

THE KNOWTNOLE

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Across the Nation

Timber Outlook

Do wide fluctuations in timber prices reflect short-term factors? Do new timber supply-demand relationships involve permanent higher levels of timber prices? Are we exporting our wood products to much?

It is a known fact that we can expect substantial increases in timber demands in the years ahead, but only limited increases in available lumber supplies. So concludes the latest Forest Service appraisal of the nation's timber situation and outlook. The consequences seem clear -- using prices for timber products and greater dependence on substitute materials.

Forest conditions in the U.S. have steadily improved in the past several decades as a result of expanding fire control and increases in tree planting and other forestry activities. Net annual growth of softwood increased between 1952 and 1970 to 10.7 billion cubic feet, while timber removed rose to about 9.6 billion cubic feet. 4.0 billion board feet were cut in 1970 and current projections show an increase of 25 percent over the actual 1970 cut for the next 30 years.

In 1970 about 45 percent of the nations lumber harvest, in cubic feet of all species, came from the South. And the projected increase for timber harvesting in the next 3 decades for the South will be 70 percent.

All of these projections indicate a substantial price increase in order to balance timber demands with prospective supplies. The relative price for soft woods are estimated at 20-25 percent above 1970 and possibly 50-60 percent by 2000. Stumpage prices would probably increase considerably more, percentage wise, than other wood products. The historical relationships show that stumpage prices for the year 2000 would be more than double the average stumpage price in the year 1970.

Exports of timber products from the U.S. have been rising. In 1972 exports totaled 9 percent of total U.S. supplies, while net imports were made up of 12 percent of all timber products consumed.

What trends can provide for a long-run opportunity for stretching available timber supplies. 1) Residue recovery; in 1970 unused residue in primary manufacturing plants amounted to more than 12 million cords. Timber supplies could be augmented in several ways, for example, equipment improvement and processing methods could increase output. Expanding markets and rising prices should permit more complete use of residue. Increased waste recycling would augment raw material supplies.

The implication of the new appraisal are clear. The nation can accept the economic, social, and environmental costs of letting timber prices rise. Or it can make the adjustments and necessary investments to increase and extend timber supplies. From the stand point of national interest, this latter alternative seems to be the only prudent course of action.

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Energy Legislation is too Loose

The National Emergency Energy Bill just passed the Senate 78-6.

This bill (S. - 2589) gives the President vast powers and may cause more problems than Watergate. For example:

-- How do you make a fair choice between allocating furnace oil for New England as compared with gasoline for California and Florida?

-- Under S. 2589, the President could control advertising, black out all lighted billboards, or end "pleasure driving" on Sunday, but do you permit advertising for little cars and ban it for Cadillacs and other big gas-guzzlers?

These are awkward questions, for even going to church on Sunday is a "pleasure" for some and an agony for others, but once you start to control limited supplies of essential commodities like fuel in a vast continental country like the U.S.

It is interesting how the senate has dealt with the problem. Even while it was in the process of considering the possibility of impeaching the President it lost responsibility for handling the fuel crisis to the President, without defining the principles or the policy that should guide him.

Sen. Charles Mathias, R-MD, noted before passage of S. 2589 that it didn't even make provisions for the President and his aides to give prior notice of their fuel regulations, so that the press could publish them and give the people time to testify on them.

This bill will have great influence on the social, economic, and political life of the nation. As it now stands, it could add immeasurably to the divisions and differences between the regions, classes, and races in America when more trouble is not exactly what we need.

James Reston

Success at Yellowstone

Yellowstone, the largest national park in the United States, has a problem: how to live with success.

The sightseers, campers, and vacationers crowd into less than five per cent of the park and generate 6000 tons of garbage every summer. Long lines of traffic, accidents, vandalism--all the urban woes people come to Yellowstone to escape--have invaded the park.

Maintaining Yellowstone for the "enjoyment of all the people" while also preserving it "from injury or spoilation" taxes the resources of the U. S. National Park Service.

Park officials advocate development of large "gateway centers" where visitors would find lodging and exhibits and lectures on what the park has to offer. They would travel into the park in shuttle buses and would visit the scenic sites via those same buses.

