

Total Timber Volume of Rogue Forest About 19 Billion Feet

The total timber volume in the Rogue River National forest is approximately 19 billion board feet, and the annual net growth is 133 million board feet, figures resulting from a timber inventory project started in 1957 show, according to Forest Supervisor C. E. Brown.

The 161 page summary report shows the findings of the 3-year inventory project which include the establishment of more than 1,500 sample plots distributed in clusters of three each at 1.7-mile intervals over 866,000 acres of national forest land. On each of the plots every tree over 11 inches in diameter was tagged with a

permanent number and carefully measured at a point that was then marked to provide for future remeasurement at exactly the same point.

Brown said the forest service plans to remeasure the same plots at 10-year intervals to get recurrent checks on volume, growth, losses, and effects of management.

Copies of Report

Copies of the inventory report are filed at each of the six district rangers' offices: Ashland, Applegate (Star

Ranger Station), Butte Falls, Prospect, Union Creek, and Klamath Falls, and with the Jackson and Klamath county courts. Another copy of the inventory report has been provided to the secretary manager-forester of Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, Brown said.

The only portion of the national forest not included in the timber inventory was the Mountain Lakes Wild Area, an area of about 23,000 acres of high country east of Lake

of the Woods. The wild area classification permanently excludes logging from this area.

The total volume and growth figure includes other areas of the national forest that are reserved from timber use. Timber resource data on the areas is needed to aid future management decisions. The volume on land available for commercial timber management is placed at 17.2 billion board feet in trees over 11 inches in diameter breast height.

The Douglas-fir timber type makes up the major acreage, accounting for 340,252 acres and 10.1 billion board feet.

On the west side of the Cascade divide, the average growth is 279 board feet per acre per year. Ninety-three board feet per acre per year is lost due to timber dying from all causes, leaving 186 board feet per acre per year in net growth. East of the divide, growth is 221 board feet per acre per year, of

which 40 board feet is lost through mortality.

Brown said the inventory data has directed new attention to the need for aggressive management aimed to salvage a higher proportion of this loss. He pointed out that much of it occurs in inaccessible portions of the forest where salvage is presently out of the question.

"The need for additional access roads is more evident than ever," he said, "if this dying timber is to be used for

human benefits. In the areas now accessible by a network of forest roads, we are able to make salvage timber sales and recover considerable of these mortality losses, and also to make light harvests of 'high risk' trees to prevent the losses before they occur."

Two Working Circles

For administrative purposes the Rogue River National forest is divided into two working circles, the Rogue basin located on the west side of the Cascade divide, and the Klamath basin working circle located on the east side of the Cascade divide.

Within the Rogue basin

working circle the forest is now operating on an interim annual allowable cut of 140 million board feet per year. The Klamath basin working circle is operating on an interim allowable cut of 40 million board feet per year, or a total of 180 million board feet per year for the entire forest.

One part of the inventory job remains to be completed. This is a utilization study which will give the latest information on conversion of inventory net scale to woods net scale. This part of the study is planned to be completed during 1981, Brown said. After that is done, firm allowable cuts can be determined for the forest.

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Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1981)

What We Know—and Don't Know About Hibernation

The mystery of animal hibernation is still to be fully explained. Cold weather apparently pulls the trigger and the bear and the woodchuck seek a retreat under a log, in a cave or beneath the tangle of roots from a fallen tree and go to sleep—in fact they almost die.

How long the sleep lasts often depends on the severity of the weather. Both of these animals prepare for their long sleep by building up a heavy cushion of fat. They emerge in the spring lean and hungry, with the bears' cubs being born during the "little death."

When in the depths of this strange sleep the body temperature of the animal is very low, but slightly higher than their surroundings. The heart action slows down perceptibly. All the normal body functions are either arrested entirely or continue at a very low, reduced rate. Life itself, seems at a very low and dangerous ebb.

Many Hibernators

There are many varieties of animals that escape the cold of winter by this stupor known as hibernation. Bats, bears, woodchucks, some rodents such as prairie dogs and chipmunks, as well as many reptiles, go to sleep and snooze out the cold spells. Some fish, together with toads and frogs, bury themselves in the mud, below the frost line, and sleep until the warm rains of spring release them from their "little death."

Even a bear who is immovable, and apparently unconscious, becomes lively and very much awake if brought into a warm place. A sleeping woodchuck, almost stiff, and lifeless, awakes after it is subjected to warmth for a few hours, but acts drowsy and groggy for a considerable period. Taken back into a cold place, the animal curls up and goes back to sleep.

Many Explanations

There have been many and varied explanations for this strange condition we call hibernation. One seemingly plausible theory is the action of a gland, or duct, perhaps in the animal's brain or spinal column. For a long time the pituitary gland was thought to be the sparkplug that fired the shot, but the removal of the gland from bears and woodchucks only resulted in the animal shedding its hair. The urge and the necessity to hibernate was still present.

Supposedly an animal retreats to its den for the long sleep when food becomes scarce during periods of heavy snow or extreme cold, yet in the warmer regions, many animals become sleepy, or semi-dormant, during hot weather or even during exceedingly dry seasons.

Apparently this form of hibernation is brought about by the heat rather than the cold. Many students of animal behavior suggest the varying degrees of daylight may influence the chipmunk, or the woodchuck, to periods of sleep.

The true secret of exactly why or how an animal almost dies, and wakes when it should, is still obscured by a curtain of mystery.

Young Democrats Elect New Officers

Mrs. Margaret McGinty was elected president of the Young Democratic club of Medford at a meeting in the Labor Temple Thursday.

Other new officers are Vice President Jerry Christean and Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Poston.

Plans were made for ticket sales for the Roosevelt Memorial dinner April 8. Sen. Frank Church of Idaho will be the main speaker at the dinner.

The club also started a membership drive, and planned a program for its next meeting.

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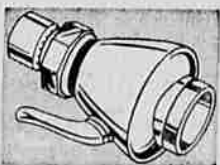
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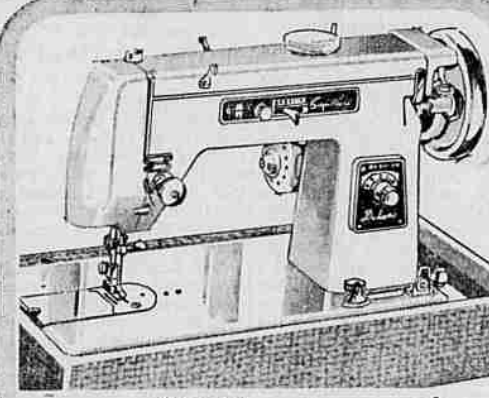
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