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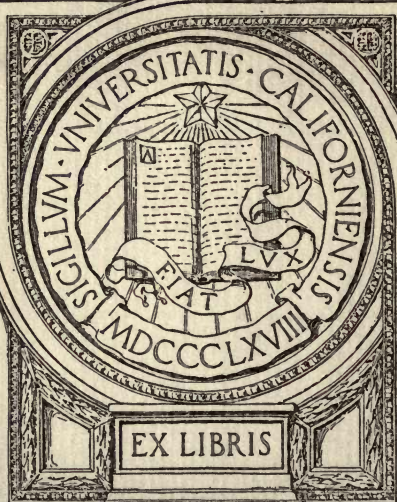
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OREGON FOREST FACTS
State Board of Forestry
Salem

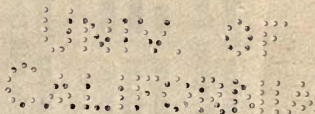


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OREGON FOREST FACTS

BRIEF REVIEW OF OREGON'S TIMBER
RESOURCES AND WHAT STATE
AND PRIVATE ACTIVITY IN
FOREST PROTECTION
HAS ACCOM-
PLISHED



Oregon

" STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY "

SALEM

Annual Loss of Standing Timber from Forest Fires for the Three Years Prior to Enactment of Present Forest Code. (Data prior to 1908 fragmentary.)

1908.....\$	85,433.00	■
1909.....	265,373.00	■
1910.....	1,640,997.00	■

Annual Loss of Standing Timber from Forest Fires Since the Enactment of the Present Forest Code and Development of Systematic Forest Protection Work

1911.....\$	19,923.00	■
1912.....	40,439.00	■
1913.....	460.00	■
1914.....	26,445.00	■
1915.....	9,353.00	■
1916.....	905.00	■

(Up to the present time the counties of the State have lost, in taxes alone, as a result of property destroyed by forest fires in 1910, some \$200,000.00.)

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PREFACE

The facts presented below aim to show the part Oregon's timber wealth plays in our prosperity now and to come. Timber, next to land itself, is the State's greatest resource. Needless destruction of timber through fire diminishes the taxable property of the State and each year increases the burden of taxation on other classes of property. Forest cover is necessary to preserve the flow of our streams for irrigation and power purposes, to furnish a refuge for game, and to prevent the erosion of soil in mountainous sections. Already bringing into the State each day \$70,000.00 of outside money, the industry bids fair to increase five fold in the next decade. At present employing ten times as many men as any other manufacturing industry, there is room for increasing the field for labor ten fold, with resulting increased population for Oregon. Any timbered section is eventually sure of railroads and a market for farm crops; but the permanence of these developments depends upon safeguarding the supply of raw material. To accomplish this State aid is indispensable. Law enforcement, compulsory elimination of fire traps, regulation of fire preventive equipment used by railroads traversing timbered sections, and regulation of protection work under the provisions of the compulsory law, are matters the State alone can effectively handle. To compensate the State for time and money expended to this end, she retains a constantly increasing payroll, a great source of tax revenue, permanence of stream flow for irrigation and power purposes, an increasing market for farm crops, machinery and supplies, and the bulk of this benefit is

derived from lands which are now and always will be unfit for agricultural settlement and development.

Oregon has about 18,000,000 acres of merchantable timberland, of which 10,000,000 acres is privately owned, while the remainder is in the National Forests and Indian Reservations.

Oregon has 430,000,000,000 board feet of timber; an amount equal to one-sixth of the standing timber in the United States, or one-half as much timber as is found in the thirty-seven states east of the Rocky Mountains.

To transport the lumber from our forests would require: 340,000 trains of sixty cars each; or, continuous trains reaching seven times around the earth, or, fifty-two continuous trains reaching from Portland, Oregon, to New York City.

The last census shows 50,000 people engaged in manufacturing industries in Oregon, of whom 24,500 or fifty per cent are employed in the lumber industry.

Of the 830,000 people in Oregon, 104,000, or one-eighth of the total population, are directly dependent upon the lumber industry. No other manufacturing industry in the State employs one-tenth as many men as this one.

Even though the lumber industry is yet at the threshold of development, the annual value of lumber products is \$30,200,000.00, or thirty-two and five-tenths per cent of the total value of manufactured products in the State.

Over \$70,000.00 of outside money is each day brought into Oregon by the lumber industry. Eighty per cent of our outgoing freight is lumber.

