

Carrying this message directly to the people of the Northwest, on June 19, 1959, at the Citizens' Conference on Pacific Northwest Forest Resources, held at Reed College in Portland, the Chief, Forest Service, said:

"This pressure on public forests is accentuated by the fact that in many places in these two States there is greater installed mill capacity to cut timber than there may ever be to grow it. Competition for merchantable timber, therefore, is keen and is increasing. Few operators own enough timber and land to meet the full needs of their mills now or in the future. Many mill operators own no timber or land and are dependent on buying all their timber. Another point to consider is that somewhat over half of the region's timberland in private ownership is not owned by forest industries. These nonindustry forest owners are not primarily in the timber-growing business.

Chief Forest Service
says Northwest Timber
Supply inadequate

"I do not believe it will be possible to absorb completely the full force of this increasing pressure for more and more timber to be cut on the public forests. A great deal of the pressure can be absorbed, and already a lot of the slack has been taken up. National-forest timber cut, for example, has been doubled and the volume sold tripled since 1950. It is physically possible to increase the national-forest cut still further if some of the roadblocks are removed.

Chief Forest Service
says some mill capacity
will inevitably go out
of business.

"But let me say here and now that regardless of pressure we will not overcut the national forests; we will not reduce rotation ages below what is technically desirable simply to rationalize increased cuts; we will not interpret allowable cut so that it becomes a floor rather than a ceiling; and we will continue to practice sustained yield even though many people now talk of allowable cut instead. We will not yield to these pressures even though some installed mill capacity goes out of business as some of it inevitably will (emphasis supplied)

In January 1959, in order to step up its level of appropriations for national forest administration in fiscal year 1960, the Forest Service told Congress Pacific Northwest employment, payrolls and communities are almost completely dependent upon the timber resources of the national forests. The Forest Service was careful to assure Congress that the timber harvested under its stepped-up program, when processed through such trade channels as mills, manufacturing plants, transportation and use in final construction, would provide increased receipts to the Treasury and strengthen the national economy: