



One of Medford Corporation's heel-boom loaders deftly eases a log on one of Austin King's logging trucks in the Butte Falls area. Such a rig can load a truck in 15 minutes compared to the tedious method employed formerly with stationary steam (donkey) engines, winches and booms.



Calvin Smith, forester with the Industrial Forestry association, explains a long slender piece of core drilling from a Douglas fir tree to Congressman John Saylor, R-Pa., who was on the tour with Ex-Congressman Edwin Durno, Medford physician. Foresters can tell the growth of a tree by counting and measuring the rings on a piece of core wood.

Timber Management Practices Reviewed on Tour of Area Forests

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

What is the most efficient way to dispose of logging debris? How can timber be harvested with the least damage to the soil and second growth? Does selective logging really pay? These and other questions were answered during the

Industrial Forestry association's field trip Wednesday through the Prospect and Butte Falls areas. Timber management practices as used by Elk Lumber company and Medford Corporation were viewed by approximately 35 persons. Among those on the trip was John Saylor, Pennsylv-

ania congressman, who was visiting Dr. Edwin Durno, Medford physician and ex-Oregon congressman. Congressman Saylor came here following the Republican convention in Eugene last week. He is ranking senior member of the House interior and insular affairs committee. As Dr. Durno, another member of the field tour party, ex-

plained, this committee is concerned with irrigation, forestation and recreation major economic developments of the Rogue valley. Saylor had never seen lumber operations in this area. His Pennsylvania district covers Johnstown and Pittsburgh, an area which includes some hardwood lumber industry.

Because of the 14,000 acres of slash Elk Lumber company carries on its lands it has to maintain a larger fire department than that of the Southwest district of the state department of forestry, it was pointed out. Logging selectively is not necessarily more expensive, foresters said. Because of the many roads through selective timber stands it was possible to start logging the Columbus Day storm windfalls a week after the blow-down. Selective logging also insures multiple use of the forests. The number of hunters and a large hunting camp in one stand of timber showed the woods were being used extensively for recreation. Taylor noted that "the woods are every man's right" but predicted this may have to be changed.

Loggers made more money this way since they didn't have to push the brush away in front of them continually as in the usual logging operation. The trees left were culls. But, if needed they could be logged later. The tour group, which included educators, court members, and representatives of the Boy Scouts, civil defense, Izaak Walton league and California and Oregon Recreation Development association, watched one of Medco's heel-boom loaders pick up a 14-ton log in its giant pincers swing it over to a logging truck and carefully drop it in position. It piled other logs on top with the pincers carefully nudging each log into position. Such a rig can load a truck in 10 to 15 minutes, it was explained. On the way back, the tour group stopped at a weighing station maintained by Medco. Here a stockpile of logs is kept in case a log truck weighs much lighter than the limit. This station insures a truck carries a maximum legal load. Here, too, the weigh-station attendant can route and re-route trucks to various log

chantable tree crop? Elk carefully plotted the logging approach with ribbon. Then it cut one main skid road with smaller roads joining it at right angles and trees were felled at an angle to the main road. The large tractors never left the main skid road and logs would be pulled to it through the branch roads with two logs using the same "slot."

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landings. Like a railroad switchman he steps out of his shack and flashes a large card with the number of the landing needing trucks. A radio network connects the weigh station with the log dump at the mill and each landing to insure efficient and swift truck-dispatching. A tractor and radio are now considered the two of the main logging tools now, a forester said. Forestry agencies seldom close the woods down during hot, dry weather now because they realize the strategically located, radio-dispatched logging equipment can quickly reach the scene of a fire. They now realize such equipment is better fire insurance in the woods than out of it, it was pointed out. It was generally agreed that the forest "is every man's right" only as long as he protects that right, be he logger or recreationist. The local industry is striving to do its part with selective logging and other conservation practices. Slash areas need not be eye-sores now; as pointed out on the tour, they can be camp-sites. The tour made a good preliminary event for American Forest Products Week which starts today.



A group of the Industrial Forestry association's tour examine the Columbus Day storm damage from last year. The wind hit the area in strips. The vacuum created by the storm lifted trees out of the ground. Numerous access roads made it possible to salvage the downed timber more easily. Pennsylvania Congressman John Saylor, extreme left, flanked by Jack Hanel, Pacific Power and Light biologist, listen to an explanation in Elk Lumber company's Innaha road area.

The congressman was impressed with the log sizes at Medford Corporation's logging site on the East South Fork rd.

