

We are anxious to increase the forest industry in Alaska, and feel that this can be done in such a way as to be of benefit to Alaska and to the Japanese trade as well as to the easing of pressure in the Pacific Northwest. This does not mean opening southeastern Alaska to the export of unprocessed logs.

ALLOWABLE CUTS

The Forest Service pays a great deal of attention to allowable cuts, and this attention is continuous. It is not a new activity. In the Pacific Northwest, we have a regular program of reinventory of timber and recalculation of allowable cuts. This regular program contemplates revision of each of the management plans at about 10-year intervals. There are 20 working circle plans for the national forests in western Oregon and Washington. We are on schedule in this plan revision program. Each plan revision takes into consideration timber volumes, rates of growth, stand distribution by species and types and age classes, the need for planting and thinning, and needs for other uses of the land, such as watershed and recreation. The figures which are developed for each of these working circles for allowable cuts are carefully developed and fully supported. They represent the most careful determinations we know how to make. Plans also reflect current changes in practice by the industry in utilization of forest products.

As a consequence, there has been a continuous increase in allowable cuts. For example, in 1956, the total allowable cut for these national forests in western Oregon and western Washington was 2.1 billion board feet. Currently this figure is 3.2 billion board feet.

There are some ways by which a justified increase in allowable cut could be made. Effective output from the national forest working circles can be increased by—

1. Salvaging mortality from insect and disease loss.
2. An aggressive commercial thinning program which would get into commercial channels young trees that naturally die before the stand reaches harvest age.
3. An aggressive precommercial thinning program which would stimulate tree growth.
4. Reforesting some 67,000 acres of lands that have been non-stocked for a good many years.
5. Improvements in utilization standards.
6. New logging methods.

As I have already discussed, to do all of the things that should justifiably be done would require considerable time and would carry a price tag. We estimate that \$800 million to \$1 billion could be effectively spent in national forests of western Washington and western Oregon in the next 10 years. This would include roads, the cost of reforestation and getting thinnings and other forest work done.

Our problem goes further than merely spending money to increase the allowable cut. In developing allowable cuts, we must recognize and must take into account the limiting factors of protecting soil, water, scenery, and wildlife, and providing for recreational use. These needs are very real. They are increasingly recognized by the general public.

In an attempt to evaluate the complex factors involved, a major investigation, known as the "Douglas-fir Supply Study," was started by