

I would be ridiculous and foolhardy if I said that we are going to solve all of them. We cannot.

But with the aid of our intensive nationwide study program—with all the advice we can get from interested and active organizations such as your own, and in the final analysis, with the judgment of our able and experienced Commissioners, we are going to recommend programs and policies for every level of government—and for private enterprise.

These recommendations will necessarily have to deal in broad problems, but it is hoped that by clarifying responsibilities, suggesting standards and evolving practical means much can be done to alleviate these problems I have mentioned. Particularly it is planned that the urgency of these problems can be brought to the attention of the President, the Congress, and the public.

I feel that the work of the Commission will be of real help to those of you on the firing line in the states. It will increase public awareness of the problems of providing outdoor recreation and of the need that these problems will be solved. It will offer some recommendations that, hopefully, will be of use to you. And it will provide a source of comparative data so that it will be easier for those in one state to know what is being done elsewhere.

In these regional meetings, in carrying out our inventory of state recreation resources, in practically all of our work, the states are an immense help to us. I hope that the ORRRC Report will repay that help by making the job of all of you a little easier and moving us toward that goal to which we are all dedicated—assuring that Americans will continue to have an opportunity to enjoy and benefit from outdoor recreation.

## **THE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL FORESTS IN PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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Twenty years ago, the phrase "The role of industrial forests in providing recreational opportunities" would have sounded presumptuous to the industrial forester. In the first place, it connotes a duty or obligation to play a part—the show must go on, you know—and few forest industries felt so indebted.

In the second place, with millions of forested and nonforested acres throughout the land to take care of, the men in this relatively young profession were busy tackling resource problems vital to our nation. First came forest protection, then inventory, then reforestation and the business of assuring permanent productivity of forests on a crop-like basis.

As a group, foresters are dedicated to the highest practical use of forest lands, regardless of ownership. And industrial foresters know that in addition to helping keep the "woodbin filled", wise forest management contributes other important benefits to both man and wildlife. But these men adhered to "first things first". And we are fortunate that they did so.

Their efforts saw us through World War II. The timber they grew and protected went into thousands of products vital to the defense of our country and to the welfare of the people at home. It continues to do so in this era of exploding populations, high productivity and record consumer buying.

At the same time we are enjoying many benefits which are the direct result of good forest management. Some of these are: Watershed control, room and board for fish and game, and the protection of man and wildlife from fire and stream pollution. For the first time in many years, more wood is being grown than is being removed from the forests. Road systems built for the immediate purpose of harvesting timber are furnishing access to recreation areas, to streams and lakes, and to the hiker's trail. Careful timber harvesting is helping prepare recreational areas, clear ski areas, and provide room for picnic and camp grounds.

Growing continuous crops of trees was, and still is, the primary objective of the industrial forester. These other benefits are natural results of well man-

aged industrial forest lands. They are in every way consistent with the primary objective.

But the industrial forester has lost ground in the public mind. He has been so busy, alone in the forest, that not many people know what he is doing, or why. And he is now caught up in the great land-use debate, a debate that has been going on for years, and will continue.

At one extreme, advocates of limited land use are insisting on additional vast wilderness areas. At the other extreme, the free enterprisers want no government intervention.

The debate involves many elements: the Forest Service, lumber and pulp and paper companies, the Park Service, sportsmen, the states, conservationists, communities, farmers, wilderness advocates, bird watchers, etc.

Through the din is heard the voice of the forest manager pointing out the reasonableness of multiple use. In attempting to convince others of something he has learned for himself, that the forests *can* and *should* serve many purposes, he is heard dimly, if at all.

As the land-use debate grows hotter, the necessity for a practical solution becomes more urgent. One of the most widely discussed issues is the need for outdoor recreational opportunities.

Astounding increases in the nation's population are bringing the revelation that, if the figures continue to mount, this country will be hard pressed within the next decade to find ample recreation spaces for the resulting millions. The problem is compounded by corresponding rises in real income and leisure time, and by better transportation.

