

ment needs, reforestation and precommercial thinnings. Only a few months ago, the Forest Service stated in the same letter that it could increase its annual cut by 90 million feet by adding to its timberland base 171,000 acres of high-quality commercial forest lands, lands capable of growing high-volume timber crops but now dominated by brush cover. These lands are not reforesting. The program could be accomplished well within the 10-year planning period used by the Forest Service to regulate and structure the allowable cut. With assurances of financing and actual budgeting this program could be started and finished within 8 years. While the trees are being grown, sites reclaimed from brush and the areas returned to productivity, this addition to the timber average base will allow an immediate increased harvest from the mature forest inventory now being held in reserve to assure a continuous supply. This is in accord with Forest Service allowable cut procedures.

The second proposal made by the Forest Service in its letter to Representative Wyatt was one of stand improvement in the young forests of the region. Many such areas are overcrowded and still too small to make possible a commercial thinning.

By speeding up nature's process of thinning, these densely stocked young forests, by Forest Service estimate about 1½ million acres, over the same 8-year budgetary period, would further add 415 million feet to the annual allowable cut. This additional amount would be harvested from the mature timber inventory in the same fashion as would be done with the budgeted reforestation program.

The cost of thinning this 1½ million acres of young forest would total \$61 million over the 8 years.

Our Federal forest lands still contain very large volumes of overage and dying timber that could be a further significant contributor to our wood needs. Adjustment in timber management decisions would be needed, plus funding and manpower required to sell the timber. The market is there to buy if offered.

Several private timber owners in the Pacific Northwest maintain a more aggressive timber salvage program and a more intensive level of management of growing timber than that provided the Federal forests. This permits a lower inventory of residual timber volume necessary for sustaining the yield. Certainly our members and the people of our timber-dependent communities are not interested in immediate expediency with later regret. But in western Oregon and Washington, according to the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station's "Timber Trends in Western Oregon and Western Washington," there is an excessive inventory of mature timber. Experienced, reputable, scholarly foresters believe that as much as 125 billion feet of additional timber could be harvested in the Douglas-fir region that is on public lands without falling below the level of harvest forecast for the year 2010 under current trends and levels of Forest Service Management.

Parenthetically, this is the concept which Dr. Duerr discussed in his research paper for the Forest Service. I know there have been several questions and much interest about this point. Dr. Graves, who is a colleague of Dr. Duerr will explain with the use of charts.

Senator MORSE. We will be glad to hear you on this point, Dean Graves.