

Mr. McCracken (reading):

III. BASIC FORESTRY CONTEXT

As a means of achieving better forest management, and higher timber yields to meet timber shortages in the Pacific Northwest, WFIA long has supported higher quality, more intensified forest management programs including advanced access roading. This problem was considered in 1965 by Secretary of Agriculture Freeman and Secretary of Commerce Connor.

On September 17, 1965, Secretary Freeman in a letter rejecting a request for a Federal sustained yield unit in Oregon and Washington, stated in part:

I am directing the Forest Service to use every means available to it to maintain timber harvesting at allowable cut levels and to accelerate offerings of timber not normally included under allowable cut limitations such as material from prelogging salvage operations and thinning of young growth stands.

Similarly, in a letter of December 9, 1965, to Senator Magnuson responding to a request for a review of the log export situation affecting the Pacific Northwest, Secretary Connor said:

... a positive program is indicated including increasing the log supply in the Pacific Northwest through intensified management ... and further ... it would appear that a positive approach should be taken leading toward an overall increase in timber supply.

Both the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce, then, implicitly agreed that there is room for increasing the equality of our Federal timber management.

In February 1966, the Forest Service issued a plan for a 5-year investment program of advanced roading at \$1,615,900 per year. This would have allowed the forests in Oregon and Washington to immediately increase the harvest of marketable timber by 142 million feet per year. The matter never got into the budget.

Another program has had wide industry and congressional support is the funding of \$2 million proposed by the Forest Service for research to develop and prove the use of aerial logging systems, including balloon logging. This would permit the annual harvest of logs from those steep slopes and unstable soil areas that bear high-quality commercial-size timber. This volume is not now a part of the announced allowable cut, which assumes the use of only conventional harvesting methods. Some small funding has made possible a slow start on this research project. If we avail ourselves of parallel Canadian research and get funds to complete our own research, as much as 1 billion feet, perhaps more, of public and private timber would be added to our domestic woodpile.

This addresses itself basically to the question Senator Hatfield raised.

The very brief film and slides from the Forest Service will illustrate this point.

Reforestation and thinning programs for our national forest lands, if budgeted, could play a big part in adding immediately 505 million feet to our annual national forest harvest in Oregon and Washington. Details were furnished by the Forest Service in its answer of April 27, 1967, to the inquiry of Representative Wyatt regarding such potential. This project actually is a combination of two longstanding develop-