



Wildfire

1920s and 1930s

Wildfires were at their worst during the 1920s and 1930s, particularly on land previously cut over during timber booms where no replanting had occurred. While some fires were caused by lightning, the majority were human-made.

When ground cover burned away from the forest floor, it led to erosion, which subsequently polluted streams. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) became the first government-paid firefighters, albeit with very limited equipment.

In 1925, the Oklahoma Forest Commission was established and has since held primary responsibility for combating wildfires in Oklahoma. They also provide management plans and advice to landowners to ensure the health of Oklahoma's forests.