Since 1956, the recreational facilities now available throughout the United States and its territories, as well as future needs by 1976 and the year 2000, have received searching study by a special commission appointed by President Eisenhower and known as the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. As a member of the Advisory Committee to this Commission, I am confident their findings will be more than a mere potpourri of statistics. As a forester, I am grateful for the leadership and coordination in this field.

It seems clear that private forest lands will be called upon to supply a large share of the increasing need for recreation. Most industrial foresters realize this. And they have not been standing around with their hands in their pockets during the debate.

To discover what was being done by these industrial foresters, the American Forest Products Industries made a survey in 1957 of 74 percent of the commercial timberlands owned by forest industries in this country. The total area represented came to roughly 46 million acres.

They found that although some portions of industrial timberlands must be closed to the public for fire and logging safety, as well as silvicultural reasons, a rather spectacular contribution is being made by the forest industries to the country's growing recreational needs.

A great majority of the companies covered in the survey are tree farmers—that is, they are engaged in the growing of timber as a crop on tax-paying lands. The survey reflects the fact that wildlife, recreation, fishing, water and soil conservation are inherent parts of tree farming.

Briefly, the survey found that:

92 percent of industrial forests is open to hunting.

96 percent is open to fishing.

65 companies had developed 132 public parks.

This survey makes it clear that there is a wide area in which industrial timberland owners, sportsmen and other recreationists can cooperate.

All is not sweetness and light, however. The industrial forester is still faced with major problems:

First, in addition to the increased demand for recreational areas on private forest land, there is the ever-advancing need for more wood products. An increase in population means an expanding need for building materials for new homes, schools, churches, and for such products as telephone poles and furniture. Every new grocery store and supermarket that springs up adds to the requirement for paper packages and containers of all kinds—the products of wood. New combinations of plastics and paper, and new uses for paper itself are consistently being discovered. Wood is no longer just wood—it is cellulose—chemists can break it down and make it into dissolving pulp, for

example, for the manufacture of such products as cellophane, rayon and plastics. Every 1961 model car that rolls off the assembly line will be equipped with Tyrex tires, a high tenacity cord made from wood.

Second, while every possible use of the forest is increasing, the amount of forest land is on the decline. Each year, an unknown but frightening chunk of forest is removed from tree crop status. Here are some of the reasons:

Land is locked up for limited or restricted use.

Forests are being eliminated entirely by:

Road and highway construction;

The building of dams and creation of reservoirs;

Power and pipe line construction;

And by urban, industrial and governmental building projects.

Furthermore—although it seems far-fetched in this day of chronic food surplus in the nation—there is a definite prospect that forest land will be cleared to grow food for additional millions of people in the future.

Obviously, if the future needs for timber and recreation and all the other uses of the forests are to be met, intensive multiple-use management holds the only answer.

More of our privately owned forests must be placed under management—such as that advocated by AFPI in its national Tree Farm management program. Thanks to the growth of Tree Farms in America, we are creating and re-creating forests at the rate of two million acres a year. And nature is restoring forests on an unknown but considerable number of acres of eroded farm land each year.

The great challenge in the future will be to motivate landowners to adopt this program on their idle acres. Since its inception in 1941, the Tree Farm program has grown steadily. Today it is active in 47 states with 18,861 certified Tree Farms embracing 54,106,592 acres. Yet less than half of one percent of the private landowners in the United States are enrolled.

But let's return to public recreation on private lands. Perhaps you will be interested in some of the things my own Company, International Paper, is doing to widen the recreational horizons of the South.

First, we have opened practically all of our Company-owned lands to the public for hunting and fishing. Since our ten Southern Kraft Division mills are widely separated, from Louisiana to South Carolina, this land is more or less sprinkled across the South. If all our Southern timber tracts were brought together, they would comprise an area not quite twice the size of Yellowstone National Park.

Second, we have cooperated with state and federal governments in establishing game management areas and refuges on our land. In doing so, we are sometimes caught in the middle of state preference and public sentiment.

In spite of the fact that the cry for more space in which to hunt is heard on every hand, we still find ourselves burdened with some leases to states which establish refuges on our land and close them to the public. It is our opinion that the refuge often results in over-population of certain game species, starvation, and over-browsing of the forest. We definitely prefer the game management areas.