An Outdoor Philosophy

. . . One of the definitions of gentleman is: "A man whose conduct conforms to a high standard of propriety or correct behavior." We have all had the experience of being crowded when fishing or having hunters rush in ahead of us to hunt singles we had flushed. A sportsman must be a gentleman. He is considerate of strangers as well as the members of his party.

An outdoor philosophy must include appreciation . . . of the weather, trees, flowers, even the blade of grass he clomps on. With appreciation of all the wonders of nature to be seen, the importance of the bag grows less. I can remember when it was of utmost importance to catch fish or kill game. This is no longer true. There are so many things which cause me to stop and marvel that I no longer consider the bag the prime reason for the trip.

Hunters and anglers in the growing-up stage should be encouraged to learn as much as they can about everything they see. Even the most rudimentary knowledge of geology, of astronomy, of reptiles, and of insects, increases enjoyment of the out of doors.

The great Aldo Leopold, who wrote A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC--it should be required reading in all high schools--was a hunter, yet he was capable of appreciating a Pasque flower as much as a Grouse.

An outdoor philosophy should include concern for our surroundings. I don't particularly like the word "Environmentalism," yet those who qualify for the name are individuals with outdoor philosophies that extend beyond today and what they can see at the moment. The development of a concern for our surroundings, along with the other segments of an outdoor philosophy, is, no doubt, the most important part of it for any boy and girl.

Ted Trueblood

The Past Summer

Dr. Singer worked the past summer as a multiple-use planner at the planning headquarters of the Lolo National Forest in Montana. His position was one of eleven planning positions nationwide in the Summer Exchange Program for Forestry School Faculty.

"The Environmental Protection Agency must approve Environmental Statements of all public land management agency programs by the Summer of 1976 if the agency is to continue its programs. The purpose of my activity was to make suggestions for refining the planning process used to develop Environmental Statements" said Singer.

Singer developed a guide for forest land management decision making for the sustained production, preservation and quality enhancement of benefits from public lands through forest land and water planning and allocation. He worked not only with various publics, Forest Supervisors, Rangers and Assistant Rangers but also with specialists in soils, watershed management, fisheries, wildlife habitat, fire control, recreation, range, water quality, entomology, landscape architecture, geology and cartography.

He states, "Ability to integrate knowledge and plan for natural resource benefits is rapidly becoming a survival tool for the new land manager. Take Forestry 501 'Forest Resource Planning' this Spring Semester; get the edge on graduates from other schools."

Past Grads in Entomology

Bill Hoffard, a graduate (M. S. F., 1973) in Entomology is now working for the Arkansas Forestry Commission in Little Rock evaluating and recommending control methods throughout Arkansas.

Also, Joe Pass (M. S. F., 1973) in Entomology is working in the Forest Pest Control Section, Texas Forest Service out of Lufkin. His principle responsibility is to establish a survey and detection system for the Southern Pine Beetle in East Texas.

Dr. Bilan Receives Travel Grant

It was announced by Dr. C. R. Voigtel, Director of Development at SPASU, that the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund of Galveston awarded a \$500 travel grant to Dr. M. V. Bilan, Professor of Forestry. Dr. Voigtel, who was instrumental in obtaining the grant, stated that The Kempner Fund supported several worthwhile SFA projects in the past.

Dr. Bilan, who is the SFA Distinguished Professor for 1973, will travel to Rotorua, New Zealand, to present a research paper at the International Conference on Vegetative Propagation of Forest Trees. Dr. Bilan will also participate in the pre-conference field trips in the northern New Zealand and in the post-conference field trips in eastern and southern Australia. While there he will present a leading paper on vegetative propagation of sweetgum.

Older Faculty

Dr. Somberg has published an article entitled "Latin American Situation in 'Foreign Woods,'" in the Proceedings of the Seventh Texas Industrial Woods seminar.

Dr. Hicks published a co-authored article entitled "Biochemical Comparisons of Extracts from Physiologically Juvenile and Mature Quaking Aspen Cuttings" in the Proceedings of the Twentieth North East Forest Tree Improvement Conference, Durham, New Hampshire.

