would require that any sector with a
time delay between production costs
and receipt of revenue should adopt
the cost of bush regime. However as
the consultative document did not
propose treatment of this kind the
committee made no recommendation
to extend the regime to other rural
sectors. Horticulture in particular has
been excluded from these provisions.
6) The Beach Committee recommend-
that land tax be applied in a more
even-handed manner. Either all land
users should be subject to the tax or
none. This is still being considered by
the Minister of Finance.

The major issue then, as yet unre-
solved, is: Given our present income
tax system's deficiencies, and the per-
cieved anomalies in both the current
and proposed regimes, are we moving
closer to, or further from, tax neutral-
ity? Unfortunately at present an ana-
litical framework does not exist in
which answers to these questions can
be found. It therefore seems inevitable
that negotiation and political consider-
ations rather than economic analysis
alone will play an important part in
the final resolution of the new regime.

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Prior to the recent political decisions
affecting forestry, the NZIF Education
and Training Working Party obtained
figures for the sector's likely future
requirement for technically trained
staff. For graduates, the requirement
averages 15 per year between now and
the turn of the century. In addition,
the need for 26 ranger technicians per
year was anticipated.

The School of Forestry at Canterbury
is staffed and funded by the
University on the basis of student
numbers. A recent Forestry Council
Working Party determined that 45
graduates per year would be needed to
support a staff of 12. That staff number
was seen as necessary to each ade-
quately the breadth of skills required
in New Zealand as the forests of the
second planting boom approach har-
vestability.

The above Institute of Forests
figures, which one might expect could
be adjusted well downwards with the
subsequent disestablishment of the
Forest Service, indicate a need for only
41 technically trained persons per year.
If the School of Forestry alone needs
some 45 graduates per year to be
effective, then the figures indicate that
the New Zealand forestry sector is too
small for two technical training sys-
tems such as the B.For.Sc. and the
N.Z.C.F. to continue to coexist.

How does the forestry sector deter-
mine the mix of graduates and ranger/-
technicians that it needs? While the
NZIF data do not answer that question,
they show a disparity between employ-
ment in the Forest Service (3.3 rangers
per graduate forester) and the private
sector (0.9 rangers per graduate forester).
If, as those figures indicate, the
mix is not based solely on technical
requirements, then again the need for
two separate training systems can be
questioned.

The disestablishment of the Forest
Service presents a prime opportunity
to rethink forestry education in New
Zealand. The issue is not simply a
question of whether employers and
taxpayers are prepared to pay for two
systems.

The Issue
Rather the issue is whether the
annual demand for new technical staff
will support two effective systems. On
the Institute of Foresters figures the
answer is NO, and there is an urgent
need for the sector to plan to resolve
that situation. It is now appropriate
for all users of technically trained staff
to contribute their thinking as to the
form that a single effective system
might best take.

— G.B. Sweet

What is Forestry?

Someone once said that the only thing
that is certain is change — and this is
how it is for forestry in New Zealand.
The New Zealand Forest Service is
soon to be broken up, and at the same
time the Institute has started to re-
examine its role and scope. Currently
membership issues are the subject of a
comprehensive examination — see
report with comment on page 33. Now
Council is looking at some appropriate
changes to Institute policy.

An examination of the role and
scope of the Institute brings into ques-
tion a range of interrelated issues,
some of which are in conflict and
require careful consideration. For
example, there is a general wish to
broaden and increase the membership
of the Institute, and attract (and retain)
people who will be working for the
new Department of Conservation as
people who are also involved in
"forestry" in the broadest possible
sense. The conservation theme of this
issue of New Zealand Forestry recog-
nizes this need. In contrast there is a
call for the Institute to be a body of
professional foresters which can lobby
with strong professional standing and
recognition. However it must be said
that Council is looking at other ways
of achieving this.