At the present time, we have almost 900,000 acres of land under lease to various Southern states. In those localities where game management areas have been established, we can almost please *everyone* all the time. An outstanding example of state-industry cooperation, I think, is our joint venture with the State of Florida to which we have leased some 90,000 acres of Company land for game management areas. Bob Aldridge, who heads Florida's Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission, has done an excellent job taking care of the game and the hunting while we plant, grow, protect and harvest timber on the same land.

Third, we have employed the services of a game management specialist to point the way for us in this complicated field.

Fourth, we have gradually evolved Company policies advantageous to the cause of game management, policies which guarantee that, along with our primary purpose of raising timber, we will take wildlife into consideration.

In Bainbridge, Georgia, where we operate a 16,000 acre experimental forest dedicated to the search for new and better trees for our Southern soils, we

conduct wildlife management studies in cooperation with the Georgia Fish and Game Commission.

In several other states, we have made public fishing lakes out of our fresh water reservoirs. Probably the best known are Lake Erling in Arkansas and Bussey Brake in Louisiana. Lake Erling covers 7,000 acres and offers 120 miles of shoreline. It is one of the major recreational areas for people in north Louisiana, south Arkansas and east Texas. Bussey Brake, near Bastrop, is a 2,200 acre impoundment basin, heavily stocked with game fish. Wham Brake, not far from Bussey, is a waste water basin which has been called the second best duck hunting area in central Louisiana. Catahoula Lake is number one, and it is four times as large.

There are numerous other, smaller lakes on our properties. On many of these we have put fish management into practice by removing undesirable fish types—such as shad—from potentially excellent fishing spots. Of course, where rivers and streams cross our property, they are open to the public, and draw crowds of swimmers, fishermen, boaters and waterskiers each season. A typical recreational area on a river is International's Kings Ferry Park in Chatham County, Georgia, just south of Savannah. Where Highway 17 crosses the Ogeechee River, we have constructed and equipped a large picnic area. The Chatham County Commissioners worked with us by building a boat launching ramp and access road.

In spite of these and other areas I have not time to mention, we still find ourselves embroiled in disputes—most often between the recreationists themselves. The avid hunter squares off against the water enthusiast. The fishermen line up against the waterskiers and swimmers. The wilderness boys think all land is for the birds. These guys should love outer space, and many of us hope they will have the chance to explore it soon.

Moreover, not everyone appreciates the welcome sign or the Company-constructed park facilities. We have had instances of vandals smashing concrete tables, benches and grills, tearing out electric lights and breaking or stealing toilet bowls and seats. They use our signs for target practice. More than once the tires of our wheel tractors and motor graders have been riddled. Some of our "guests", and I use the term loosely, even take property belonging to the logging crews. Others are careless with matches and campfires or even themselves, thus exposing us to loss and liability.

As one of my regional managers has said, while none of this is dramatic, it does occur in a rather consistent, steady flow. If we had more elaborate facilities, we would, no doubt, have more elaborate vandalism.

But for every one of these, there are hundreds of others who come, relax, enjoy themselves, and exercise due care. When they go, they take nothing but photographs or their legal limit and leave nothing but footprints and a good impression on the forester and landowner. These are the recreationists we enjoy having on our land.

In brief review, then, the forest industry definitely has a role in the overall effort to provide recreational opportunities for our growing population. But the ultimate success of this program depends not only upon the industries, but also upon the combined cooperation and participation of all landowners, both large and small, and of the recreationists and legislators alike.

It will take good, far-sighted planning to meet our country's future demands for wood and wood products and at the same time manage our forest acres to provide watersheds, game habitats, mineral production, and all the various phases of recreation.

Every one of these needs is important. Each has its value, some direct and tangible, and some intangible but just as real. To meet them, we must keep pace with the diverting of forest lands to purposes such as urban development, wilderness areas and reservoir construction, by urging all landowners to put their idle acres to work in Tree Farms and to manage more efficiently the forests already in existence.

The greatest hope for success lies in proper forest management, based on true conservation which provides for the full utilization of all our natural resources.