

cut from BLM forest lands. The report was completed January 1, 1967. Then, with the cooperation of Gov. Charles A. Sprague, chairman of the O. & C. advisory board, an allowable cut committee was appointed to review this subject. The committee held 10 research and executive sessions attended by 43 authorities who represented cross sectional viewpoints in technical fields and public and private sectors. Their findings were produced in a report entitled "Recommended Allowable Cut Policies for Managing BLM Forest Land in Western Oregon," and unanimously accepted by the O. & C. advisory board on August 16, 1967. The members of this committee are: Dawn Peseau, A. F. Hartung, Eric Allen, Jr., Sid Leiken, Ray E. Doerner, and David T. Mason.

The allowable cut for BLM forest land in western Oregon has more than doubled since the passage of the Oregon-California Railroad Act in 1937. Factors which increased the cut are—

1. More accurate inventories which revealed the volume and acreage of merchantable timber available for cutting was greater than that estimated in the original O. & C. classification cruises.
2. Land exchanges in the early years of BLM administration increased the acreage of commercial forest land and provided a better distribution of age classes.
3. Reduction in the number of inventory units from 76 to 18 produced a better distribution of age classes within each unit.
4. Improved techniques in computing allowable cut provided better data to permit more precise determination of the regeneration period necessary to stock cutover lands and revision of the minimum age of cutting.
5. A change in utilization standards from the Scribner Decimal C log rule to the one-eighth inch international log rule in determining rotation.
6. A single computation for both O. & C. and public domain lands which added 180,000 acres of commercial forest land to the allowable cut base.
7. More intensive management, such as reforestation on presently and previously cutover and burned acres, reestablished the land's productivity.

Factors decreasing the cut were—

1. Transfer to the O. & C. controverted lands, 463,000 acres to the administration of the Department of Agriculture.
2. Catastrophic losses due to forest fires, insect epidemics, and wind throw which resulted in overcutting to salvage the affected timber.
3. The impact of multiple use which restricts the cut on some areas.

Of these reasons, the principal factor which can continue to be a basis for further increases is No. 7, "more intensive management."

Quite frankly, "easy methods" such as changing the computation procedures are no longer available. More intensified management activities on the ground are needed. These must be backed by assured long-term financing and manpower.

There is great promise in precommercial thinning of young stands. This treatment not only shortens the time needed to produce tree sizes which can be commercially thinned, but also increases the gross-wood