

Cooperation in Forest Insect and Disease Control

Since 1923 there has been a law in California statutes affecting the control and eradication of forest insect outbreaks on private lands. It provided for the landowner to effect control measures or, after certain procedure had been followed, for the State to effect the control and file the cost as a lien against the property. It involved lengthy procedures and had no provision for financial aid on the part of the State. Impractical sections of this code were repealed in 1945 and amendments added to evolve a workable law. As revised the law now provides for: (1) Authorization for the State Forester to determine and fix zones of infestation and describe their boundaries; (2) Authority to go on such lands and eradicate infestations; (3) Authorizes the State Forester to enter into cooperative agreements with private timber owners or public agencies to share expenses of eradication, and provides that the Board of Forestry shall fix the ratio of State to private cooperation.

The Board has, since the passage of this law, fixed the ratio at not more than 50 per cent State participation in control expenses.

General losses of merchantable timber to insects were abnormally heavy this year, and in six instances outbreaks assumed epidemic proportions. It was necessary for the State Forester to declare, after appropriate field surveys, six separate zones of infestation in accordance with provisions of the new cooperative insect law.

The largest of these control projects was carried on in the Burney-McCloud area of Shasta and Siskiyou Counties where an insect epidemic threatened thousands of acres of fine virgin timber. Cooperating in control work with the Division and two agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and the U. S. Forest Service, were four large private companies, the McCloud Lumber Company, Burney Lumber Company, Scott Lumber Company and the Fruit Growers Supply Company. On 11,020 acres there were treated some 1,429 large trees, and 21,168 pole size trees. On accessible lands the virgin timber and the pole size second-growth trees were salvaged by two of the logging companies, the Burney Lumber Company and the Scott Lumber Company. A total volume of 780,230 board feet was realized from the operations. Although the lumber companies made little if any profit on the salvaged timber, maximum utilization of the crop was obtained and a serious hazard to the remainder of the forest area was abated. The removal and salvage of these trees on the 11,020 acres gave protection to more than 87,440 acres of fine valuable virgin and second-growth timber.



On the insect control project in the Burney-McCloud region of Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, the infested trees were first blazed by a survey party. Later logging companies salvaged all accessible, merchantable trees.



On the heavily infested area of 11,020 acres more than 780,000 board feet of lumber was salvaged.

Equally successful eradication work is in progress in all of the other five zones. Continued effort is contemplated for the first five months of 1946 and when the degradations have been curbed protection will have been afforded to over a million acres of forest land in just a year's period as a result of this newly enacted State cooperative insect law.

Worthy also of attention is the State's increasing interest in checking the spread of white pine blister rust on private lands in the State's sugar pine belt. The Legislature this year raised its biennium appropriation from \$100,000 to \$150,000. As has been the policy in the past, this money was pooled with U. S. Department of Agriculture appropriations to its Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for blister rust control work on California lands. The State's money, however, can be used only for work on State and private lands whether inside or outside of National Forest boundaries. This procedure has worked very satisfactorily since the inception in 1941 of legislative appropriation for this work. The Bureau's experience and supervising personnel are in this way used to utmost advantage, much duplication of effort with subsequent loss of time is avoided, and much more actual control work is accomplished.



A log deck of salvaged trees.



Pole stands were heavily infected in the Burney-McCloud area. More than 2,168 trees of this size were cut, piled, and burned, to destroy the brood of bark beetles. The principal insects that accounted for the damage were the engraver beetles (*Ips confusus* and *Ips oregoni*) and the western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*).