

Producing future's lumber supply is more than growing trees

The task of keeping 240,000 acres of timber-producing land green and growing isn't something that can be accomplished in one shot. For the Kinzua Corp. foresters, it's a full time job and the number and logistics involved is enough to send anybody back to the woods.

Kinzua recently took advantage of the break between deer and elk seasons to seed about 6,400 acres of land in the Willow Creek and Rea Creek areas. Some 15,000 pounds of grass seed mixture including intermediate and crested wheat, orchard and timothy grasses, yellow blossom sweet clover, sainfoin and ladac, nomad and rhizoma alpha were dropped by helicopter.

Most of the seed was supplied by Kinzua with a portion coming from the Oregon Wildlife Commission. The total cost of the seed and the application amounts to about \$10 per acre and is only part of the reforestation process carried out by Kinzua. The results are shared by man and wildlife alike.

Writing in the September issue of "Oregon Wildlife," game biologist Glen Ward said, "All of Kinzua lands are valuable for the production and survival of many species of wildlife found in the eastern Oregon area. In order to increase production and survival of these wild species of mammals and birds, a cooperative range reseeding project has been planned and carried out on an annual basis between the Kinzua Corporation and the Department (Oregon Wildlife Commission). After the slash is removed from the logged areas, grass is seeded to the disturbed soil to slow water runoff. New forage production provides valuable food for domestic livestock and habitat, food and protective cover for wildlife species."

In addition to the 60,000 pounds of grass seed scattered across Kinzua lands each year, the foresters are also responsible for planting some 30,000 tree seedlings annually. The seedlings are grown for two years from seed gathered from superior trees at a comparable elevation level and then hand planted.

The seeds are grown in styro-block "plug" containers which offer advantages in the speed of planting and increase the chances of survival. A power auger is used to drill holes for the seedlings and they are shaded by a piece of bark or rock.

"The tree seedlings provide additional wildlife cover after the vegetation has been established," Ward writes. Kinzua forester Ed Tarnasky estimates that 50,000 seedlings will be planted in the spring of 1978 and 70,000 will be planted the following spring.

The planting of the seedlings is a precise business in itself but marks only a beginning to the overall reforestation and management procedure. Be-

cause Kinzua relies entirely on nature to provide necessary moisture and because nature is sometimes miserly in doing out precipitation to these parts, the number of trees per acre must be limited to provide satisfactory growth.

Pre-commercial thinning is an important factor in increasing the producing capacity of a timber area and the thinning occupies much of the foresters' time in late summer and fall. Thinning is mainly done with a hydro-axe, a mechanical thinning machine which allows a two-man crew to cover about 4.5 acres per day.

cognition and awards for outstanding performance. This is a result of hiring well-trained, experienced, and dedicated personnel and the insistence of the administrative people to do a good job.

"Don Hardwick, Kinzua, received the State Board of Forestry Award for the Eastern Oregon Forest Practices Operator of the Year in 1975 and 1976. He was commended for the following practices: Access roads planned to stay out of the canyon bottoms, stream bank cover maintained and skid trails kept away from the streams, an overall effort to minimize water runoff problems which

Kinzua Corporation featured in 'Oregon Wildlife'

In each harvesting operation, forester select the best trees as "leave trees" to provide for a future crop as well as a superior seed source for new stands. Trees are thinned to the correct spacing to provide maximum growth. A newly planted area might contain 700 trees per acre while a healthy stand of harvest size trees might number 100 trees to the acre.

