

Problems of Lumber Industry, Reviews Are Discussed at Meeting

Jack Wood, supervisor of Rogue River National forest, discussed aspects of the Timber Resources Review and problems facing the lumber industry in the Pacific northwest at a meeting of the Siskiyou chapter Society of American Foresters, here last night.

The TRR, which took three years to plan, compile and publish a rough draft, was released last year. It is a comprehensive report on the timber situation in the United States, and is considered the best overall timber report published to date.

Wood noted that the report was compiled through cooperation with federal agencies, state organizations and private industry. The first year was spent in planning what type data would be included and how much, the next in obtaining information from the field, and the third in compiling collected data into one publication.

Attempts to Forestall

The report attempts to forestall what will happen to the lumber industry in the future, Wood pointed out. Information in the report indicated that by the year 2,000 there will be a 67 per cent increase in demand in use for wood products over the demand in 1952.

Discussing the timber industry in the northwest, Wood noted that the Pacific northwest states had 10 per cent of the commercial forest land, and harvested 30 per cent of the total cut in the country in 1952. Although the report does not suggest a program to meet anticipated demands of the future, Wood said meeting the demands will be a cooperative effort between governmental agencies, private enterprise, and others associated with the lumber industry.

Noting that the three top industries in the northwest are timber, agriculture and tourism, in that order, Wood said timber will be the top industry in the northwest for some time in the future.

Commercial Forest Oregon, he said, has 26 million acres of commercial forest out of a total of 61 million acres of land. Of that 26 million acres,

18 million is saw timber, representing a total of 434 billion board feet.

The TRR listed several factors which will help in meeting the demand for wood products in the future. Among those reviewed by Wood were utilization, productivity, destructive agents, denuded lands, and the growth-cut ratio.

He noted an increase in use of wood residue in the pulp industry, and efficient operations in logging operations with the use of new and better equipment, such as chain saws, tractors, and more efficient log trucks. Efficiency, he said, was important when one considers that the total cut between 1944 and 1952 increased 20 per cent in the northwest while it remained the same nationwide. The total cut decreased in the south and east, thus increasing the northwest output.

Measuring Basis

The basis for measuring the reproduction of land in the TRR was the potential rather than the actual reproduction. Wood cited as an example that if an area was clear cut and the surrounding timber stand provided the potential seed for reforestation, the area was considered restocked in TRR.

He said the report noted that small wood lots—where individuals owned areas from which timber could be harvested—were in poor productivity condition. Wood said most of the small wood lots were in the south and east, but that there are a few in the northwest.

Insects, disease and fire, Wood noted, destroy one-fourth the total growth in the country per year. Timber destroyed by insects is six to seven times greater than by fire, and disease kills three times as much as fire.

Work Paid Off

Wood said the work which has been "put in fire protection and prevention in this area in the past has paid off." If the same effort is made against insects and disease, more can be done to increase the output to meet expected demands of the future.

TRR gave a conservative figure of 50 million acres of land



KUCHEL SEEPS SENATE SEAT — Well-wishers crowd around Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (left) during Republican election night party at the Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles. Senator Kuchel defeated Democrat Richard Richards to retain the seat he took over when Richard Nixon became Vice President in 1952.

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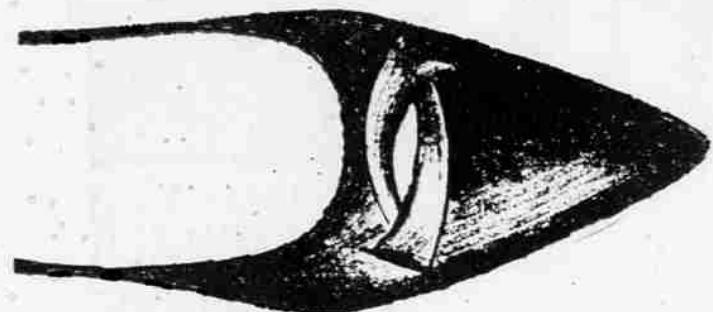
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