

TREES make NEWS

REDWOODS DESTINED TO REMAIN AS PART OF AMERICAN SCENE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Special) - California's famous redwoods, mighty monarchs of the world's forests, are destined to remain a permanent part of the American scene, according to a new booklet, "Our Growing Redwoods," published by American Forest Products Industries in cooperation with the California Redwood Association.

The 16-page well-documented publication explodes the myth of the "last redwoods" and gives assurance that giant old trees of the Redwood Region are preserved for future generations while younger-growth coast redwoods under permanent tree farm management will continue to serve the needs of the region's major industry.

The booklet points up the little-recognized fact that young redwood is virtually unmatched in its capacity for tremendously fast growth. New young-growth trees often equal the height of thousand-year-old giants in less than a man's lifetime before tapering off their growth. Young-growth redwoods on lands once harvested in the region's producing forests are beginning to hit their best growth strides, according to government studies assembled in the redwood booklet.

The publication discloses that rate of redwood forest growth has increased 56 percent since the government timber inventory of 1952 and that the amount of young-growth sawtimber volume has more than doubled since the 1948 inventory. Projections indicate that this supply of young-growth volume is expected to double again by the year 2000.

First Add

Today's young-growth redwood volume -- totaling 14,137,000,000 board feet of timber -- accounts for nearly half the 30,981,000,000 board foot total of existing redwoods, and studies indicate that this growing resource can sustain the present rate of timber yield perpetually.

The booklet says there are 107,458 acres of coast redwood parks and groves in 28 state parks and one national monument dedicated to perpetual preservation. Federal, state and local government agencies own an additional 136,000 acres of coast redwood forest land. More than a third of the existing volume of California's old-growth coast redwoods is situated within these government holdings.

This total acreage of government-owned coast redwood forest is larger than the combined area of the five boroughs of New York City. Arranged in a strip, government-owned coast redwood forests would make a solid strip a mile wide stretching more than 355 miles, almost the distance from New York to Pittsburgh or from Los Angeles to Phoenix.

Approximately 643,000 acres of privately owned forest land in the Redwood Region are enrolled in the forest industry's Tree Farm program, dedicated to growing timber crops on a perpetual basis. Some 92.4 percent of today's young-growth coast redwood volume is developing on privately owned forest land.

"An objective view of the great extent to which the most spectacular of the redwoods already have been acquired by government for perpetual preservation provides assurance that always there will be redwood forests and groves for man's enjoyment," says the booklet.

Charles A. Gillett
Managing Director

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SUBJECT: Our Growing Redwoods

There is attached a booklet, "Our Growing Redwoods", just off the press for your information. This is an authoritative publication dealing with the redwoods of California. If you have any questions relative to the publication or the facts contained therein, please contact either American Forest Products Industries, Inc., or the California Redwood Association whose addresses are given on the back cover.

As you undoubtedly know, in spite of the fact that as of July 1964 there were 107,458 acres of coast redwood parks in 28 state parks and one national monument dedicated to perpetual preservation, and 136,000 acres in other government holdings, suggestions are again being made to take more land out of private ownership and off the tax rolls to add to government ownerships.

There is also attached for your information a reprint from the "Logger & Lumberman West", July 25, 1964. This reprint is made available by the Miller Redwood Company of Crescent City, California. It shows what could happen to companies and their right to privately own property in the redwood region of northern California.

If you have any further questions about the contents of the reprint, you should write directly to Leo G. Graham, Miller Redwood Company, Crescent City, California.

Charles A. Gillett
Managing Director