"Congressman, if you think these trees are big, wait until you see our old growth timber. This is only second growth," Calvin Smith, forester with the Industrial Forestry association, remarked with a grin.

First stop was at the Elk Lumber company's logging site, a partial cut area on 60 per cent slope on Elk Creek near the Oscar Hanson property.

Sam Taylor, company wood operations boss, explained the soil is never left completely bare. This allows for reproduction. This contrasts to all timber removal and ground burning followed by reseedling — never very successful in obtaining second growth, Taylor pointed out. Water bars were constructed on the slope to prevent erosion, he said.

Slash is left scattered on the ground to provide protective humus later for seedling trees. A forester in the group pointed out that under Ore-

gon law the operator is responsible for any fires starting in the slash until a forest agency such as the forest service releases them from that responsibility. Selective logging leaves enough shade so the slash deteriorates rapidly making it possible to release the slash in two or three years instead of the usual eight.



Members of the Wednesday Industrial Forestry tour hear an explanation of slash disposal in the Medford Corporation operation near the East South Fork rd. Considering the time and number of men required slash burning is a costly process, it was explained.

gona noted that "the woods are every man's right" but predicted this may have to be changed. A few hunters destroy signs, shoot locks off gates and their vehicles tend to tear down non-gravelled access roads. The new lightweight motorcycles will carry more people farther into the woods and create a more extensive problem in fire hazards and destruction of private property, he said.

John Gartman, Elk forester, told how the company will leave stands of timber along stream banks and near water holes. Raised culverts allow for water collection so pumpers can get their water from these waterholes, Gartman explained.

Taylor noted that some reproduction is not worth saving since such puny trees will never grow into merchantable timber. However, "punky trees" are left for possible future timber harvest when possible. High stumps have been harvested for peeler cores, it was noted.

Showing a clear-cut area with "pummy type" soil, Taylor said the brush is left in this area so the second growth can be protected until it grows right through it. He told of a plant which sprouts in burned over areas and whose broad leaves protect forest seedlings.

Research revealed this seed is impervious to water and requires 150 degree temperature as provided by the fringe of a forest fire to make it sprout. It will lay deep in the soil just waiting for fire to germinate it, Taylor explained.

Foresters showed piles of slash being burned alongside the road and commented it would be cheaper to bury it, considering all the manpower required for slash burning. How do you log larger trees in thick stands of second growth and do the least damage to the forest?

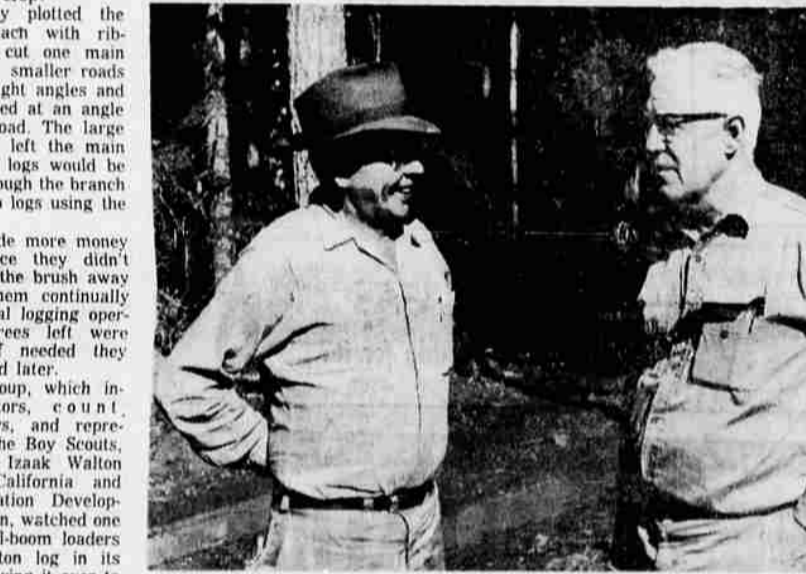
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Tom Oliver (right, Timber Products official, listens to Sam Taylor, woods operation boss with Elk Lumber company, tell a humorous incident. Taylor, as chief forester for his company, explained much of his company's conservation practices. He was assisted by John Gartman, Elk forester.



The giant pincers of the heel-boom loader deftly slides a top log into place atop one weighing 14 tons as a logging truck prepares to move out. The operator picked up the logs as gently as jackstraws as the Industrial Forestry association's 35-member tour watched fascinated.