



PRIVATE

By E. F. HEACOX

Managing Forester

Weyerhaeuser Timber Company

[Lee Merrill Photos for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company]

THE Forest Industries Council was formed some 10 years ago to bring together the major forest industry associations for the purpose of promoting industrial forest management and acting on forest policy matters affecting all the wood using industries. The Council is composed of representatives of the American Paper and Pulp Association, American Pulpwood Association and the National Lumber Manufacturers Association with its 16 affiliate groups across the country. Through the Forest Industries Council the industries represented by these three associations have expressed their forest policy as follows:

FOREST POLICY STATEMENT of the FOREST INDUSTRIES COUNCIL

We know that permanent industries capable of producing continuous supplies of forest products are essential to the national welfare. The necessity for wise use of our forest resources in maintaining such industries and the communities dependent upon them is recognized. Having faith that private enterprises and initiative can provide the most effective management, use, and renewal of our nation's forests, the Forest Industries Council pledges united leadership for betterment of America's forests, and the attainment of continuous forest production. In the fulfillment of this leadership, the Forest Industries Council and its members agree to:

1. Promote the extension of permanent and dependable protection against fire to all forest lands.
2. Cooperate with public and private agencies in the control of and abatement of destruction by major forest insects and diseases.

FOREST INDUSTRIES

MEET THE CHALLENGE

CONSERVATION OF OUR REPLENISHABLE RESOURCES

3. Urge all forest owners and forest operators to use, and assist others in using, forest practices which will bring about the continuous production of timber on all areas harvested.
4. Confirm the sound economic policy of encouraging private ownership of lands which are being or which can be profitably managed for continuous production of forest crops.
5. Advocate equalization of federal, state and local taxes on forest land that reasonably support their fair proportion of local responsibilities, and that encourage private ownership of forest lands.
6. Support in each forested state a competent, adequately staffed and financed state forestry organization qualified to manage state-owned forest lands; to administer and enforce state laws relative to privately owned forest lands, including forest practice laws deemed necessary and adopted by the people of each state; and to cooperate fully with all timberland owners in all forestry matters.
7. Encourage maximum utilization of forest products, including more integration of wood use between different forest products industries.
8. Promote industrial research and cooperate in effective and economic public research in all categories of the utilization of forest products and commercial forest management.

Briefly, the crux of this policy is that the forest industries believe in and are working toward the attainment of continuous production of forest crops under private management. That considerable progress is being made in this direction is evidenced in part by the following examples:

Today the forest industries of the United States employ more than 4400 college trained foresters. In 1947, 111 million acres of state and private

forest lands were in the "unprotected class". Four years later the unprotected area had been cut nearly in half and in 1951 less than 10% of the total forest acreage was unprotected.

A Sign of Progress

The tree farm movement, sponsored and organized by the forest industries, had its beginning in the northwest corner of the country in 1941 and has now spread to 33 states and more than 27.5 million acres of privately owned forest land have been enlisted in the program. The Keep Green programs, also organized by the forest industries, have likewise spread to 34 states and are exerting a strong constructive influence in forest fire prevention throughout America. During 1951 a half million acres were planted to trees and 79% of this acreage was private land.

Other signs of the progress being made in industrial forestry do not lend themselves as readily to statistical evaluation but are none the less significant. For example, industrial foresters are devoting more time each year to giving assistance to farmers and other small woodland owners in working out their forestry problems and improving the productivity of their forest land. The acquisition by industry of bare forest land and areas bearing young tree crops to round out sustained yield operating units has been going on at a rapid pace for well over a decade. The result has been that millions of acres that once constituted a serious problem to the counties and taxing authorities are now a highly sought after prize and the object of spirited competition. The natural corollary of this process is that today's prices for this type of forest land are assuming an important relationship to the cost of growing timber. There is no adequate yardstick by which to measure the improvements in industrial forestry practices but again, each year sees

an increasing number of forest land owners of all sizes improving their cutting methods and other silvicultural operations as well as extending improved forestry practices to more acres.

Integrated Utilization Important

Industrial forest products research has become increasingly important. The search for new and improved products derived from wood, new uses for present products and more efficient methods of processing has become a necessary phase of operation throughout the industry. Following the lead of those pioneer lumbermen who, for a number of years, have supported financially and otherwise encouraged research in field forestry, an increasing number of companies are undertaking research in forest management. As might be expected, a substantial portion of the forestry studies now being conducted by industry are in the field of applied research seeking practical answers to practical forestry problems.

More recently, industry is taking increased interest in the broader fields of forestry research as well as in studies of more fundamental character. In addition to silviculturists and mensurationists, industrial forestry research staffs now include specialists in such fields as forest soils, ecology, entomology, recreation and wild life, and pathology. For years forest genetics enthusiasts have been classed by most foresters with the "born thirty years too soon" group. In view of the general expansion in the broad field of artificial reforestation and more particularly in aerial seeding it is a safe prediction that the next few years will see the development of wide spread interest in the important fields of forest genetics and tree breeding.

The great increase in the utilization of timber both in the woods and at the mills is one of the outstanding

developments of the past decade. The many technological factors which have aided in this accomplishment are too well known to recite here. Above all, of course, is the improved forest economics situation which has made it possible for the industry to convert into useful commodities the material that formerly would not pay its way.

