

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., April 27, 1967.

HON. WENDELL WYATT,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. WYATT: This is in further reply to your letter of March 17 asking for a plan to modernize the Program of Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement of the National Forests of Oregon and Washington and to complete the work in six to eight years.

Our current estimate of the total amount of this work to be done in the two States is 171,000 acres of reforestation (tree planting and tree seeding) and 1,525,000 acres of timber stand improvement (thinning and release). These acreages include areas cutover by sale of timber for which K-V funds are not available. K-V collections are generally adequate to do the needed work on sale areas in Oregon and Washington, and we do not anticipate that future timber sales will make any significant addition to the acreages to be financed with appropriated funds. Acreages are added at times because of forest fires and periodic changes are made as surveys produce more accurate information on the size of areas to be treated.

The location of the work by States and Sub-regions is shown in the attached table No. 1.

The "East Side" Sub-regions are East of the Cascade Summit where the predominant species is ponderosa pine. The "West Side" Sub-regions are West of the Cascade Summit where the predominant species is Douglas-fir.

All of the acreage in Oregon and West Side Washington is in our Forest Service Region 6 under the direction of the Regional Forester at Portland. The "East Side" Sub-region in Washington includes the Colville and part of the Kaniksu National Forests which are under direction of the Regional Forester in Missoula.

The estimated cost of doing all of the work is about 80 million dollars. About 20 million dollars would be used for tree planting and tree seeding and 60 million dollars for release and thinning to increase growth in young stands. About 48 million dollars would be needed to do the work in Oregon and about 32 million dollars in Washington.

About \$2,750,000 of the \$17,640,000 in the F.Y. 1967 Forest Service budget for reforestation and timber stand improvement is being used for this work on the National Forests in Oregon and Washington. A program to complete the work in eight years would require an average of 10 million dollars per year.

A workable program to complete the job in eight years is developed in the attached table No. 2. Attached tables 2a and 2b show how it probably would be divided between the two States in carrying out the individual National Forest programs. The \$2,980,000 shown in the tables for F.Y. 1968 is the amount planned for the work in Oregon and Washington under the present 1968 Budget Request of \$17,640,000. Allocations would be increased each year on a graduated scale. This would be better than a sharp increase from the current program to 10 million dollars per year. It takes two or three years to grow the additional trees in our nurseries for a larger planting program, work areas would have to be laid out and other preparatory work would have to precede a much larger over-all annual program. Timber stand improvement work can be expanded faster than reforestation because it requires less preparation work. This is illustrated in the above referenced table No. 2.

We estimate the eight year program will result in the following increased timber growth and an equivalent increase in allowable annual cut.

	Acres	Cost	Increased annual growth (million board feet)
Reforestation:			
Oregon.....	130,000	\$14,950,000	70
Washington.....	41,000	4,715,000	20
Total reforestation.....	171,000	19,665,000	90
Timber stand improvement:			
Oregon.....	832,000	33,280,000	225
Washington.....	693,000	27,720,000	190
Total stand improvement.....	1,525,000	61,000,000	415
Total program.....	1,696,000	80,665,000	505