

CLOSING COMMENTS

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The papers presented during the two and one half days of this symposium have provided all of us with a deeper understanding of the present knowledge on intensive management but they have also left us with many questions about the future. There is first an overwhelming feeling that we are doing too little about our problems and perhaps we are too late to meet potential requirements. We should have all of our productive northern forest types under intensive multiple use management but how soon will this happen?

Why should we mention a note of pessimism when we have been shown that intensive management can be accomplished? Chief McGuire said and I quote from his paper - "There is no doubt that private lands--particularly small, non-industrial holdings - are the key to meeting future demands for forest resources. And please remember that while this conference deals mainly with wood supplies, the demands for other forest uses are increasing just as rapidly--in some cases, more rapidly". Can we get these private lands under intensive management soon enough to meet our future needs? Must we depend upon strict regulation to meet the requirements? Will rising prices and rising demands result in a wave of exploitation? Hopefully we can establish good management practices on all lands without excessive regulation before the pressure for more fiber destroys the opportunity.

Robert Phelps pointed out our needs and gave us our charge. He pointed out how we might get a little more production by improving efficiency of utilization and we could gain some addition to meet future needs through imports. But, in a competitive world our future needs for additional wood must come mainly through management.

We must set our goals and go after them without delay. Are we ready as a general public to set realistic goals that everyone understands? We have discussed many ideas related to these questions and we have shown clearly that we have knowledge that is not being utilized for various reasons. Some general impressions that I have developed from these discussions are as follows:

- (1) We have much knowledge about intensive management but we are not utilizing that information on a large scale.
- (2) The northern forest types may be managed inten-

sively in a variety of ways depending upon a host of varying conditions which may be biological, economic or social.

(3) Research must continue at a rapid pace to develop further methods for culture of the northern forests.

(4) There is a critical need for the development of an understanding in the public sector about the need for and methods of intensive management.

(5) The managers of forested tracts have a difficult adjustment to make in changing from present methods to more intensive procedures requiring closer supervision of on the ground activities.

(6) Education must concentrate on preparing more foresters with an interest in close attention to detail and a desire to stay in close contact with the forest. Intensive management requires more foresters with specializations but proportionally will require many more with a desire to work in the woods caring for relatively small acreages of forests.

(7) Management of northern forest types has been crude and rough. Intensive management requires the development of the attitudes of artists who look on work as a creative production and an exciting experience. The change requires a real commitment all along the line.

(8) Very little will be done unless the economic climate is adjusted considerably. The forest is the resource on which our large industry must subsist; it is the playground for millions of people; it is the home for many wild plants and animals; it has a profound influence on our physical lives. Yet, the forest receives the least portion of support possible. Timber buyers pay the least stumpage possible, Recreationists expect to use the forest for nothing, Game managers treat animals as a by-product and hunters pay very little of their fees toward management of the habitat. There are hopeful signs but we can only hope that the changes to a real recognition of forest values comes soon.

This symposium has provided all of us with a status report on management of northern forests. It has provided ideas for the future. Dr. Blum and his very fine committee should be complimented for developing a much needed review. It is up to all of us to carry out the program in the future.