

FOREST SERVICE - U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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For Immediate Release

Boyce To Head Southeastern Forest Experiment Station:

Announcement was made today by Chief Edward P. Cliff, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, that Dr. Stephen G. Boyce, Assistant to the Deputy Chief for Forestry Research in Washington, has been appointed Director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, N. C.

On August 9, 1970, he will succeed the current Director, Walter M. Zillgitt, who is retiring after 37 years in Forest Service Research. During his four years as Director of the Southeastern Station and three years as head of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, Mr. Zillgitt has led in the movement that produced the scientific foundation for the intensified forestry now being practiced over much of the South.

As Director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Dr. Boyce will be responsible for Federal forestry research in the five Southeastern States: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. He will administer research activities at 11 locations with 120 scientists and 250 supporting personnel.

Dr. Boyce, a native of Ansonville, N. C., received a bachelor of science degree in forestry in 1949. He earned his master of science in forestry in 1951 and his Ph.D in plant ecology in 1953. All three degrees were earned at North Carolina State University.

Before coming to the Forest Service, in 1957, Dr. Boyce taught biology at Ohio University. He joined the staff of the Carbondale, Ill.,

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Research Center of the Central States Forest Experiment Station as a silviculturist. Here, he developed an outstanding research program for improving the growth and wood quality of hardwood trees for timber.

In 1958, Dr. Boyce organized and chaired a symposium on the reclamation of land strip-mined for coal. He was a member of a special consultant team to the Atomic Energy Commission, which, in 1961, evaluated AEC's research to determine the cycling of radioactive mineral elements from the soil through a tree's system in forest environments.

Dr. Boyce represented the United States as observer in 1962 at the 11th Session of the International Poplar Commission in Yugoslavia. Upon his return to the United States he developed techniques for genetic improvement and intensive culture of poplars--practices now adopted by several large American paper manufacturers. He was promoted to Assistant Director of the Central States Forest Experiment Station in Columbus, Ohio, in 1964 where he distinguished himself as a leader in developing new black walnut cultural practices.

Four years ago, Dr. Boyce transferred to the Washington Office of the Forest Service as Chief of the Branch of Forest Genetics Research. Then, in 1967, he was promoted to Assistant to the Deputy Chief for Forestry Research. In these positions he was involved in planning, coordinating and administering the broad forestry research program of the Forest Service. More recently, Dr. Boyce spent five weeks in India developing a broad forestry research program financed with Indian currencies under Public Law 480. During this trip he also represented the Forest Service at the World Meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources at New Dehli, India. He has authored or co-authored 53 scientific articles on forestry.

Dr. and Mrs. Boyce are the parents of two boys, aged 10 and 14.

Chief Cliff, in announcing the appointment of Dr. Boyce said: "He brings to the position broad national and international experience in forestry research practices and administration. I am confident that under his guidance the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station's reputation for leadership in research and service to the people will continue."

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FOREST SERVICE ESTABLISHES NEW FOREST ECOLOGY PROJECT IN ASHEVILLE:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5--John R. McGuire, Chief of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, today announced a new Forest Service research program to discover ways for increasing forest production in the eastern United States has been established in Asheville, N.C.

He said the program is being designed to investigate the biological potential for added tree growth in the East. Selected to head up this new research acting project is Dr. Stephen G. Boyce, currently Director of the Forest Service's Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville. Mr. McGuire said Dr. Boyce was named because of his research achievements in forest ecology.

At the same time, Mr. McGuire pointed out that the headquarters site for the research work unit was located at Asheville because it is in the heart of eastern hardwood forests and is close to major university and Forest Service research laboratories.

He said the project was prompted by the increasing squeeze on timber supplies as the raw material for wood products. "There is a growing shortage of newsprint and printing papers," he said. "Hardwood factory lumber is in short supply and is limiting operations of the large furniture industry of North Carolina. The limited supply of pine lumber and plywood have forced up costs of these materials in housing," he added.



"For this reason," he said, "efforts to increase supplies must be concentrated in those areas and on those species which promise the greatest biological potential for increased production."

This Forest Service project, he continued, will be designed to establish a scientific base for policy decisions and action programs by the Forest Service, the states, forest industries and other forest owners. It will seek to identify areas and soils on which intensive culture for timber can be conducted without damage to the wildlife, recreational and esthetic values. With this knowledge, cultural practices can be applied to increase timber supplies while freeing many acres of land for other uses and benefits.

Dr. Boyce, who will head the project, is a native North Carolinian. Born at Ansonville, he went on to earn three degrees at North Carolina State University--a bachelor's degree in 1949 and a master's degree in 1951, both in forestry, and a doctorate in plant ecology in 1953. He was the recipient of one of the first Distinguished Alumni Awards from the faculty of the School of Forest Resources there in 1970.

In 1957, after four years on the faculty at Ohio University, he joined the Central States Forest Experiment Station of the Forest Service in Carbondale, Ill., where he developed an outstanding research program for improving the growth and quality of hardwood trees. He was promoted to assistant director in 1964 and transferred to Columbus, Ohio, where he initiated and administered research that led to new and improved cultural practices for the growth and management of black walnut trees.

Two years later, he was appointed chief of the Branch of Forest Genetics Research in Washington, D. C., and in 1967 was promoted to the staff of the top administrator of Forest Service Research. He was named director of the Southeastern Station in Asheville in 1970.

He has represented the Forest Service in a number of foreign assignments, to India, Ceylon and Yugoslavia and has authored or co-authored more than 50 scientific publications. In addition to membership in a number of scientific organizations, he is also a member of Asheville's Pen and Plate Club and the Carolina Mountain Club.