel Besant Sonota
Early Plains Woodland 400 – 100 BC	250		
Late Plains Archaic 1000 – 400 BC	500 750		Unnamed Early Woodland Pelican Lake Yonkee
Middle Plains Archaic 2800 – 1000 BC	1000 2000	Plains Archaic	Hanna Duncan McKean Lanceolate
Early Plains Archaic 5500 – 2800 BC	3000 4000 5000		Oxbow Hawken Logan Creek
Paleo-Indian 9500 – 5500 BC	6000 7000 8000 9000	Paleo-Indian	Caribou Lake Pryor Stemmed Parallel-Oblique Flaked Cody Hell Gap Agate Basin Folsom Goshen Clovis



Homestead Act

1870s – claim 160 acres.

Cost: \$14.00, plus build a house, dig a well, and feed your family.

Timber Culture Act

1873-1882 additional 160 if you plant 40 to trees. Dropped to 10 acres.

2700 trees/ac, 675/ac had to live 13 years.

Average farm size was 277 in 1890, and 466 acres by 1920.



PROGRESSIVES LOSE GOVERNOR

Heavy Vote Being Counted in State--Mrs. Langer Leads In County--League State Officials Evidently Elected, Figures Show

Headquarters For Shelterbelt In Bottineau

The Board of Administration has granted a leave of absence to F. E. Cobb, President of the School of Forestry and State Forester, until the beginning of the next school year in September, 1935. This was done to permit him to accept the position of State Director in the U. S. Forest Service Shelterbelt Project. The Acting Director of this project, Mr. Paul Roberts, with headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska, has permitted Mr. Cobb to establish the state headquarters for this project at Bottineau for the coming year at least, as it will be within the proposed belt, with easily accessible highways north and south. The definite location of this shelterbelt strip has not been decided upon, but will very probably include parts of Renville, Ward, McHenry, McLean, Sheridan, Burleigh and Emmons as the western boundary.

The Chief Forester in Washington is desirous that some plantings be made next spring and the winter's work will be devoted largely to bring this about.

At four o'clock this morning it appeared that Lydia Langer, Progressive Republican candidate for governor, has lost to Thomas Moody, Democratic candidate. Returns from Bismarck early this morning before campaign headquarters closed down indicated that Moodie led Mrs. Langer by approximately 27,000 votes, with returns from about one third of the precincts of the state. While defeat was not conceded at League headquarters, it appeared highly improbable that Mrs. Langer could overcome the great lead, with normally strong League counties failing to deliver a heavy republican vote.

For practically all the other state offices, however, the

AUXILIARY TO COLLECT BOOKS

The Bottineau unit of the Legion Auxiliary are sponsoring a community library project.

A survey of library facilities was made by the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary last year. It was found that North Dakota was second from the lowest state in number of books per capita, with 79 per cent of her population without library service. The American Legion Auxiliary unit in North Dakota did a great deal during the past year to correct this deficiency. It is a major project of the community service program again this year. It is hoped that every community will become library conscious.

WHEAT CHECKS IN BOTTINEAU

The allotment checks are here. Due to the fact that there will be seed meetings held the first three days of next week checks which are here will probably be distributed Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be notices sent out to farmers who have checks and they will tell what day they can get them and at what town. By all means do not come to Bottineau to get checks as it will be impossible to deliver them before that time.

Business Men to Observe Armistice

We, the undersigned merchants of the City of Bottineau, for the purpose of the proper observance of Armistice Day, hereby agree to close our respective places of business from 12:00 o'clock noon to the balance of the day on Monday, November the 12th, 1934:

- Bottineau Co-Op. Store Co., Ferguson Hardware Co., City Talk Shop, Emma S. Pepin, L. C. Holm, D. J. McIntosh, McIntosh Hardware Co., A. D. Ertesvaag, O. Lien, Mrs. R. O. Kleppe, Greengard's, S. J. Farlow, E. H. Charholm, Turtle Mountain Supply Co., Midwest Lumber Co., Julius Ser Bottineau Courant, W. G. Woodward Co., Foy Stover, Freeman Haneson, Wm. Crowder, Gamb Store Agency, U. B. Helland, Oac Thoreson, Williams Bakery, Erne Bastien, Chas. Drew, Bottineau Co-Op. Creamery, Nero Hardware Co. E. E. Snell Food Market, The Vinje, A. G. Crandall, Great Western Grain Co., Bottineau Farm Co-Op. Elevator Co., Bottineau I.





1887 – Hatch Act

- Authorized state land grant colleges for research and experiments in agriculture.
- Agricultural College (North Dakota State University) is the ND land grant institution.





1889 – ND is a State!

- ND State Constitution “authorized” a State School of Forestry
- Purpose – *to develop tree and shrub species for planting, and suitable planting techniques.*
- However, the State did not “appropriate” any money.





1894 - Bottineau is Selected as Site

- An election on November 5, selected Bottineau as the site for the State School of Forestry.





1905 – Great Plains Field Stations

- Office of Dry Land Agriculture of the US Bureau of Plant Industry established three experimental research stations in the US:
 - ◆ Research Station in Mandan, ND
- Bureau of Forestry became USDA Forest Service





1908 - Dakota National Forest

- President Taft's proclamation to reserve forestland and create more resulted in:
 - ◆ Management of ponderosa pine in SW ND (Badlands), and a
 - ◆ 1912 nursery and tree plantings.
- Poor survival, closed in 1917.
- Today, a portion of original forest is in the USFS Little Missouri National Grasslands.





1913 - Forestry Nursery Act

- School President also named as first State Forester!
- 1915 State Forestry Nursery west of Bottineau opens.





1925 – NDSU Hires Forester

- Agricultural College (NDSU) hired the first “specialist” – not an agronomist - but a forester to promote **tree belts**. He was stationed in Bottineau at the School of Forestry.