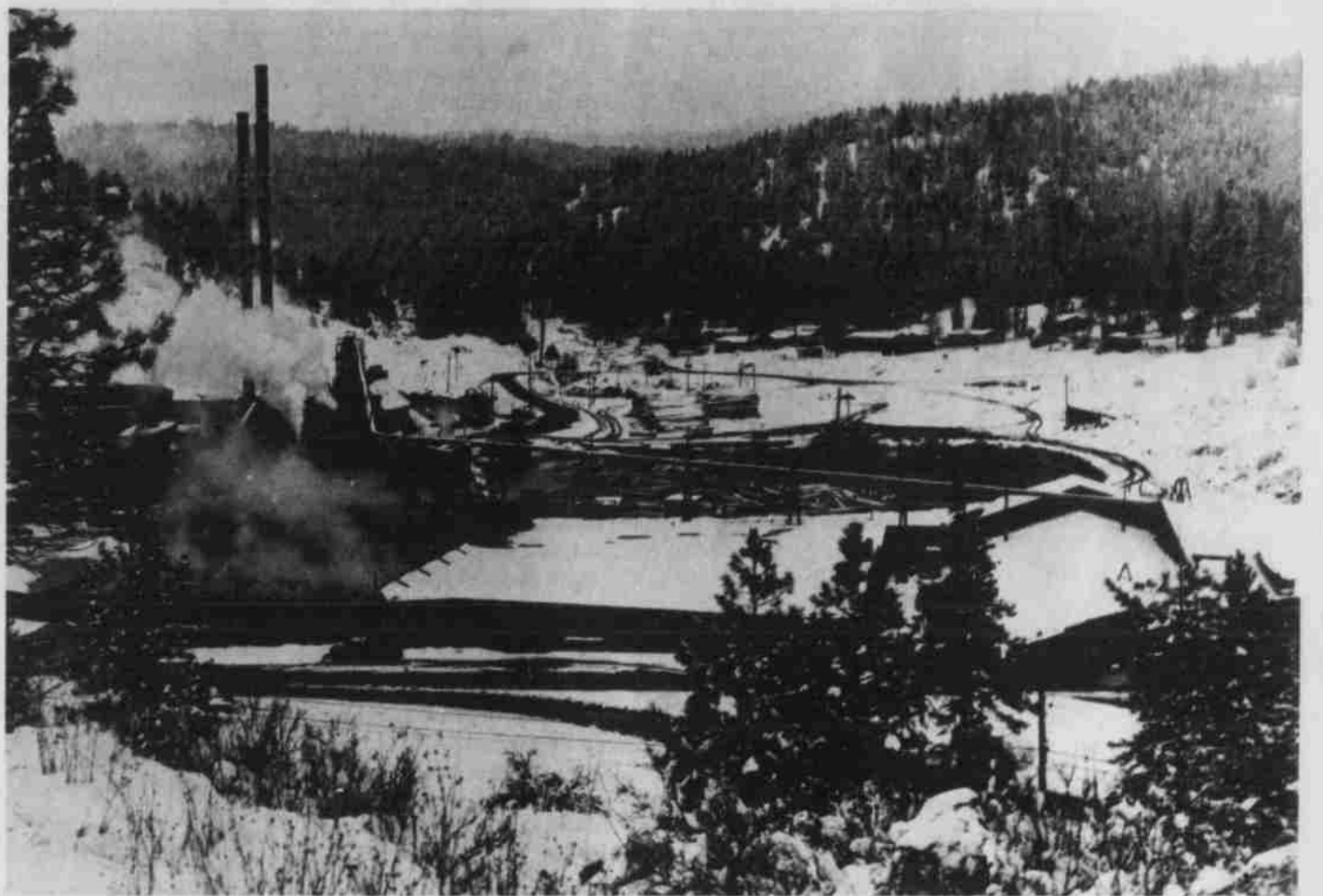
Kinzua reports that wood cut samples reveal that a substantial increase in wood fibre production is accomplished by the thinning process. Trees actually grow more wood fibre in eight years following one pre-commercial thinning than they grew in the previous 38 years of unattended growth. For every 17,500 acres thinned, an increase in annual production of one million board feet results, alone with a large increase in the amount of forage for livestock and wildlife.

Striking the proper balance between production and conservation has been a trademark of the Kinzua logging approach. Ward writes, "It was no accident that two Kinzua logging contractors have received statewide re-

foul fish-bearing streams with sediments and debris. Buffer strips were left to screen operations from passing traffic, thus preserving the aesthetic value of the area. Consideration is also given to snags that are being used by cavity-nesting birds. A road closure program has been instituted to cut down on wildlife harassment and to prevent or alleviate soil erosion. Unused roads are seeded back to grasses to produce additional cover and forage.

"Another Kinzua contractor, Norman Patterson, received a merit award for excellence in slash disposal from the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee in 1974 and 1975."

Kinzua general manager Allen Nistad summed up the Kinzua approach by saying, "Our goal has always been one of cooperation with all facets of the community and natural areas. The whole approach of the logging industry has changed from the early years and it's been exciting to work with a company that is so interested and concerned with what's going on around it."



Kinzua Corporation is a leader in the wood products industry when it comes to the environment and reforestation. This photo taken last winter at Kinzua shows the deeply forested hillsides above the town that not many years ago were barren and not meeting their tree-producing capabilities.

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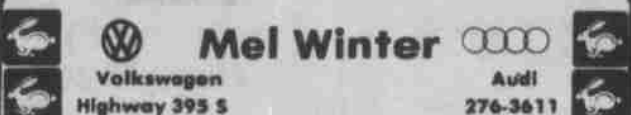


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