North Dakota Forests
– Historical Perspective

North Dakota Forestry Advisory Council
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NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service
North Dakota Forests – Historical Perspective

65 million years of forest cover

4,000 years of prairie
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From: https://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/habitats/regions North Dakota Game & Fish Copyright 2019
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**Prairie vs. Forest Soil**

**Effect of Native Vegetation**

From: [https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=86c8b5ab9382436dbb716765de2dc0](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=86c8b5ab9382436dbb716765de2dc0)

Climate Change in the Prairies
People have lived in North Dakota for at least 10,000 years.
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.
SSIVES LOSE GOVERNORSHIP

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 lease of 10 acres to E. E. Cobb, President of the School of Forestry and State Forester, until the beginning of the next school year in September, 1934. This was done to permit him to test the possibilities of the State 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 experimental headquarters for this project at Bottineau for the coming year at least, but it will be within the proposed belt, with easily accessible highways north and south. The definitiveness of the strip has not been decided upon, but it will probably include parts of Johnson, Wells, McLean, Sheridan, Burleigh and Sisson as the western boundary. The Board of Administration is desirous that some plantings be made next spring and the project of the community will be devoted largely to bringing this about.

At four o'clock this morning it appeared that Lynd A. Langer, Progressive Republican candidate for governor, had a lead over Thomas Moody, Democratic candidate. Returns from all the county headquarters indicated that Moody had 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 progressives were unanimously successful. With the exception of the office of superintendent of public instruction, it appeared that the Democrats had carried all the offices by comfortable majorities. For the supreme court, Majority and Frasier were out in front with 52 to 46, coming in as a probable third, although he may lose one of the leaders for a marginal position. In the congressional race it appeared that Frasier, London, and Barnes had won without Liberal service. In the American Legion Auxiliary race in North Dakota there was no contest the past year to correct this deficiency. It is a major project of the community to sponsor a new chapter 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 no meetings held the first three days of next week checks will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be no notice sent to farmers who have been notified that they will sell what they can to the government at what law allows. The farmers who have not sold will be notified that they will sell what they can to the government at what law allows. The farmers who have not sold their wheat will be notified that they will sell what they can to the government at what law allows.

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 on November 11th, 1924.
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
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.

![Field of trees](image-url)
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
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
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