Prelogging, relogging and salvage operations in the overmature forests of the Douglas fir region alone have added billions of feet to the nation's timber supply. Specially designed chip cars and trucks are coming on the scene in increasing numbers and a substantial item in the diet of many a pulp or fibre-board mill consists of the residue obtained from squaring and peeling round logs.

There has been a great deal of activity on the industrial forestry scene during the past decade. The growth in industrial forestry has been healthy and progress has been rapid. Today the trend is still definitely on the upswing and there is no indication of a slackening pace. At a more rapid rate than is generally realized the industry is settling down to permanent residency in the communities of every forest region in the land.

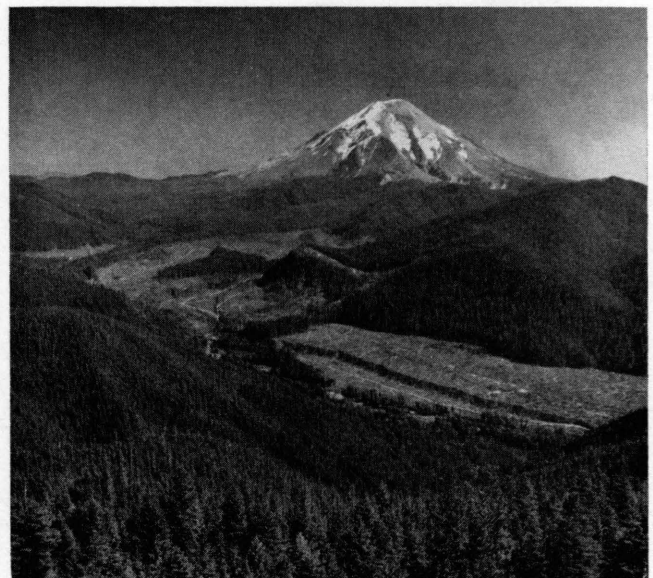
The Balance Between Growth and Drain

The gap between total forest growth and drain has been almost closed and technological advances in both products and processes continue to diminish the advantage of tree size and quality inherent in virgin timber. To be sure there are weak spots here and there, some of them of serious proportions, but for the most part they will respond to the type of orderly progress now taking place.

The transition from an economy based in virgin timber to one that depends upon tree crops willfully



The first stage after virgin timber was removed thirty years ago, this young stand is being thinned to improve growth rate on the residual stand.



Area selection logging is shown on the company's St. Helens Tree Farm. Farms similar to this provide the logs for Weyerhaeuser's mills.



Paul Lauterbach (Iowa State College—1944), Weyerhaeuser research forester, inspecting insect trap on tree infested with Douglas fir beetles.

grown and tended to merchantability is not easy. It will take more than one generation of foresters and perhaps even several generations of trees to bring about the orderly array of age classes so desirable. Whether viewed from the standpoint of an individual company working out its own sustained yield program or from the broad standpoint of a nation looking to the maintenance of its natural resources the tempo of forestry progress is geared closely both to the long life cycle of trees and to the over all economic pattern. Recognition of this fact should not be cause for complacency or for a lackadaisical attitude toward current forestry problems. It does however call for the display of a reasonable degree of patience particularly when the line charting the progress of industrial forestry is curving sharply upward.

The Job of the Industrial Forester

Having presented industry's statement of forest policy and commented briefly on the progress being made in putting the policy into action, it seems appropriate to take a quick look at the subject from the standpoint of the working forester.

The primary job of the industrial forester literally is "to keep the wood bin filled." To a considerable extent the responsibility falls upon him to produce the "maximum net dollar value of stumpage per acre per year on a perpetual basis." Idle land or land that is not producing a full crop is as uneconomic as idle mills or obsolete machinery and industrial foresters must work toward developing the forest land into an "efficient wood growing plant."

While no apology need be made for the fact that industry looks upon its forest land primarily as a place to grow wood for its mills, it should be pointed out that multiple-use forestry plays an important role in private forest land improvement.

While often irked by scare headlines that attribute

the latest flood or drouth, as the case may be, to improper logging in some far away place, industry along with public forestry agencies is interested in knowing more about the relationship between forests and water. In some regions private forest land owners are carrying on and promoting special forest soils studies to determine the effect of various harvesting practices on both soil and water conservation.

With respect to water regulation, maintenance of site quality and esthetic values, propagation of fish and game, provision for recreational opportunities, most industrial foresters believe that as a general principle the brand of silviculture and type of management that will grow the best forest crops will likewise best maintain secondary forest values.

The 4400 foresters employed by the industry are engaged in a wide variety of individual occupations. Some are constructing forest roads, digging fire trails, planting trees and combating insect infestations. Others may be cruising timber, establishing growth plots, marking trees, making soil analyses or experimenting with aerial seeding. Whether engaged in one of these jobs or supervising a logging operation, developing a management plan or conducting a tax study, each one is helping to replenish the timber supply. It all adds up to *forest conservation* on a big scale.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR . . .

Mr. Heacox was graduated from Iowa State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 1930, and since then has been employed continuously by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. His early experience with the company was at Longview, Washington, in the sawmills and purchasing departments. He also worked in the woods supply department and served for a time as woods machine shop foreman.

He was stationed in Tacoma for six years working in the forestry, public relations, and industrial relations departments, after which he returned to Longview as the first resident forester to be attached to one of the company's operating branches.

In 1948, he returned to Tacoma as managing forester, supervising preparation of sustained yield management plans, forestry research, and the company's non-operating tree farms, as well as coordinating company-wide forestry activities.