

INTRODUCTION TO PINE REFORESTATION ACTION PLAN
(SLIDE TAPE PRESENTATION)

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Trees for reclamation can mean many things to different people. Understandably, the primary thrust of this symposium is the use of trees in the reclamation of lands formerly and currently mined for coal. This is a worthy goal, one that the Southeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, earnestly supports. My discussion today, however, will not focus specifically on the reclamation of coal (other minerals) mined lands, but will include them as a part of the potential forest land base in need of reclamation which can contribute to the nation's growing appetite for wood fiber.

The 1980 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Assessment (RPA) projects a 2 billion cubic feet supply deficit by 1990, increasing to 3.5 billion cubic feet by the year 2030.¹ The South's projected share indicates 1.0 and 2.2 billion cubic feet deficits for these same periods. Non-industrial acres of private lands (NIPF) in the South occupy 71 percent of the 63,700,000 acres of forestland capable of growing 85 cubic feet or more of wood per year and offer opportunity for meeting future softwood demand.

What is alarming has been the trend in reforestation on private, non-industrial lands. Between the years of 1970 and 1977, the acreage of pine seedling and sapling size classes on private, non-industrial ownerships declined by nearly eight million acres. When sawtimber and poletimber size classes are included, the total net loss in yellow pine and oak-pine types was over four million acres, an average of more than 625,000 acres per year. To continue this trend would result in a loss of over 30 million acres by 2030.

¹USDA-RPA Assessment p.

In a moment, we will see a slide-tape presentation of the Pine Reforestation Action Plan developed by the Southeastern Area Office of State and Private Forestry. This Action Plan focuses on the 1977 Pine Reforestation Task Force Report recommendations.² The Task Force Report parallels and complements other efforts to stimulate non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowner participation in reforestation such as the South's Third Forest Report and the Society of American Forestry Task Force Report on "Improving Outputs From Non-industrial Private Forests", Forest Industries' Council's productivity studies, and the findings of five non-industrial landowner conferences sponsored by the Association of State Foresters.^{3,4,5,6}

Much concern is expressed today that our nation must increase its level of productivity. The reforestation of mined and harvested land can contribute significantly to the formation of capital for increased productivity and for meeting the projected needs of the nation for wood fiber.

(Slide-Tape Presentation--Southern Pine Reforestation--An investment for the Future).

²Williston, H.L., 1977, Pine Reforestation Task Force Report, SA, State and Private Forestry, p. 40.

³Anonymous, 1969. The South's Third Forest, A report of the Southern Resource Analysis Committee, p. 111.

⁴1979, Improving Outputs from nonindustrial private foresters. Report of a task force, Society of American Forester, Journal of Forestry, 77 (3): p. 11, insert.

⁵1979, State Forest Productivity Reports, Forest Industries Council.

⁶Towell, W.E., 1980, Blueprint for Private Forestlands, American Forests 86 CS; p. 30-33, 44-46, 49, 50.