

FOREST GROWS MUCH TIMBER

Records Show Increase Of Seven Million Board Feet Per Year

In total revenue, timber ranks as the third most important industry in North Carolina and second in the number of people employed. With an industry that is exceeded in its annual payroll only by the textile industry, it would seem important to keep it alive.

The Nantahala National Forest contains approximately 350,000 acres of government-owned land. A little over 120,000 acres of this total net acreage supports stands of timber that will average 2,000 board feet per acre or better. The remaining area supports only a comparatively light stand per acre. These are stands which will not justify logging operations.

Only the stands containing 2,000 board feet per acre and better in trees 10 inches in diameter and up are considered merchantable and placed under a definite cutting plan. The stands containing less than 2,000 board feet per acre are being protected, but will not be considered in what is termed the cutting budget until the timber on such stands reaches the merchantable classification.

The amount of timber that can be cut each year is dependent upon the growth on the stands that are now merchantable. The growth on the unmerchantable stands is not considered until such stands reach merchantability (contain 2,000 board feet per acre or over.)

The timber on the 120,000 acres of merchantable area is growing at the rate of approximately 7,000,000 board feet per year. This means that should market conditions be favorable, the Forest Service can authorize the cutting of 7,000,000 board feet annually without endangering the future timber supply. The average stumpage price received for this timber is approximately \$4.50 per thousand feet. This means a possible revenue of \$31,500 per year to the Forest Service. Of this value received for timber, 25% is returned to the county in which the timber is cut for schools and 10% for roads. The cutting of dead timber, such as chestnut, is not regulated, but disposed of as rapidly as possible.

The Nantahala National Forest is divided into two working circles. All the land east of the Nantahala Mountains is the Wayah Working Circle and the territory west of this range is the Nantahala Working Circle. The 7,000,000 board feet allowable cut is distributed fairly equally between the two working circles.

The logical manufacturing center for the timber in the Nantahala Working Circle is at Andrews, N. C. A medium sized band mill cutting 4,000,000 feet per year can be operated year in and year out with timber from government land plus only a small amount of stumpage from private holdings.

In the Franklin Working Circle, Franklin is the logical concentration center for the timber. Ninetenths of the timber in this working circle is in Macon county and handy to Franklin.

The two working circles are capable of supporting two medium sized band-mills. To Western North Carolina this means continued employment for about 40 men working in these two mills plus an additional woods force of approximately 80 men. To the mills operating this timber it means continuous operation and a reasonable insurance of a supply of timber in the future.

Plantations of Asiatic chestnut and species of pine and hardwoods have been established in an effort to develop new species suitable for sawtimber and to replace the native chestnut that has been wiped out by the blight. With the selection method of cutting the forest timber very little planting is needed to restock cut-over areas and make the forest productive.

The wooded lands in North Carolina are a source of continued wealth. Help us practice selective forestry and keep out fire.

Wildlife Management On The Nantahala

On April 12, 1937, the officials of the U. S. Forest Service and the State Game Commission, with a keen foresight and the purpose in mind of restoring the depleted wildlife in Western North Carolina, gathered together under what might be termed the "treaty elm" and signed cooperative agreements providing for the establishment of three Wildlife Management Areas within the Nantahala National Forest.

The three areas, namely Standing Indian, Fires Creek, and Wayah Bald, include approximately 68,000 acres of government land. Standing Indian and Wayah Bald are entirely within Macon County and represent 43,000 acres of the total acreage set aside for game management purposes.

The program in these areas as outlined provides for the annual stocking of bear, turkey, and fish. These areas are to be protected until sufficient fish and game have reproduced or is stocked to war-

rant organized hunting and fishing. With a little added protection and cooperation it is believed that the overflow of game from the management areas will gradually restore the game to the wooded lands of our counties in Western North Carolina. It is hoped that before long the sight of a deer, bear or turkey in these mountains will be a usual event and not a curiosity.

Hand in hand with the program for the stocking of fish and game is the control of the natural predators of wild life. Wildcats, weasels and other predators are being trapped in order to establish a biological balance between the game and these destructive animals.

Results of the effort in the restoration program are noticeable. After several successful open fishing seasons in the streams within the management areas requests have been coming in for information on fish and wild life from all parts of North Carolina and adjoining states and an appreciable

overflow of deer has already been noticed in land adjoining the management areas.

The game management program on the Nantahala is not entirely restricted to the areas set aside as management units, but takes in, to a lesser degree, all government land on the Forest. An extra force of four full-time State Wardens is employed to protect the wildlife on the Forest, and in addition eight Forest officers are deputized as State Wardens with the power to enforce state game laws.

4-H Short Course To Start July 24

Approximately 1,000 rural boys and girls, representing the 46,000 4-H Club members in North Carolina, will gather at State college July 24 for the annual 4-H short course. The event will continue through July 29. L. R. Harrill, state 4-H club leader, and Miss Frances MacGregor, assistant state

leader, are in charge of arrangements.

Registration will begin Monday morning at 10 o'clock, and the first session will be held that evening in Pullen Hall. It will be an informal program. Col. John W. Harrelson, administrative dean of State college, will welcome the delegates at the assembly period Tuesday morning, after which group conferences and class instruction will begin.

Dr. Stanley Smith, director of music in Raleigh schools, will have charge of the musical program during the short course. He will train a chorus of 100 voices to participate in a Pageant of Progress which will be staged in Riddick stadium on Thursday evening.

Among the principal speakers during the week will be Dr. Carl Taylor of the United States department of agriculture, Washington, and Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, assistant director of the State college extension service which is sponsoring the short course.

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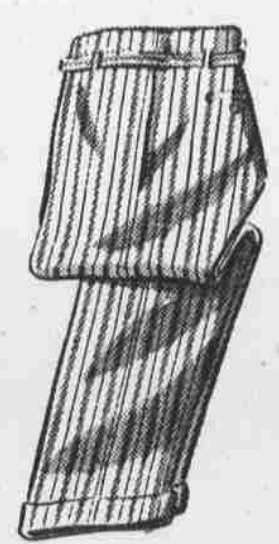


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