The last census shows that out of fifty-five manufacturing establishments in Oregon,

employing over one hundred wage earners, thirty-three were engaged in the lumber industry.

Oregon's timber pays a large part of the taxes of the State; in some counties the bulk of them.

During the coming thirty years, next to land itself, the lumber industry will be the greatest factor in advancing the industrial development of the State and in creating and maintaining prosperity.

Approximately 4,000,000 acres of Oregon timber, comprising 160,000,000,000 board feet more than one-third of the present stand, has so far been destroyed by fire. This timber, if standing, would be worth at least \$240,000,000.00, and would pay annual tax of \$2,000,000.00, where now practically no tax revenue is derived.

For every thousand feet of timber burned, the owner loses the value of the stumpage, about \$2.00, while the public loses about \$8.00, the amount that would have been expended for labor and supplies in manufacturing it into lumber.

Forest Protection Work Conducted by Timber Owners and the State

The present Forestry Board was created in 1911. It is a nonpolitical board, composed of the Governor, head of the Forest School at the Oregon Agricultural College, and five additional members, each representing and selected by one of the following organizations: Oregon State Grange, Oregon Forest Fire Association, Oregon Lumber Manufacturers' Association, United States Forest Service, Oregon Woolgrowers' Association.

Because four times as much timber has been burned as has been manufactured and because

the loss to the public when timber is burned is greater than the loss to the timber owners, the board considered its primary duty was to reduce the heavy annual loss from forest fires.

The results obtained are shown graphically in the diagram on page two. During 1908, 1909, and 1910, the average fire loss was \$663,935.00, while during the six years since the organization of the board, the annual loss was only \$16,250.00. Thirty-nine fortieths, or ninety-seven and one-half per cent of the annual fire loss has been eliminated through organized systematic patrol and fire fighting work backed by effective laws.

For the past six years, the annual cost of forest fire protection work has been \$119,245.00, of which the State's portion was less than \$30,000.00, or about twenty-four per cent. The State's expenditures simply allowed of supervising the work of the patrol associations and private agencies, enforcing the forestry laws, and, in part, looking after the fire hazards in semiagricultural districts outside of the main timber belts.

Under the Compulsory Patrol Law, the funds needed for patrol, improvement and fire suppression work, in the timbered districts, are derived from assessments on timberlands.

The patrol law authorizes the State Forester to provide patrol for timberlands whose owners fail to provide the same. The law stipulates that the actual cost of the patrol so furnished is to be charged against the lands on the county tax rolls. It does not apply to holdings whose owners live within one and one-half miles of their land.

The patrol law has been used to strengthen timber owners' cooperative patrol associations, and to stimulate the formation of new associa-

tions in districts where none existed. There are now sixteen cooperative associations having a membership representing fifty-three per cent of the total timbered acreage coming under the law. The Board provides patrol at the actual cost of the work for thirty-two per cent of the timberlands, while thirteen per cent is patrolled by the owners thereof.

About three hundred patrolmen and lookout men, paid by timber owners' funds, are employed each summer. These men perform their duties under the direction of twenty-six head, or district, wardens employed by the State or jointly by the State and cooperative patrol associations.

The protection work, however, does not end with merely placing paid men in the timbered districts. During the past six years a campaign of preparedness has been waged in order to make their work more effective. Approximately 4,696 miles of old and obstructed trails were made passable, 1,145 miles of strategic new trails were built, 514 miles of telephone line constructed, and 301 miles repaired, forty-two cabins were built for the shelter of the patrolmen and lookout men and also to store food supplies and equipment for the use of fire fighting crews. Thirty lookout stations were equipped with telephones.

All of this improvement work, which was paid by the timber owners, aggregated an expenditure of \$60,000.00. When the wardens and patrolmen were not making these improvements they were fighting and subduing an aggregate of 4,183 forest fires.

Only twelve per cent of the forest fires are caused by lightning, while eighty-eight per cent are the result of carelessness, indifference or maliciousness on the part of campers, hunters,

loggers and persons starting fires in slashings when weather conditions are unfavorable.

Keeping the forests green until they can be converted into lumber and keeping fire out of the immature second growth timber growing on nonagricultural land will be of financial benefit to you and will help retain and improve the scenic beauties of our State. Your cooperation is needed to reduce the per cent of avoidable fires and conserve Oregon's greatest natural resource.

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