1930s - Dust Bowl Days





1931 - Denbigh Experimental Forest





1934 - Prairie States Forestry Project





Re-Leaf

- SCS – Soil Conservation Service – **Natural Resources Conservation Service** w/ ND Soil Conservation Districts.
- Agricultural Adjustment Act (Triple A) – **Farm Service Agency.**
- **USDA Forest Service** began State and Private Forestry Programs with State Foresters.





1935 - Souris National Forest

- USDA Forest Service approved purchase of 480,000 acres in McHenry, Pierce and Bottineau Counties to establish the Souris National Forest to improve the local economy.
- USFS Nursery at Towner started (and closed in 1942).
- No purchasing funds appropriated and plan abandoned due to WW II.





1945 – School branches ND Forest Service born





1951 – Bought Towner State Nursery





1968 – School & NDFS Aligned with NDSU

- NDUS aligns both with NDSU due to similar missions.
 - ◆ NDSU-Bottineau Branch
 - ★ President called “Dean” for school, but was still the State Forester.
 - ◆ NDSU-ND Forest Service
- Authority is given to the State Forester in the ND Century Code Chapter 4-19.





1978 – Bottineau Nursery Closes

- Due to poor water and soils, the Bottineau Nursery is closed and all tree growing operations move to the Towner State Nursery.
- This site is the NDFS Bottineau Field Office location.
- NDFS leases 45-acres of old nursery to City of Bottineau for the Forestry Park.
- 52-acres were sold at public auction.

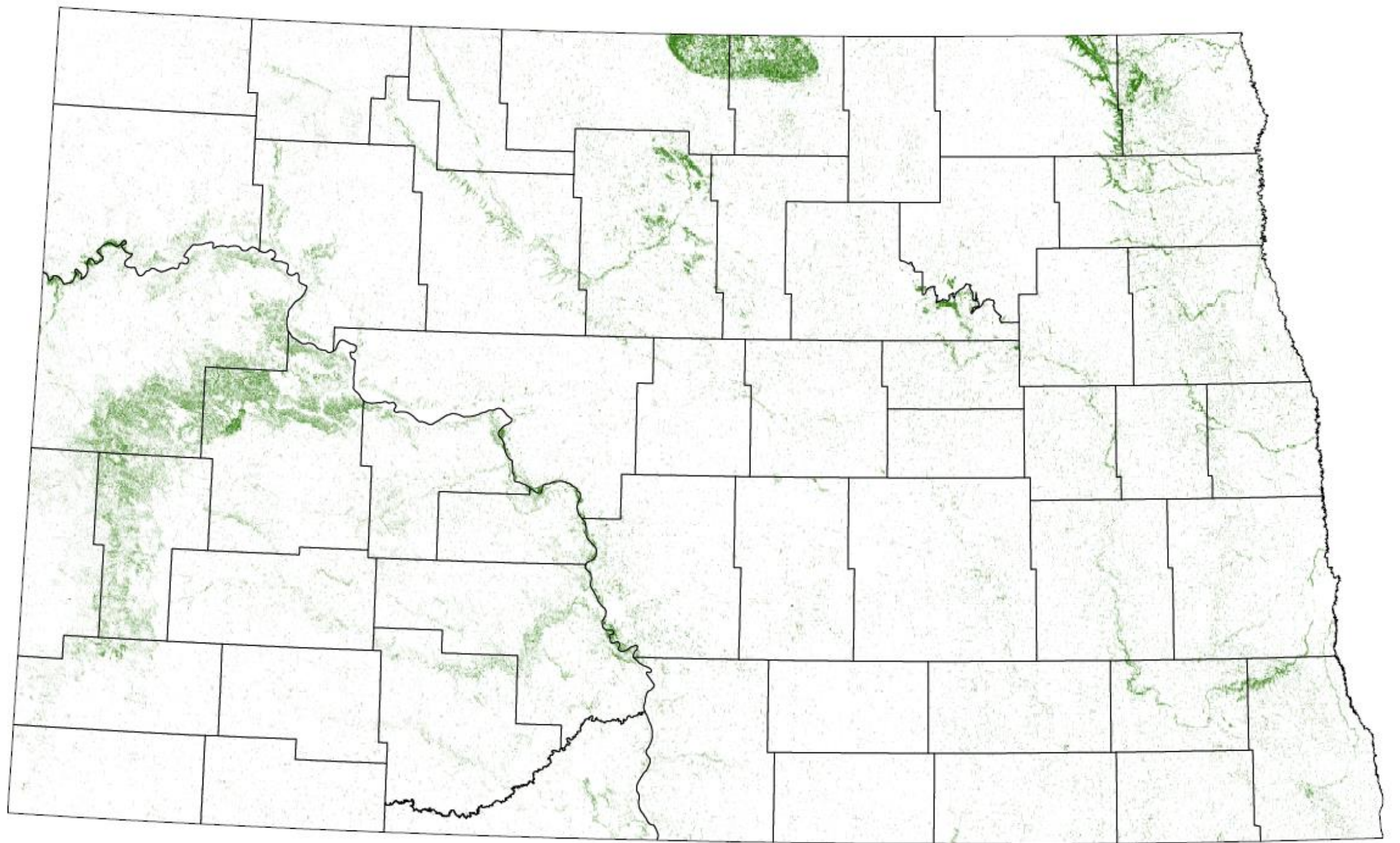




1980 – Administration is Split!

- NDSU-Bottineau Branch has a Dean.
- NDSU-ND Forest Service has a State Forester.
 - ◆ State Forester is on NDSU campus and oversees all state staff.
 - ★ 1980-86 Robert Johnson





Lezlee Johnson

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Lezlee.Johnson@ndsu.edu