In order to examine the options and
develop appropriate aims and objec-
tives for the Institute, it is first neces-
sary to define the term "forestry". Members
and prospective members can then
judge whether the Institute is an approp-
riate body for them to be associated
with. It is certainly a prerequisite to a
reassessment of the Institute's forest
policy.

For the purposes of the national
accounts the forestry sector includes

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forestry and logging activities only, i.e. all forest growing and harvesting activities up to the forest ride. But does this tell us what we as a profession believe is encompassed by the word, or needs to be encompassed for the forester working in this field in the latter part of the 20th century? Is “forestry” best defined as the “management of forests”? Or is it “the science, the art and the practice of managing for human benefits the natural resources that occur on and in association with forest lands”? Or are both of these definitions too narrow in that they imply forestry is just one of a series of land management disciplines? If not, where does, for example, wood processing, forestry business and marketing fit in?

As foresters we need to rethink our definition of “forestry”. We are not alone in this task — in an excellent discussion in a recent issue of the Journal of Forestry, Duerr (1986) argued that American foresters also need to review their ideas. A major point made by Duerr is that foresters require a stronger social awareness (as incidentally did Ian Baumgart (1979)). Duerr suggested we begin by defining forestry as “a set of special fields with a common social theme”. This is rather vague but does emphasize the social aspect. Can we be more precise?

The following definition and statement on the scope of the Institute has been considered by Council and is now being promulgated to seek wider views. Council intends that the NZIF policy review be debated at the Greymouth AGM. It is not a constitutional change as the policy does not form part of the constitution. However it is a vital part of the Institute’s mission and so warrants careful evaluation and full discussion.

What do you think?

NZIF Definition

Forestry is a land management discipline which includes all those skills required in the management of forests and forest lands, so they may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations, while maintaining their potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

Forests have many values, and the potential to satisfy many human needs. The art and science of forestry makes possible the creation and management of forests to satisfy a selected range of these needs, many of which can be provided simultaneously.

Forestry is therefore concerned with the maintenance or improvement of forest conservation and water regulation values; the protection of forests for their ecological values and wildlife habitats; the satisfaction of demand for recreation; the maintenance of landscapes; and the production of wood and other goods for the community.

Scope of the NZIF

The New Zealand Institute of Foresters recognizes that the discipline of forest management is increasingly integrative in nature, requiring the application of the understanding and skills of a wide range of more specialist disciplines, all of which are necessary components of the management required to satisfy the range of demands that society makes on its forests and forest lands. The nature and range of the disciplines required vary directly with the complexity of the forest ecosystems, the complexity of the demands made upon it, and the intensity of those demands.

References


Conservation of native forests in Westland: Role of the NZ Forest Service

C.G.R. Chavasse*

In recent years there has been much misrepresentation of the attempts by the NZ Forest Service (NZFS), in the 1960s and 1970s, to apply conservation in the form of sustained yield management, to the native forests of New Zealand. Bassett (1986) discussed this in his address to the Annual General Meeting of the NZ Institute of Foresters. These notes are designed to amplify his paper by reference to three unpublished documents. The word “conservation” is used in the original sense of “wise use of resources for the benefit of people in the long term”.

Background

The long-held Government policy in New Zealand, up to recent times, was to use the native forests as a source of cheap timber for housing, with no form of management except orderly liquidation. That foresters were opposed to this policy can readily be seen in back numbers of the New Zealand Journal of Forestry, while efforts at conservation made by the late Mr A.R. Entrican, when Director of Forestry, are to be found in NZFS Annual Reports to Parliament from 1948 to 1961.

In the 1940s Entrican began a campaign to reduce the cut from native forests. His first aim was to increase the use of pine by promoting large integrated wood-using industries; and he set up State sawmills to demonstrate the proper manufacture of pine timber, especially for housing.

His second aim was to get price control removed from native timbers so that their stumpage could rise in line with their intrinsic special-purpose and decorative values. Price control encouraged the wasteful use of

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