Sierra Club Speaker

Well, you missed a good speaker if you didn't go hear Alan Goes speak at the Student Chapter meeting of S. A. F. It was held last Tuesday in the Science Auditorium and approximately 75 students and 9 professors listened to Mr. Goes speak on forestry as it pertains to the Sierra Club. He spoke on their views mainly as they concern the West Coast, but if applied to a particular region, with the variables introduced which concern that area, then a policy could be formed to accommodate those representatives.

The apathetic students did not bother to show up; I suppose they felt the same as they do in the classroom--why bother! Some of the professors that were there decided this was their turn to snicker and giggle throughout the talk--chalk that up to a mass case of care-lessits.

After going to class after class where economic's dictates the theme of study, it was refreshing, at least for this reporter, to listen while the voice of an Environmental group defended the causes of preservation, even if that voice was biased sometimes to the point of extremism. Mr. Goes was very fair and pointed out many times his disagreement with his own policy board. His ideas on land-use planning and multiple-land-use are something which should be considered for the future. The crowd seemed uninformed on the views of the Sierra Club and he related to the problems which face the group in this regard.

Mr. Coes started the program off with a personal background story and then entered into the club's background and its conception by John Muir in 1892. The talk then shifted to the tradition of ad hoc history beginning with the Hetch Hetchy problem and various other club problems. He described, briefly, the membership enrollment and the typical patron being a member of a highly educated group, often with a widely based ecologic concern, but which is narrowly directed to recreation.

The forestry problems were again from the clubs viewpoint toward productivity in perpetuity, in the long run; erosion and eco-disaster on "tender" lands; improvement on high grading systems; sustained yield as it applies to equal annual or a periodic output. Making economic decisions based on a larger context; and many other points of interest.

His formal lecture did little more than introduce the Sierra Club to our populace, but the evening could have been more productive if more students and teachers had taken the time and energy to introduce some stimulation into the flow of things. If we get beyond the disinterest displayed by students which was evidenced by the turn out, and we get that added impetus sorely lacking in our faculty, maybe, just maybe we can become a school the likes of Mr. Coes alma mater, The University of California at Berkely.

Dr. Kroll sez

Anyone having a problem involved in the wildlife option is invited to discuss the problem with Dr. Kroll. He has taught every course required in the option, including Botany and Zoology, and will tutor anyone on any wildlife subject which you are having trouble in.

\$50 Reward

During September 1973, one of the Monroe Calculators disappeared from PO 207.

We are anxious to get it back -- NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

If you have information concerning the missing calculator, please contact Mr. Billy Earley, with McWheeler and Earley, 564-2676. A \$50.00 reward will be given for its return.

Clean Paper Mills

Paper can be made without the sulfur compounds which create the foul-smelling and toxic air pollution produced by most paper mills, by using oxygen and caustic soda to digest and bleach wood pulp. According to La Soleil (Quebec, July 9), the question facing the paper industry is whether to introduce this new technology, which is economically competitive with present Kraft and sulfite processes, or to continue installing expensive pollution control devices on plants of existing design, preserving the large investment which has already been made in them. At an international meeting in early July in Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, 130 paper-industry scientists discussed this question and found that while the oxygen process had clear environmental advantages, it would not be employed until rising demand and prices stimulated a large expansion of paper and pulp-making capacity, according to La Soleil.

Book Review

The Exploration of the Colorado River

John Wesley Powell

Illustrated and with an introduction by Wallace Stegner. In 1869, John Powell, one-armed veteran of the Battle of Shiloh, began his adventurous exploration of the Colorado River. From a water-soaked journal kept during the voyage, Powell wrote this classic report on his trail blazing of the Colorado country, in which he describes watersheds, huge deserted cliff dwellings, and the awesome walls of the Grand Canyon itself.

"It is the wild sense of originality, of participating in an immortal feat of exploration which will grip the reader." --
Cloth edition (195) \$4.75, 138 pages, Paper \$1.95.

The University of Chicago Press

New Fire Option

The Administration has approved a new option involved in Fire Management. Dr. Reeves states that it could provide an excellent second option to compliment one's own option. The demand for fire control knowledge is on the rise, plus fire management will be part of any program a person works for and the knowledge received by the second option will be invaluable in the future. See Dr. Reeves for more details.